



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Contact: George Thompson, Public Health Information Officer

Subject: Local COVID-19 Testing

We understand that there are a lot of questions about testing for COVID-19 in our community. Testing is being conducted within the county on people that meet testing criteria. Depending when the test is performed as well as which lab the test is being sent to, it is taking on average 4-5 days to receive test results. The number of tests that are being conducted are only released for the state in total. The number of tests conducted local are unavailable. Positive test results will only be released at a county level. You can find up to date numbers on cases of COVID-19 that the state is releasing in Oregon at www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus. There are also answers to common questions about testing in Oregon at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/COVID19-FAQ.aspx?wp1284=se:%22testing%22>

Testing is available through the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory and there is also a growing number of commercial labs. Test are being done in Union County for residents who fit the testing criteria.

Individuals who may be tested include, among others, those who have fever, cough and difficulty breathing and who have:

- traveled to certain affected regions outside the US,
- had close contact with someone diagnosed as having COVID-19,
- or are hospitalized, have evidence of viral pneumonia and a negative influenza test.

Care providers may also order COVID-19 testing at their discretion for non-hospitalized people using commercial labs. A negative influenza test is still required.

If you have trouble breathing or feel very ill, consider seeing your healthcare provider. He or she may decide to have you first tested for other illnesses, like the flu, based on your possible exposure history and any other symptoms you might have. Many recover at home without seeing a healthcare provider.

Individuals who feel very ill should seek appropriate care.

- If it is an emergency, call 911.
- If it is not an emergency but you feel sick enough to need a medical appointment, call your doctor's office.
- If you don't have a doctor, consider establishing care with a primary care provider through a local clinic or community health center.
- If necessary, visit your local urgent care center.
- Need help finding a clinic? **Call 211** for a list of clinics near you.

Call before you go.

If you have flu-like symptoms or have reason to think you might have COVID-19, let your healthcare provider know before you visit. This will help avoid exposing anyone else at the provider's facility. If you need further information please find additional information on our webpage www.chdinc.org/covid19 or call 211 or 971-673-1111.

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