

## DCPH warns travel as leading cause of viral spread

Many Douglas County residents have been asking why there has been a steady increase in positive confirmed cases in the last few weeks.

The answer is travel. The majority of the county's recent cases have been directly linked to travel outside Douglas County, and especially those residents that have chosen to travel outside of Oregon.

With the onset of summer, schools releasing students and staff for summer vacation, and the recent approval for Douglas County to enter Phase Two of the Governor's Phased Reopening

plan, county health officials are seeing a surge in the number of people that are traveling in and out of the county for vacations, getaways, camping trips, family reunions, weddings, etc.

Whatever the reason for traveling, county health officials encourage residents and travelers to do so in a COVID-19 safe manner.

"We have enjoyed a very low attack rate in Douglas County thus far, but every time someone decides to travel or make a stopover in a highly infected COVID-19 area, they run a very high risk of contracting the virus

and then bringing it back to Douglas County," stated Dr. Bob Dannenhof, our Douglas County Public Health Officer.

The COVID-19 virus is still here, still infectious and will be around for quite some time. Current data from the CDC and OHA show that traveling and coming into contact with people from other areas does significantly increase the chance of getting and spreading COVID-19.

Before traveling, attending a party or inviting relatives from out of state to visit, assess the risk to yourself, your family and to the local

community.

The bottom line is that each and every person needs to take personal responsibility for their actions and adopt the proper precautionary measures for COVID-19 protection.

"We know it has been difficult, and we know you are anxious to get back to living your life, but we ask that you please continue to be vigilant in helping us to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our county," said Chris Boice, Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

## Testing from A1

plan for lining up for the testing has been announced.

Priority will be given to individuals in high-risk groups, first responders, individuals who have not been able to maintain physical distancing throughout the outbreak (e.g. having had to work) and those displaying symptoms.

However, LCPH advises that if an individual has COVID-19 symptoms, they should not wait for one of these events to get tested. Instead, immediately see a healthcare provider for testing.

The health agency also asks that people only come to testing events in their local area.

All tests are offered free from LCPH, which is partnering with Head

Start of Lane County. Though it is not required, people may bring their health insurance card.

Most test results will become available after 48 hours.

All test results and personal medical information is confidential and will not be shared. If an individual tests positive, they will be contacted by LCPH with the contact information they share.

LCPH has provided the following information on fliers:

### Why is it important to test for Covid-19?

**Prevent the Spread**  
Testing will help understand what COVID-19 looks like in our community and help prevent further outbreaks.

### Know for Certain

COVID-19 symptoms can look different for different people. Some people may not have symptoms at all. The only way to know for certain is to do a test.

### Protect Those Around You

COVID-19 spreads between people in close contact. One way to help protect yourself and those around you is to test to know if you have the virus.

"Regardless of the test results, continue to practice good hand washing and social distancing,"

the flier concludes.

In a press release, LCPH stated the free testing is a way that it can "better understand how COVID-19 is moving through rural communities and provide a low-barrier testing option."

Additional information is available through [www.lanecounty.or.gov](http://www.lanecounty.or.gov) or by calling LCPH Communicable Disease at 541-682-4041.

For Spanish speakers wanting more information on COVID-19, visit [www.lanecounty.or.gov/sobreCOVID-19](http://www.lanecounty.or.gov/sobreCOVID-19).

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## BMD's Helena Saloon to be collection site for donations

"Bohemia City" will not be in Coiner Park this year. In its place will be Bohemia Mining Days' famous Helena Saloon on Main Street, July 16-18, to serve as a visual reminder of what should've been.

Festival volunteers invite BMD supporters to

stop by the tennis court parking lot and make a cash donation to sustain the organization for the rest of this year.

Drop by on Thursday and Friday, from 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday from noon to 8 p.m., or on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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