



April 24, 2020

COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) continues to provide COVID-19 testing through the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) while Oregon hospitals continue to build their laboratory testing capacity. Several Oregon hospital laboratories and commercial laboratories such as Quest and LabCorp provide external testing capacity for the state.

Short-term goals for COVID-19 testing include:

1. Protect health care providers, first responders and critical infrastructure workers.
2. Detect COVID-19 in health care settings to appropriately assess, triage and treat patients.
3. Identify and control the spread of disease in congregate care settings.
4. Eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 health outcomes.

On April 20th, OHA updated its [testing guidance](#) to support the goals listed above. The newly revised guidelines urge clinicians to potentially increase testing for Oregonians who may be at particular risk for contracting COVID-19. These groups include:

- those living or working in congregate care or group living facilities;
- underserved and marginalized populations, including racial and ethnic minority groups;
- essential frontline workers, including those providing healthcare services and those serving the public, such as grocery store workers; and
- those who provide in-home services, including essential personal care and hospice care.

In addition, if supplies allow, asymptomatic people within the congregate care or group living systems can be considered for testing.

In the longer term, testing is a key strategy for active surveillance, public health isolation measures, and understanding the transmission of the virus and population prevalence of disease.

Summary of Oregon test results through 4/24/20

	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	Total to date
Positive	1	12	35	66	348	437	472	414	392	2,177
Negative	3	122	466	1,460	7,050	7,434	9,318	8,683	8,779	43,315
Total/ week	4	134	501	1,526	7,398	7,871	9,790	9,097	9,171	45,492
% positive	25.0%	9.0%	7.0%	4.3%	4.7%	5.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.3%	4.8%

As of April 24th, Oregon's cumulative positive testing rate has remained fairly consistent at about 5% of tests performed; this is considerably lower than the national average of 18.4%. Oregon's low test positivity rate reflects decreasing numbers of individuals with COVID-19 symptoms due to the Governor's stay-at-home order and increasing testing statewide, including testing at hospital laboratories and commercial laboratories.

Testing protocols and supply chain issues

This week, OHA received new instructions on the weekly ordering process for Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 test kits through the CDC International Reagent Resource (IRR) for instruments received by OSPHL. More Abbott ID NOW test kits will be available for ordering by state public health laboratories and OHA must place orders for these Abbott test kits via the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Some Oregon hospitals can test for COVID-19 using the Cepheid GeneXpert (45-minute turnaround time) platform, which increases overall testing volume for the state. Many Oregon hospitals have the instruments and could begin testing if more Cepheid GeneXpert testing kits could be obtained. More hospitals and clinics are slated to bring Cepheid testing on board following successful validation of the test in their laboratories.

OHA and Oregon's Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) continue to collaborate with more health systems to increase testing volume statewide. This week, Interpath Laboratories began testing with a Panther Fusion assay test, and McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center began testing using an ABI 7500 Fast Dx test.

OHA is filling requests for additional testing capacity through its commercial laboratory contracts. These requests are being filled through requests made by local emergency managers via the ECC's OpsCenter platform.

The State of Oregon has received components for making 10,000 COVID-19 specimen-collection kits from FEMA. A total of 9,000 of these collection kits will be pushed out April 24th or 25th to County and Tribal Emergency Management agencies to work with local public health authorities (LPHAs) or Tribal health authorities for further distribution within the county or Tribe. OSPHL will receive the remaining 1,000 specimen-collection kits.

Oregon hospital laboratories and OSPHL continue to meet three times per week to share technical information, updates about testing efforts, and information about supply-chain barriers. OHA continues to evaluate COVID-19 testing platforms as they become available.

Congregate care settings

OSPHL continues to prioritize its testing to identify and control clusters of COVID-19 disease in congregate care settings, including long-term care and correctional facilities. The April 20th testing guidance also includes guidelines for testing at OSPHL.