



August 3, 2020

**COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary**

On June 30, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released [updated COVID-19 testing guidance for health care providers](#). The updated guidance recommends that any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, regardless of severity, be tested for COVID-19. OHA recommends limiting testing of people without symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to the following groups:

- 1.) Close contact of confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 cases
- 2.) People exposed to COVID-19 in congregate settings (e.g., residential care facilities, group homes, schools, agricultural workplaces, food processing plants, jails or prisons, and shelters)
- 3.) Migrant and seasonal agricultural workers upon arrival in Oregon
- 4.) People who identify as Black, African-American, Latino, Latina, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Asian-American, or Pacific Islander
- 5.) People who identify as having a disability
- 6.) People whose first language is not English

The testing guidance is an essential component of active surveillance, which includes case investigation and contact tracing, to better understand and stop the spread of disease.

*Summary of Oregon test results through 8/01/2020*

	Pre-2/28	2/29-3/6	3/7-3/13	3/14-3/20	3/21-3/27	3/28-4/3	4/4-4/10	4/11-4/17	4/18-4/24	4/25-5/1	5/2-5/8	5/9-5/15	5/16-5/22	5/23-5/29	5/30-6/5	6/6-6/12	6/13-6/19	6/20-6/27	6/28-7/5	7/6-7/12	7/13-7/18	7/19-7/25	7/26-8/1	Total to date
<b>Positive</b>	1	12	35	66	348	437	472	414	392	402	453	438	255	304	413	765	1,137	1,441	2,117	1,638	2,292	1,837	2,174	17,843
<b>Negative</b>	3	122	466	1,460	7,050	7,434	9,318	8,683	8,779	12,282	14,028	16,349	15,433	17,143	20,126	22,136	26,534	32,183	37,797	26,676	37,009	36,342	33,250	390,603
<b>Total results</b>	4	134	501	1,526	7,398	7,871	9,790	9,097	9,171	12,684	14,481	16,787	15,688	17,447	20,539	22,901	27,671	33,624	39,914	28,314	39,301	38,179	35,424	408,446
<b>% positive</b>	25.0%	9.0%	7.0%	4.3%	4.7%	5.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.3%	3.2%	3.1%	2.6%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	3.3%	4.1%	4.3%	5.3%	5.8%	5.8%	4.8%	6.1%	4.4%

*\*The summary of Oregon test results time frame has shifted to match with CDC's MMWR report week, which is reported Sundays through Saturdays.*

As of August 1, Oregon's cumulative positive testing rate is 4.4% of tests performed. This is considerably lower than the national average of 10%. The number of tests performed each week has generally been holding steady, but supply chain issues continue to restrict Oregon's testing capacity, as discussed below. The number of positive cases and the test positivity rate

have generally been increasing since late May, and this week saw an increase in test positivity to 6.1%, one of the highest rates observed since the early pandemic.

#### *Testing capacity, testing turnaround times and supply chain issues*

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) monitors testing capacity and supply allocations for in-state laboratories. The most recent weekly in-state theoretical testing capacity estimate is 48,000 tests for the week of July 22 based on supply, reagent and staff availability. This does not include capacity at out-of-state commercial laboratories, such as Quest, Labcorp or ARUP.

Several major manufacturers have informed OHA that testing supply allocation to OSPHL and clinical labs in Oregon may be reduced over the coming weeks due to the recent spike in positive COVID-19 cases nationally and increased demand for testing. These shortages are being addressed through testing on multiple platforms and recruiting additional laboratories for testing.

We are receiving widespread reports of extended turnaround time from commercial laboratories; in some cases, results are being reported up to two weeks following specimen collection. A list of additional COVID-19 testing laboratories has been distributed via HAN to local health authorities.

#### *Testing resources*

To prepare for the upcoming influenza season, OSPHL will be implementing a new CDC multiplex RT-PCR assay, which tests respiratory specimens for SARS-CoV-2, influenza A and influenza B.

#### *Technical assistance*

The Oregon Public Health Clinical Laboratory Consortium meets weekly to share technical information, updates about testing efforts, and information about supply-chain barriers. OSPHL continues to provide technical assistance to laboratories working to implement COVID-19 testing. OHA continues to evaluate new COVID-19 testing platforms as they become available.