



Contact: Andrea Dominguez, Chief of Staff  
541-889-8866

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## Oregon House District 60 Newsletter

Issue #3

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### Friends,

In an effort to keep you informed about what is happening in Oregon in relation to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), here are some updates from yesterday's daily legislative update conference call, as well as the announcements from the Governor's office. For the most up to date information visit [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus).

Over the weekend Oregon had its first confirmed death from COVID-19 in Multnomah County. OHA will be announcing 8 new cases of COVID-19 today. Over 700 people have been tested and another 180 are in the pipeline, so we are now approaching 1000 COVID-19 tests. Yamhill County has now been added as one of the counties with positive cases.

There are still ZERO cases in any of the Counties in House District 60.

According to the Oregon Health Authority's Chief Medical Officer: 75,000 Oregonians could contract COVID-19 by May. No one is immune, there is no vaccine, and there is no treatment.

Preliminary modeling developed by experts at OHSU and OHA shows that cases of COVID-19 are expected to double every 6.2 days and 20% of cases will require some form of hospitalization. Based on that modeling 1,000 hospital beds and 400 ICU beds will be required for COVID-19 patients on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Oregon currently has a little over 6,000 licensed hospital beds statewide and 688 ventilators. These models will be released at a point in the future after they have finished being reviewed.

## New Social Distancing Measures

Yesterday Governor Brown announced new social distancing measures relating to mass gatherings as well as dine-in restaurants. These measures will go into place on today (March 17th) and continue for 4 weeks.

### Gathering Size Limits

- The Governor will be lowering the mass gathering threshold to 25 people. CDC recommendations are changing at a rapid pace and public health experts in Oregon recommended a lower number than the CDC recommendation which at that time was 50 people.
- This limit only applies to public gatherings. Places such as congregate living, grocery/retail stores, workplaces, and pharmacies will be excluded.
- Tribal Casinos are part of sovereign nations, and as such, the Governor does not have the authority to close them. Governor Brown would ask tribal leadership to work with their local health authorities in order to make appropriate decisions related to casinos.

### Dine-In Restaurant Restrictions

- Governor Brown has announced the closure of dine-in restaurant services statewide.
- Take out, delivery, and curbside pick-up will still be able to operate, but there will be no onsite consumption.

- Governor Brown is requesting that all businesses that host members of the public to evaluate the ability to change to a “carry out” style model or ability to close their doors on a temporary basis.
- Criminal penalties exist for those in violation of these requirements, but education will be the first enforcement tactic utilized. OHA is talking to local governments about making local declarations in order to provide tools for local enforcement. A portion of the money allocated from the federal government may be moved to local governments to assist with the enforcement of these policies. Director Allen is hopeful that Oregonians will comply and there will not be a huge enforcement issue. Establishments who do not comply with these restrictions could be subject to a Class C Misdemeanor.
- While some restaurants would be able to access business insurance payments when closed down, other restaurants have insurance plans that specifically exclude viral outbreaks.

#### **School Closure**

- The Governor and OHA are currently reevaluating the 2-week cancellation of schools in Oregon.

## **Public Health Response**

#### **Hospital Coordination**

- A coordination agreement has been reached among Metro area hospitals. This agreement will allow for the sharing of resources, common discharge policies, centralized coordination of hospital capacity, aligned priorities for testing and the implementation of Crisis Care Guidance.
- Crisis Care Guidance is designed to avoid disaster by managing the surge in demand, expand the capacity of the health care system, maintain critical functions, develop alternative sites where care may be delivered, and help navigate the ethical dilemmas faced in such a crisis.
- The Health Care System Response Joint Taskforce is working to implement Crisis Care Guidance on a statewide basis.
- Coordination agreements are being modified to fit the needs of rural hospitals and other regions around the state.
- Oregon is actively looking to expand the number of hospital beds as well as the capacity for alternatives to hospital care including hospital diversion and recovery care.

#### **Medical Workforce**

- Outreach has begun to make it easier for people to volunteer in the medical field. Agreements are being made with OHSU and the PSU School of Public Health for students and academic physicians to be able to backfill work at hospitals.
- Many in Oregon’s volunteer medical reserves are older retired physicians who are at high risk for COVID-19. These individuals are being looked at to backfill low-risk functions to free up other health care workers.
- OHA will be putting out information for those interested in volunteering and making those applications easier to find.
- The Emergency Declaration allows Oregon to start looking across state borders for assistance with our health care workforce.

