

Daugherty *from B3*

sure that the aquatic center can handle the demand of a community that quickly made the revamped pool a popular local destination after its reopening late last year.

“We are asking that people limit their time here to 45 minutes so that we’re able to get more people in,” McCasline said.

“There could be a time where you come in and you want a lane, but you might have to wait and if that becomes a problem we might go to a reservation system, but we’re not currently set up to easily take reservations.”

The limits to be placed on user pool time, however, are a direct reflection of the pool’s success during its first five months of operation.

From November 2019 to February 2020, public attendance each month at the Daugherty Center more than doubled compared to 2018 figures at the old facility.

Swim lessons filled up ten minutes after opening for registration and additional classes and staff were added to take on the increased demand. Student passes given out nearly tripled compared to two years ago and while January 2018 saw only 191 student drop-ins, January of this year saw that number increase

to 605.

“The support that the community has given the pool was huge and the usage shows that. It was just continuing to go up. We were continuing to see new people who hadn’t used the pool before come in and use it every day,” McCasline said.

The Daugherty Center has also recently added Silver Sneakers and Renew Active insurance options for patrons coming to use the warm water pool for physical therapy, allowing them to use the facility while their insurance is billed for the cost.

From swim lessons for young children to therapy sessions for older visitors, the Daugherty Center has quickly become an integral part of Cottage Grove life for community members of all ages and the last three months of closure has been a difficult change. With next week’s planned reopening there is now some light at the end of the tunnel.

“We want to make sure we’re offering programming for everyone in the community,” McCasline added. “We have such great people who use the pool and who rely on the pool every day, not just for social aspects, but physical aspects and for them not to have access anywhere has been a challenge. I’m excited to come back in.”

DHS, OHA introduce COVID-19 testing plan for long-term care facilities

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) today finalized a comprehensive, statewide COVID-19 testing plan for long-term care facilities with more than five residents.

Implementation of the plan will occur in two phases. In the first phase, every facility will test all staff and offer testing to all residents. This phase began June 24 and concludes by Sept. 30.

It will cover more than 680 large, long-term care facilities statewide, which combined provide care for an estimated 31,000 residents and employ 29,000 staff. Residents and staff at nursing facilities in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, Marion and Polk counties will be prioritized as these counties account for the majority of outbreaks in long-term care facilities to date. Testing will then commence at assisted living and residential care facilities with memory care units in those counties, followed by facilities without memory care. This same sequence will then roll out in other counties statewide.

In the second phase, facilities will develop and implement plans for ongoing monitoring. Plans will detail how they will monitor and

test residents and staff, including testing all staff at least once per month. Plans will be approved by the DHS Office of Aging and People with Disabilities, with implementation required to begin within 30 days of completing the first round of testing.

The plan contains a strong focus on equity and trauma-informed testing practices, based on recognition of the presence of historical trauma among marginalized communities. To address these issues, the plan calls for testing services to be provided in a linguistically and culturally sensitive manner, and for the people administering the tests to understand the history of sources of trauma on marginalized communities.

Gov. Kate Brown announced June 9 that she was directing DHS and OHA to develop and implement a comprehensive coronavirus testing plan to protect residents and staff of long-term care facilities, starting with facilities at highest risk.

Long-term care facilities will be required to report results to their local public health authority and the DHS Office of Aging and People with Disabilities. Facility staff participation is required; residents who decline a test, and are symp-

tomatic, will need to be quarantined.

To ensure individuals’ privacy, the only publicly released information from the testing will be aggregate data on cases and deaths at for facilities with outbreaks. Positive test results at facilities with three or more cases will be added to the OHA COVID-19 Weekly Report, which is updated every Wednesday. In addition, lists of facilities reporting current or suspected cases of COVID-19 will continue to be available to the public on the DHS website. These lists are updated every Tuesday and Friday.

“We anticipate that comprehensive testing will help improve prevention efforts by providing us with more information on how the virus is spreading in long-term care facilities,” said DHS Director Fariborz Pakseresht. “Completing the first round of tests statewide represents a significant undertaking. We appreciate the support we have received from long-term care facilities in partnering with us to take this important step forward.”

Statewide testing in long-term care is an essential first step that will allow the state to examine how visitation policies can be safely and incrementally eased.



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