

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Public Health Update

Union County, Oregon — Center for Human Development (CHD) public health is reporting nine new cases. The total case count for Union County is 477.

This week's case count is again a reminder that we cannot let our guards down. "We all need to follow the precautions that stop and slow the spread of COVID-19" said Union County Public Health Administer, Carrie Brogoitti. "We know everyone is tired and we all wish this would go away, but the reality is this disease is spreading in our community, and we need more now than ever to protect our families and each other."

The Center for Human Development will be temporarily limiting testing to individuals identified through investigations or individuals that meet Oregon State Public Health Lab criteria. Testing is still being offered throughout the community. 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 to 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 that 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

Masks, face coverings or face shields are currently required statewide for:

- All private and public workplaces — for example banks, classrooms, construction sites, offices and meeting rooms — unless someone is alone in an office or in a private workspace.
- Indoor public spaces — for example grocery stores, pharmacies, public transit, personal services providers, restaurants, bars and retail stores.
- Public and private colleges and universities, and private career schools.
- Indoor and outdoor markets and street fairs.
- Outdoor public spaces when physical distancing of at least six feet is not possible.

People with a **disability or medical condition** may request accommodation from a business or public space if they cannot wear a mask.

OHA does not recommend wearing a plastic face shield alone. While face shields can be very good at blocking droplets, they are not as good at stopping aerosols that can go around the shield. OHA recommends face shields only be used on a limited basis, for example when talking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and needs to read lips to communicate.

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.

OHA has also asked people to [rethink Halloween](#) – avoid traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating, avoid costume parties with people outside their own households and wear a face covering, because a Halloween mask won't protect against COVID-19.

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.