

On The Record

PeaceHealth, KCST offering now weekly COVID-19 updates

To keep the community up to date on the latest information about the COVID-19 pandemic, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center and Coast

Radio Florence this week kicked off a new weekly series called PeaceHealth COVID-19 Check-In. The show, featuring Peace Harbor providers and

other experts, aims to provide the latest information about the impact of the new coronavirus on the Florence community and how the hospital is preparing and

responding. The 10-minute show airs live at 8:30 a.m. on KCST 106.9 AM. The first segment aired this week and is posted on

the Coast Radio website. Host George Henry spoke with Dr. Ron Shearer, medical director at Peace Harbor, and Dr. William Foster, medical director of the

Emergency Department. The show will air until COVID-19 is no longer considered a public health threat.

ODOE issues clarification on temporary suspension of self-service fueling

Oregon's COVID-19 Statewide Joint Information Center and the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) are providing additional clarification related to the recent announcement from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, which temporarily suspended Oregon's ban on self-service gas stations.

This temporary suspension does not make self-service mandatory. The intention is to ensure fuel is available to essential personnel who need to travel. The Oregon Fuels Association (OFA) states, "This change allows gas station attendants to help these customers while avoiding face-to-face, hand-to-hand contact and apply social distancing practices.

Attendants will sanitize equipment and fuel nozzles and assist customers with refueling as needed." ODOE is responsible for maintaining a reliable source of fuel for Oregonians. The gas station workforce has recently reduced by as much as 50 percent due to illness, childcare issues and safety concerns according to the

fuel industry. Self-service allows some gas stations to continue operations with fewer staff and ensures Oregonians can refuel their vehicles. OFA adds, "Unattended self-service will only happen if and when a gas station owner exhausts all staffing options." Those stations that do not have an attendant on hand are

required to post safety signs for social distancing as well as instructions for how to operate a fuel pump. This temporary suspension is currently in effect through April 11 and may be extended by the Oregon State Fire Marshal. Amidst the COVID-19, the goal of this change is to make refueling safer for both customers and service station

attendants, while keeping stations open. This does not affect existing areas of the state already authorized for self-service refueling under Oregon law. For more information, contact Oregon COVID-19 Joint Information Center (JIC) staff at 503-373-7872 or email media.COVID-19@state.or.us

Oregon releases healthcare system action plan to fight COVID-19

New projections show that social distancing must be maintained to protect health care systems.

The fight against the coronavirus depends heavily on Oregon hospitals having enough beds to treat the coming surge in patients who will become seriously ill with the COVID-19. Monday, Oregon health officials and hospitals announced a joint statewide action plan to dramatically bolster the state's ability to treat people with COVID-19 illness who need hospital care.

The plan was developed by the "Governor's Joint Task Force for Health Care Systems Response to COVID-19," convened by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). It includes a broad range of health systems, health care providers, human services organizations, public health and public safety agencies, insurers and other organizations needed in the battle.

The plan addresses four urgent actions necessary to expand the Oregon health care system's capacity and maintain its capability as the state 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.

New projections of COVID-19 cases in Oregon show the state is at a critical moment in the fight against the disease. Social distancing measures could alter the trajectory of new infections, which gives Oregon's health care system the chance to ramp up to meet the coming surge.

But the state has little margin for error. 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.

Governor Brown said, "Hospital leaders and health officials are doing their part to find beds, secure supplies and protect health care workers. Oregonians can make a difference too: stay home and save lives. We all have a role to play in an unprecedented, unified effort across Oregon to stop the coronavirus from taking the tragic toll we've seen it claim elsewhere."

State agencies, hospitals and health care providers have already begun to implement the plan.

- The state is collecting PPE for redistribution to facilities in need.

- Regional hospitals have signed mutual aid agreements to shift equipment, workforce and patients from over-burdened facilities to others with adequate capacity.

- The state is 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 and hospitals are sharing hospital bed utilization data so hospitals can manage the use of beds and equipment across their region.

- The state is developing childcare options for health care workers, so their work isn't interrupted by school closings and family responsibilities.

OHA Director Patrick Allen said, "Oregon's health care system began preparing for a pandemic years ago, which gave us a head start on this plan.

"From expanding testing to securing more ventilators for Oregon hospitals, we are united by a set of common strategies to save lives in every corner of the state."

The latest models state health officials released today forecast the following outcomes for 3 different scenarios:

- Return to business as usual: If Oregon lifted all the social distancing measures state leaders have

instituted in recent weeks, 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 inpatient beds (850 AAC/250 ICU) across Oregon.

- Maintain bans on large gatherings and indefinite school closures: There would be an estimated 6,100 cumulative infections by May 8 (within a range of 2,000-12,000) and 340 people will need inpatient beds (260 AAC/80 ICU).

- Maintain aggressive interventions put into place on Monday, March 23 (i.e., Stay Home, Save Lives) with high public adherence: There will be an estimated 1,000 (within a possible range of 700-3,800) cumulative infections by May 8.

Under this scenario, hospitals would have to boost capacity by a smaller number of beds.

The models show that only aggressive interventions, like the Stay Home, Save Lives executive order Governor Brown issued on March 23, are predicted to decrease the number of active infections.

The models state health officials released today were prepared by the Institute for Disease Modeling. While similar to projections completed earlier by researchers at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU), these newer models from



Global Carbon Report
Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Division

Dec. 2019: 412.02 ppm
Dec. 2018: 408.94 ppm

Last updated: March 5, 2020

WEATHER DATA				
DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN	
March 24	48	35	0.47	
March 25	49	33	0.12	
March 26	50	29	0.00	
March 27	47	41	0.19	
March 28	50	44	0.10	
March 29	49	45	0.56	

Rainfall Week: 2.33"
Month: 4.23" Year: 27.39"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham



We invite you to join us.

We will be live streaming from Facebook at 10am Sunday mornings.

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