



KEIZERTIMES/ERIC A. HOWARD
Marion County Food Share employee Mitch Baysinger unloads a pallet of beef chunks from a truck carrying more than \$40,000 worth of donation food from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

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in the form of pasta-making and canneries – have been added to the church's efforts and grown the supply on hand.

Neil Nelson, president of the Keizer Stake, said previous efforts to disburse surplus foods traditionally went to crisis areas around the globe. This year, for

the first time, the church is sending out donations to 47 states within the U.S. as a matter of course.

"Oregon is getting 13 semis full of food in the coming weeks," Nelson said.

The food contained in the delivery to MPFS is worth about \$40,000 alone. The church is providing the food and delivery at no cost to the organizations receiving it. Beef stew, chili, beans of all kinds, tomato sauce, pasta and canned fruits are just some of what the shipment contained.

Kohler said it was hard not to see some sort of divine intervention in the food arriving at a time of crisis as the nation deals with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The church has always been involved in helping the poor and needy. It would not be a long shot to say

the Prophet was inspired to prepare for this," Kohler said. The Prophet Kohler references is the global president of the church, Russell Nelson.

Kohler said it was humbling to play even a small part in preparing the community for hard times.

"To see what the church is doing to help so very many during such a trying time, it is testimony strengthening to see the foresight and willingness to share without asking for anything in return," Kohler said. "Serving on the city council, I see people donate lots of things and provide many acts of love and kindness, which is awesome. When I compare all I see with what I see what the church is doing on such a grand scale, I'm very humbled to be a small part of such a giant gift to so many."

Tax filing deadline moves to July 15

At the direction of Governor Kate Brown, the Oregon Department of Revenue today announced an extension for Oregon tax filing and payment deadlines for personal income taxes and some other taxes closely following the IRS extension declaration.

The new deadline for filing both state and federal taxes is July 15.

For personal income taxpayers:

The Oregon return filing due date for tax year 2019 is automatically extended from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.

The Oregon tax payment deadline for payments due with the 2019 tax year return is automatically extended to July 15, 2020.

Estimated tax payments for tax year 2020 are not extended.

The tax year 2019 six-month extension to file, if requested, continues to extend only the filing deadline until October 15, 2020.

Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call to qualify for this automatic Oregon tax filing and payment extension.

If you have questions about your personal income tax, contact questions.dor@oregon.gov.

This move is a result of the governor's priority to keep Oregonians safe and healthy, while also providing relief and consistency for Oregon taxpayers affected by the federal and state COVID-19 emergency.

"The governor's clearly stated goal is for Oregon families to stay home, save lives," said Oregon Department of Revenue Director Nia Ray. "After consultation with the state treasurer and state budget officials, the Department of Revenue will extend personal and corporate income tax deadlines during this challenging period."

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Hospitals brace for crisis, models shows we can nip need

Oregon is at a critical moment in the COVID-19 pandemic, and state authorities are preparing the next phase of intervention.

A joint statewide plan released Friday, March 27, details how the state plans to ramp up services in preparation for a crisis like the one being seen in other states, and how average Oregonians can continue to subdue the virus spread and avoid a rampaging epidemic.

The plan addresses four urgent actions necessary to expand the health care system's capacity and maintain its capability as Oregon braces for a projected spike in new coronavirus cases:

1. Procure and distribute critical medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers and ventilators.
2. Optimize hospital capacity to be able to treat COVID-19 cases.
3. Mobilize the health care workforce to respond to COVID-19.
4. Maintain a unified, coordinated and transparent emergency response to COVID-19.

A return to "business as usual" or slight differences in actual infection rates (compared to projected ones) could swamp hospitals with more coronavirus cases than they could treat, said officials from the Governor's Joint Task Force for Health Care Systems Response to COVID-19 in a press release.

Statistical modeling for three possible scenarios shows how the virus could become rampant and how current advisories to maintain social distancing and avoid large gatherings can stop the spread of the coronavirus.

If Oregon lifted the all the current rules and measures taken to slow the spread of the virus, there will be an estimated 15,000 cumulative infections by May 8 (within a range of 5,900-26,000). Approximately 1,100 people would need in-

patient beds across Oregon.

Maintaining bans on large gatherings and school closures only would result in an estimated 6,100 infections (within a range of 2,000-12,000) by May 8.

Maintaining the current interventions could limit infections to 1,000 (within a range of 700-3,800), and hospitals would need a smaller number of beds for those suffering the most severe symptoms.

"These projections tell us the sacrifices Oregonians are making right now can save lives. At the same time, they paint a dark picture of what could happen. We can't afford to drop our guard," said Dr.

Dean Sidelinger, state health officer at Oregon Health Authority.

Other actions being taken include:

- Collecting PPE for re-distribution to facilities in need.
- Working with providers to stand-up alternate care locations (such as the Oregon Medical Station), identify and develop new alternate care sites, enable ambulatory care centers to house patients and re-purpose long-term care facilities.
- The state is developing childcare options for health care workers so their work isn't interrupted by school closings and family responsibilities.

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

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