COVID-19 Public Health Update

Union County, Oregon — Center for Human Development (CHD) public health is reporting 4 new cases, bringing the total case count for Union County to 720. Please note that while completing investigations we learned that one case reported November 23rd was not a Union County resident. As a result, this case has been removed from total.

CHD is saddened to report the third COVID-19 related death in Union County. "Our hearts go out to the family and friends who have lost a loved one and are grieving" stated Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Administrator. "As we begin the holiday season with rapidly rising case counts in Oregon this difficult news is a reminder that efforts to slow the spread of the virus are still needed." Taking precautions today are vital to reducing the impact of COVID-19 in our community and maintaining hospital capacity.

We continue to see cases that are linked, but many are sporadic meaning that those who test positive are not sure how or where they became infected. Information on case counts, hospital and healthcare capacity, and zip code and age distribution of cases can be found on the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) website Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 Data Dashboard.

Individuals who feel very ill should seek appropriate care. If it is an emergency, call 911. For information on when to seek emergency medical attention visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html. If it is not an emergency but you feel sick enough to need a medical appointment, call your primary care provider. People with mild signs of COVID-19 should stay home, unless signs of illness are serious enough they would normally seek health care. **Call your health care provider before going in.** Make a plan for how to be seen to avoid spreading the illness to others. If you don't have a doctor, call 211 for a list of providers near you.

CHD is currently testing individuals identified through investigations or individuals that meet Oregon State Public Health Lab criteria. Additional community testing events are currently being planned. We are not testing individuals for travel needs. If you are interested in being tested we encourage you to contact your primary care provider.

It is vital that workplaces support employees who are required to quarantine and not ask them to go to work in these situations. We ask that local employers make it easy for people to make the choice to stay home by promoting working from home when possible, applying paid sick leave policies liberally, and linking employees to any workplace resources available. We also realize that for many employers and employees this is a difficult situation.

Multiple resources are available to help you stay at home through wraparound services including financial assistance, food bank information, grocery pickup/delivery, health insurance, and Veterans services. Information on Union County resources is available at https://www.neonoregon.org/unioncovid19 by calling 541-962-1610 or by emailing covidwrapsvcs@union-county.org

The colder weather and holidays increase the amount of time people congregate indoors. Indoor activities do increase the risk of COVID-19 spreading. For more information on how to celebrate Fall and Winter holidays safely, visit the CDC COVID-19 Holiday Celebrations webpage.

Masks, face coverings or face shields are currently required statewide:
https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2288k.pdf

If you need further general information about COVID-19, please visit our webpage www.chdinc.org/covid19 or call 211.

For more information:
- The public can call 211-information with general questions
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- CDC COVID-19 page: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- CDC Travel within the U.S.: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html
- Center for Human Development: www.chdinc.org
- Oregon COVID-19 Testing Location Finder: https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing