

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00PM

Subject:

## **Union County Public Health Expands Testing**

In efforts to support Oregon's plan to reopen and expand testing capacity and disease surveillance in our area, Center for Human Development Public Health will be expanding and offering more COVID-19 testing. Beginning next week Center for Human Development (CHD) will be offering testing to individuals who meet the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) revised and expanded testing criteria.

OHA recommends that any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may be tested for COVID-19. If you have one of the following: cough, shortness breath, difficulty breathing **-or-** two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, new loss of smell or taste, or sore throat you may be eligible for free testing.

We also strongly encourage individuals in the following categories with symptoms to contact us for testing:

- a. Healthcare workers and first responders (EMS, public safety workers)
- b. Residents, staff, children, or other people in a care facility or group living setting (e.g., healthcare facility, residential care facility, school, migrant or seasonal farm worker camp, child care, or corrections). When clinical laboratories have sufficient testing capacity, people in these settings without symptoms can also be considered for testing if current disease clusters or outbreaks warrant.
- c. Workers who provide direct care or service in multiple group facilities or who provide in-home services (e.g. hospice care workers, physical or occupational therapists, in-home personal care workers, etc.)
- d. Essential front-line service workers who have regular contact with large numbers of people (e.g., those working in grocery stores, pharmacies, food service, transportation, delivery, and other critical infrastructure services)
- e. Patients 60 years of age or older
- f. Patients with underlying medical conditions, including, but not limited to hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, lung disease, and immunocompromising conditions
- g. People who identify as Black, African-American, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander or as having a disability; data indicate that these communities are at higher risk for COVID-19 and associated complications due to longstanding social and health inequities
- h. People from linguistically diverse populations due to longstanding social and health inequities
- i. Pregnant women
- k. Patients who had contact with a suspect or lab-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of their symptom onset

We encourage individuals who are interested in requesting testing to call [541-624-2179](tel:541-624-2179) for more information. No out of pocket cost or insurance required.

**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 primary care provider. If you don't have a doctor, call 211 for a list of providers near you.