



## Hood River County Environmental Health Department

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# Providers PSA COVID-19

**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2020

**To:** All Providers

**From:** Patricia Elliott, RN, Director  
Hood River County Health Department

We acknowledge the growing community concern surrounding the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. We would like to encourage you to consider your Continuity of Operations Planning, and how you can continue to support the populations that you serve during this event. Hood River County Health Department in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) continues to monitor developments regarding novel coronavirus, COVID-19, closely. OHA will post data on its website: <http://healthoregon.org/coronavirus>.

- We will send out guidelines for local testing protocols as soon as they are available.
- We likely have Community-Transmission of the virus in Oregon but we have no confirmed cases in Hood River County to date.
- Encourage everyone to wash hands frequently, cover coughs, and stay at home when ill.
- Please consider reaching out to the people you know or serve that are vulnerable, such as elderly persons that live alone.
- Please remember that individuals of particular racial or ethnic groups are no more likely to get the COVID-19 virus or spread it to others.
- Reported cases have ranged from mild illness (similar to a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had existing health conditions.
- Flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus.
- Most people will not experience complications and will recover without medical attention.
- Call 9-1-1, or send patients to the emergency room if they are experiencing difficulty breathing.
- Do not send patients to the Health Department.
- Be ready for the seriously ill, as well as worried well, to call your clinic for direction.
- We will continue to work with community partners to coordinate our response in the event that we have a case identified in our community.
- If you are not already signed up for the Oregon Health Alert Network (HAN) you may contact [Ian Stromquist](#) at 541-387-7130. Updated investigative guidelines and other relevant information from OHA are sent out using this system.

The CDC, OHA, and Hood River County Health Department are committed to providing the most up-to-date information available regarding the COVID-19 investigation and clear guidance regarding preventive efforts. **Remember, there are everyday actions you can take to prevent the spread of many respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and influenza. Please see attached fact sheet for details.**

For more information about COVID-19, including clinical Guidance please visit:

Oregon Health Authority:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/emerging-respiratory-infections.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

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