



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

COVID-19 Outbreak Public Health Update

Union County, Oregon — Center for Human Development (CHD) public health reports 119 new cases. This brings the total county cases in the county to 240.

“Our mission has never been clearer and we are doing everything possible to protect the health and safety of our community” said Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Administrator CHD. “Right now, more than ever we need our community to work together to help limit the spread of this virus and protect our most vulnerable populations.”

We are still learning about the scope and scale of this outbreak and we will continue to provide updates. We have initiated contact investigations to notify confirmed COVID-19 cases and identify their close contacts. A number of cases have been associated with the Lighthouse Pentecostal church which continues to be very responsive and is taking appropriate steps to ensure the health and safety of their congregation.

Union County has experienced an increasingly concerning number of COVID-19 cases in a short period of time. This means it is more important than ever to understand that this virus is in the community and strengthen precautions to protect yourselves and those around you. Please avoid social gatherings with those not in your household, continue to practice physical distancing, stay home when you are sick, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer often, and wear cloth face coverings when public.

There are three situations where you must quarantine for 14 days these are:

Confirmed COVID-19 test – quarantine for 14 days from date of test.

Close contact of positive case (within 6 feet for over 15 minutes) – quarantine from date aware of being a close contact – even if a subsequent test comes back negative.

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms currently include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

We ask that workplaces support employees who are required to quarantine and not ask them to go to work in these situations. We encourage local employers to make it easy for people to make the

choice to stay home by promoting working from home where possible, applying paid sick leave policies liberally and linking employees to any workplace resources available.

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.

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. 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 6/16/2020

Total Cases- 240
Confirmed- 238
Presumptive- 2
Recovered- 7
Deaths- 0

Grande Ronde Hospital Capacity and Preparedness Update

Grande Ronde Hospital & Clinics (GRH) initiated its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) on March 2nd, using the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS). HICS is a system we have used for many years for planning, preparing, training and mitigating all types of emergencies.

In early March, GRH and our Union County Emergency Services (UCES) were advised of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) modeling that showed a potential massive influx of COVID-19 cases that could impact our communities. We began to prepare for a worst case scenario under planning, operations, logistics, communications and more.

For example, we began assessing and procuring the necessary Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) our staff would need to treat an influx of patients. We constructed and have used an onsite decontamination room that allows us to significantly extend the life of our N95 mask supply. We continue to take our role as stewards of the supplies we have seriously.

In addition, even though we are a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital, we are licensed to increase our capacity for up to 40 acute care hospital patients during an emergency such as this. We have also developed an alternative care site at the GRH Pavilion and are prepared to staff that for at least 160 patients who may still need nursing care, but are transitioning to going home.

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