



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media contact: George Thompson

Center for Human Development Public Health

541-624-2176

info@chdinc.org

www.chdinc.org/covid19

Health officials report COVID-19 Outbreak

At least 365 tested through public health.

Union County, Oregon — Center for Human Development (CHD) public health reports a jump in COVID-19 cases in Union County. 365 residents were tested by public health over the weekend. Of those tests, 99 new cases have been identified so far. This brings the total cases in the county to 123. Officials anticipate the numbers may increase as many test results still being processed.

“This announcement raises a lot of different feelings. For me, it raises concern. For others it may raise fear, anxiety, anger, uncertainty and even skepticism. All of those emotions make sense when we have a new disease” said Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Administrator CHD. “I think we all care about our community. I hope that, as a community, we come together to protect each other.”

The health investigation is ongoing and officials anticipate providing additional information as it becomes available. A number of cases have been associated with Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, which recently hosted a testing clinic. Local public health officials expressed appreciation to the congregation for hosting testing onsite and underscored that the results confirm the presence of COVID-19 in the community. Union county also recently entered phase two of reopening and recent holidays, celebrations and community events may further complicate the investigation.

“Many of the recent positive cases are touching various areas of our community and are not confined to one location,” said Carrie “We understand that our community is deeply concerned and we want to assure them we have prepared for the possibility of outbreaks happening and are working closely with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Union County Emergency Management, and other local partners to protect the health and safety of our community.”

Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 are asked to isolate at home for 14 days to prevent spread of the illness to other people in their community. With the public health investigation still ongoing, all residents should wear face coverings in public, maintain 6 feet of distance between each other, and wash their hands regularly. People who have mild signs of COVID-19 should stay home, unless the 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, while also avoiding spread of the illness to others. Signs of COVID-19 include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. For a full list of

symptoms and when to seek emergency medical attention visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

CHD is working to contact and isolate or quarantine those who may have been in close contact with these individuals. A close contact is defined as anyone within 6 feet of the individual for more than 15 minutes. If you are identified through this investigation as someone that may be at risk for COVID-19 public health will contact you. **CHD Public Health staff are making calls now. Some of these calls may look like they come from an unknown number. If you don't answer, they will leave a message. Please call them back as soon as you can.** This process can take time and public health will only call close contacts of confirmed cases. If you believe you have been in close contact with someone that has COVID-19 we encourage you to monitor your symptoms, stay home if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, and seek care if you become ill. If you develop symptoms, contact your primary care provider or CHD to see if testing is recommended. More information on contact tracing can be here: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-Contact-Collaborative> or <https://www.chdinc.org/contact-tracing>

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.

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

COVID-19 Union County update 6/15/2020

Total Cases-123

Confirmed- 121

Presumptive- 2

Recovered- 5

Deaths- 0

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