



April 17, 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. Increase access to testing 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.

OHA is in the process of updating its testing guidance for providers and for the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory to augment testing in support of the goals listed above.

Longer term, testing is a key strategy for understanding the transmission of the virus and population prevalence of disease.

Summary of Oregon test results through 4/17/20

	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	4/5- 4/17	Total to date
Positive	1	12	35	66	348	437	472	414	1,785
Negative	3	122	466	1,460	7,050	7,434	9,318	8,683	34,536
Total/ week	4	134	501	1,526	7,398	7,871	9,790	9,097	36,321
% positive	25.0%	9.0%	7.0%	4.3%	4.7%	5.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.9%

As of April 17th, Oregon's positive testing result has remained fairly consistent at about 5% of tests performed; as compared to the national average of 17.6%.

Testing protocols and supply chain issues

On April 7, the Department of Health and Human Services shipped 15 Abbott ID NOW instruments, one box of test controls, and five boxes of 24 testing kits to OHA. Curry General Hospital, Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Lake District Hospital were shipped their instrument and testing kits on April 8. OHA received another four boxes of 24 Abbott ID NOW testing kits this week and split them among the hospitals that were initially supplied to keep their testing going. These four boxes of 24 tests were filled from the 5,000-box order that OHA had requested from the CDC International Reagent Resource (IRR), federal supplier of public health laboratories.

Although the Abbott ID NOW is a useful tool for increasing testing access in rural and frontier areas of the state, it is not useful in settings that need to perform a high volume of tests because of the limited availability of test kits. OHA is ensuring that laboratories that are not currently being supplied Abbott ID NOW testing kits and already have an instrument are on the Abbott supply wait list should the supply chain expand in the future.

Some Oregon hospitals can perform testing with a Cepheid GeneXpert (45-minute turnaround of results) 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.

OHA and the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) continue to partner with more health systems to increase testing volume statewide. In the coming week, Interpath Laboratories is going live with a Panther Fusion assay test and McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center will begin 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 platform, OpsCenter.

Oregon hospital laboratories and OSPHL continue to meet three times per week to share technical information, updates about testing efforts, and 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 disease in congregate care settings, including long-term care and correctional facilities.