

Commentary...

# Oregon's COVID-19 situation needs improvement

By Dave Tremblay  
Columnist

In 2020, our lives have been influenced greatly by COVID-19. Unfortunately, many families have experienced personal, tragic loss.

In every facet of normal life throughout Oregon — its 4.3 million residents and 36 counties — Governor Brown's decisions and proclamations have a timely, important impact on all of us. In the United States, we just surpassed 205,000 deaths.

Following are key facts about Oregon's COVID-19 situation from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) website, <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

*Note: COVID-19 reporting procedures are dynamic — with the objective to capture and use data better.*

**First case: February 28**  
**First death: March 14**

**Oregon statics (as of 9/27): 32,820 cases, 2,470 hospitalizations, 547 deaths**

**Deschutes County (as of 9/27): 810 cases, 62 hospitalizations, 12 deaths**

**Sisters, OR (as of 9/25): 25 cases**

How do we better understand COVID-19 and its impact? We look at its past process behavior. Everything is a process. Then, we overlay important events to understand cause-and-effect. Our analysis specifically looks for sustainability, predictability,

and associated impact(s).

An important example of the analysis? There is one hospitalization in 13 diagnosed COVID-19 cases; the hospitalization rate is 7.7 percent to the number to cases. Of course, that is a major health and societal outcome of contracting COVID-19.

Within the COVID-19 behavior, we analyzed total cases and resultant hospitalizations from February 2 through September 19.

A key conclusion that was quantified?

We need to reduce the current, weekly average case number from 1,564 weekly cases (August 2 - September 19) to the minimal, "statistically derived, stay-at-home"

number of 437. That is a herculean reduction of 358 percent! Importantly, the correlated hospitalization rate would decline significantly as well.

In the Oregon COVID-19 Cases chart (see chart, this page), each week is from Sunday through Saturday. Two critical events are plotted, Oregon's Reopening (June 5) and the Masks/Enhanced Safety Proclamation (July 1).

The top date on the x-axis is the date of tallied/presented data by the OHA. The lower date assumes when COVID-19 may have been contracted — 14 days prior. By using this barometer, we gain information — such as possible increases after holidays.

There are four different stages in the COVID-19 process behavior graph. Now, it seems, we are entering into Stage 5.

Stage 1: Early indications of COVID; February 2 through March 7.

Stage 2: Governor Brown's "Stay Home, Save Lives" order; March 23 - early June.

Stage 3: Re-opening of 31 of 36 Oregon counties.

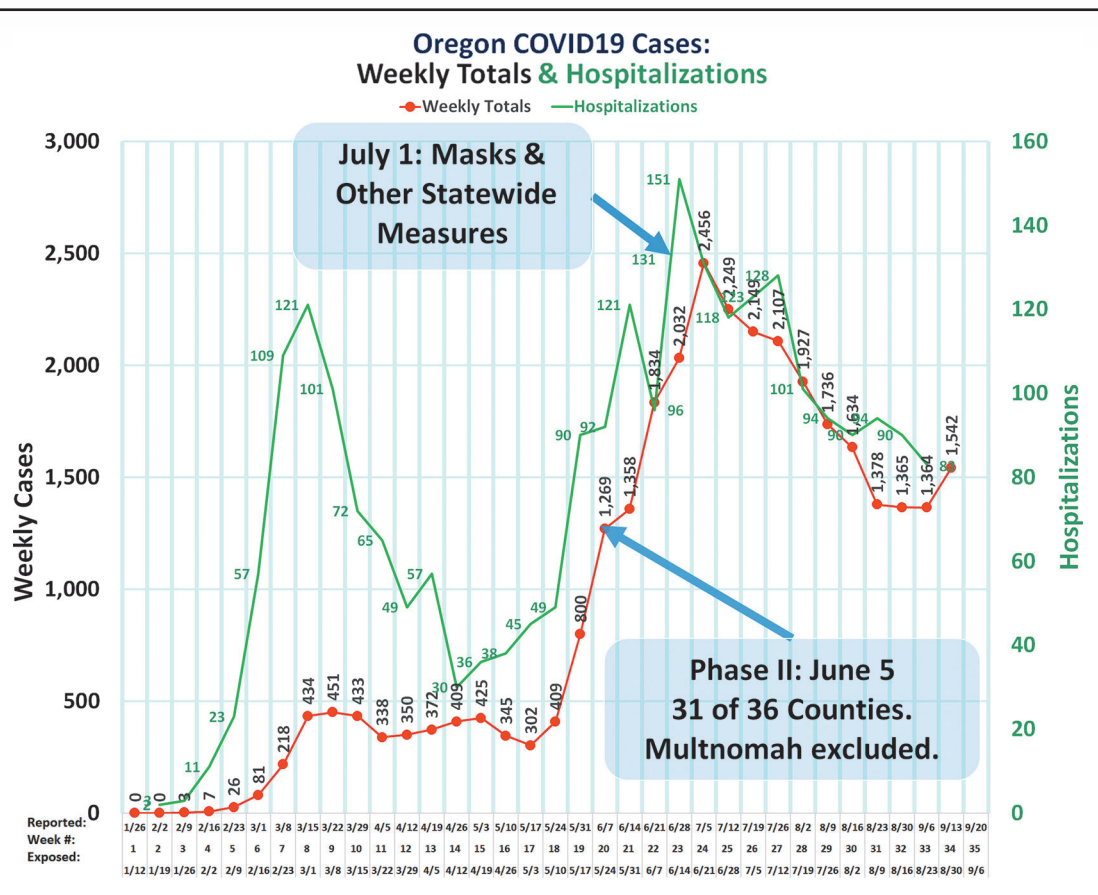
Stage 4: Statewide mask/safety measures. July 1 through present.

From February through May 24, the hospitalization rate to the cases was higher than the subsequent period. Perhaps Oregon's medical

professionals were compassionately conservative to further diagnosis/treatment? After April 26th, more available testing could have reduced the prior hospitalization to case percentage, too. Our heroic medical staffs were using medicine and technology to provide their best diagnosis and care.

Weekly cases were quite predictable during the "Stay Home, Save Lives" period. From March 15 through May 30, weekly cases averaged 388; ranging from 302 to 451. This proclamation's results show the total case was relatively stable; thereby our hunkered-down behavior effective. "Not good," however, since people were adversely affected stiller, but steadily.

See COVID-19 on page 15



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**Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Socially-distant. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.

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