#### **Emergency Management Command Structure**

- Emergency Command Structure is now up and running. Leadership includes Andrew Phelps from the Office of Emergency Management, Mike Harryman the state resilience officer and Dave Baden from the Oregon Health Authority
- The state’s Unified Command Emergency Response structure is that same that would be utilized in the event of a Cascadia Event.
- This structure allows for seamless communication between state agencies and has the authority to utilize all of the tools in the toolbox necessary for dealing with COVID-19.
- Operating 8am-5pm at the moment, but they are ready to shift to 24/7 work when needed.

#### **Testing and Supplies**

- 10% of Oregon’s request for Personal Protective Equipment has been filed by the Federal Government and the other 15% of that request is expected to be filled in the near future.
- There is a serious concern that Oregon and the nation could face significant shortages of PPE including masks, gowns, gloves, and other equipment. The state stockpile is being distributed, but we are dependent on federal stockpiles. According to Director Allen, if there is not a significant change at the federal level, we will run out of Personal Protective Equipment nationwide.
- The Federal government has entered into agreements with domestic companies to ramp up production of masks and other PPE. Oregon is looking to enter into similar agreements in the state. Oregon is also looking at the possibility of repurposing existing facilities so that they might be converted over to the production of PPE.
- Personal Protective Equipment should be treated as a community resource reserved for health care workers and those who need it most.
- Commercial Laboratories are expected to have the capacity to do around 1000 tests per day. One of the labs is even utilizing a test that is not reliant on the chemicals for which there have been hang-ups.
- Commercial labs are only reporting basic data to the Oregon Health Authority, so while the raw numbers around testing will be updated regularly, demographic information will lag behind.

## **Relief for Business and Legislative Action**

### Relief For Business

- A Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council is being convened to develop a plan to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19. The council will be developing requests to be made of the Oregon Legislature as well as the federal government. A report on their work should be expected in the upcoming days.
- The Governor has declared an “Abnormal Market Disruption” relating to items such as hand sanitizers and toilet paper in order to prevent price gouging.

### Business Resources

- Federal guidance for small businesses, including information on the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. [Small Business Administration Guidance](#)
- Work Share allows employers to leverage Partial Unemployment Insurance benefits for employers whose workforce is impacted by COVID-19. [Work Share Oregon](#)
- Information for employers, workers, and job seekers. [Oregon Employment Department](#)
- State guidance for Oregon businesses. [Business Oregon Interim Guidance for Businesses](#)

### Legislative Special Session

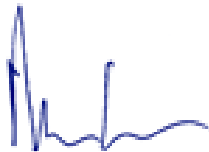
- The Governor expects a special session of the Oregon Legislature to occur in the next few weeks in order to make statutory changes that allow for flexibility dealing with this crisis in addition to providing resources.
- Today, legislative leaders called for a special session to address COVID-19 following the development of an emergency response package.
- The Governor’s Office will be working with leadership to determine the best ways to conduct a special session that ensures the safety of legislators and staff.

### Joint Coronavirus Response Committee

- The Joint Coronavirus Response Committee is set to meet on March 18t at 10 am. You can find the [agenda for that meeting here](#).

Also, I have made the decision to close my District Office in Ontario to walk-in traffic, out of an abundance of caution. My Chief of Staff, Andrea Dominguez, has an auto-immune disease and therefore has a compromised immune system (she has given me permission to share this). Both I and Andrea will continue working for District 60 residents full-time, and we are happy to assist you via email or phone at [rep.markowens@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.markowens@oregonlegislature.gov) or at 541-889-8866.

We will send more updates on Oregon's COVID-19 response along as they come in.



**Representative Mark Owens**

**House District 60**

***Frontier Oregon—The Best Part of the State***

## District Office:



**District Office:**  
**258 S. Oregon Street**  
**Ontario, OR 97914**  
**541-889-8866**

[rep.markowens@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.markowens@oregonlegislature.gov)

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