First Presumptive Case of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Oregon

Oregon Health Authority has confirmed its first, presumptive case of novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in an Oregon resident, public health officials announced today.¹

The case, a resident of Washington County, experienced symptoms of COVID-19 beginning Feb. 19 and a sample was collected from the individual today. The sample was sent to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory in Hillsboro, which used a new COVID-19 test kit it received Wednesday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The lab began tested the sample today—only hours after it verified the new CDC test kit. The sample has been sent to the Centers for Disease Control for confirmatory results.¹

The case was not a person under monitoring or a person under investigation. The individual had neither a history of travel to a country where the virus was circulating, nor is believed to have had a close contact with another confirmed case—the two most common sources of exposure. As such, public health officials are considering it a likely community-transmitted case, meaning that the origin of the infection is unknown.¹

The individual has been isolated and is being cared for at Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Center in Hillsboro.

Updated Guidance
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new guidance for testing persons with suspected COVID-19. Primary changes include expanding travel exposure to include Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea, and provisions for testing persons with unexplained severe lower respiratory illness who have no known source of exposure to COVID-19.

It was announced on the Oregon Health Authority Press Conference on 2/28/20, at 6:00 pm, that the Oregon State Public Health Lab now has the capability to test for COVID.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>&amp;</th>
<th>Epidemiological Risk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>A history of travel from affected geographic areas (see below) within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>No source of exposure has been identified</td>
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### Affected Geographic Areas with Widespread or Sustained Community Transmission (last updated on 2/26/20)

- China
- Iran
- Italy
- Japan
- South Korea

The criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. In consultation with public health departments, patients should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for testing. Testing may be considered for deceased persons who would otherwise meet the persons under investigation (PUI) criteria.\(^1\)

CDC is working to increase testing capacity in the United States.\(^2\)

### Notifying Jackson County Public Health

Healthcare providers are required to immediately notify Jackson County Public Health of any suspect cases of COVID-19. Please report directly by calling 541-618-4651.

Upon notification, Jackson County Public Health’s Communicable Disease Program will work with OHA for approval to test for COVID-19. Staff will also provide consultation to the provider on the specifics for specimen collection. Testing should be done in a medical setting that meets the infection control standards.

The notification step will also allow Jackson County Public Health to implement disease control measures that will reduce the virus from spreading.

### Specimen collection

All specimens should be stored at 2–8°F and shipped on an ice pack. Label each
specimen container with the patient’s ID number (e.g., medical record number), unique specimen ID (e.g., laboratory requisition number), specimen type (e.g., serum) and the date the sample was collected.

**Persons Under Monitoring (PUM) and Persons Under Investigation (PUI) Cases in Oregon**

OHA is publishing the number of PUM, PUI, and Oregon test result for COVID-19. You can access that data on the healthoregon.org/coronavirus website.

**Resources for Healthcare Providers:**

- CDC Evaluating and Monitoring Persons Under Investigation:

- The Oregon Health Authority provides Oregon-specific information on its website here (healthoregon.org/coronavirus).

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*The mission of Jackson County Health and Human Services is to plan, coordinate and provide public services that protect and promote the health and well-being of county residents.*

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**REFERENCES**

