



May 1, 2020

COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary

On May 1, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released [its COVID-19 Strategic Testing Plan for Oregon](#). The Strategic Testing Plan includes the following goals:

1. *Test more people living in Oregon for COVID-19 based on new [testing guidelines](#).* These testing guidelines include direct care or service workers, front-line workers, people from linguistically diverse populations and people who identify as Black, African American, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, or as having a disability. Data shows us that people in these communities are at higher risk for COVID-19 and related health problems because of longstanding social and health inequities.
2. *Use all available resources in Oregon so more people are tested for COVID-19, so that Oregon meets its minimum weekly goal of 15,000 tests per week.*

The Strategic Testing Plan 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 5/1/20

	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	4/25- 5/1	Total to date
Positive	1	12	35	66	348	437	472	414	392	402	2,579
Negative	3	122	466	1,460	7,050	7,434	9,318	8,683	8,779	12,282	55,597
Total results	4	134	501	1,526	7,398	7,871	9,790	9,097	9,171	12,684	58,176
% positive	25.0%	9.0%	7.0%	4.3%	4.7%	5.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.3%	3.2%	4.4%

As of May 1, Oregon’s cumulative positive testing rate has remained fairly consistent at about 4% of tests performed. This is considerably lower than the national average of 18.0%. Oregon’s decreasing weekly test-positivity rate reflects decreasing numbers of individuals with COVID-19 due to the Governor’s stay-at-home order and increasing testing statewide, including the tests run at hospital laboratories and commercial laboratories.

Testing resources

In addition to an initial push of specimen collection kits, OHA continues to fill requests for commercial laboratory testing through Quest and LabCorp. These contracts are designed to provide access to COVID-19 testing for entities that do not have access to laboratory testing through their own health system or commercial laboratory contracts. Commercial testing requests by local emergency managers are made via the ECC's OpsCenter platforms.

Forthcoming testing resources

This week, OHA received information from the CDC International Reagent Resource (IRR) that the state will be receiving 90 boxes of Abbott ID NOW test cartridges (24 tests per box). This will allow the state to disseminate the remaining Abbott ID NOW instruments to areas of the state that meet existing criteria determined by the COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group in early April:

1. Areas of the state that do not have access to testing within the health system.
2. Areas of the state with a limited number of first responders, where even a small number of ill first responders would severely limit the ability to provide emergency care within a geographic area.
3. Areas of the state where courier services for the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory or commercial laboratories are limited or unavailable.
4. Areas of the state with a high population of older adults and other at-risk groups.

OHA has continued to discuss the state's testing strategy and supply needs with Federal partners. In addition to the supplemental Abbott ID NOW supplies coming into the state, Oregon will be receiving a regular shipment of testing swabs, universal transport media for specimen collection kits, and certain testing supplies and reagents. These ongoing supplies will be available for counties and Tribes to request through their Emergency Managers using OpsCenter.

OHA continues to explore opportunities to expand collection and testing services.

Supply chain issues

OHA has received information that additional Cepheid test cartridge availability will continue to be limited, as the supplier is at production capacity.

Technical assistance

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. As of May 1, OHA's testing guidance includes a separate document with criteria for COVID-19 testing at OSPHL.