



**Curry County
Board of Commissioners**

*Julie A. Schmelzer
Director of Operations*

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Gold Beach, OR 97444
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www.co.curry.or.us
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Jen Andrew
Office of the Governor
Jennifer.j.andrew@oregon.gov

Dear Ms. Andrew,

On behalf of Curry County, Oregon, please accept this memorandum and attached plan as Curry County's application/petition to re-open Curry County for Phase 1 operations.

Dated this 7th of May, 2020.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Schmelzer
Director of Operations

Att. Plan



Curry County Public Health Administrator

Sherrié Ward, Public Health Administrator
wards@co.curry.or.us

94235 Moore Street/Suite #121
Gold Beach, OR 97444
Phone: 541-247-3387
Fax: 541-247-2718

05/07/2020

Dear Ms. Andrew,

On behalf of Curry County Public Health, please accept this memorandum and attached plan as Curry County's application/petition to re-open Curry County for Phase 1 operations.

As the Public Health Administrator for Curry County, I can attest that Curry County's medical care and first responders have met the pre-requisites for Phase 1 reopening of Curry County.

Dated this 7th of May, 2020

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherrié R. Ward".

Sherrié R. Ward,
Public Health Administrator



Curry General Hospital
94220 4th Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541.247.3000

Curry Medical Center
500 5th Street
Brookings, OR 97415
541.412.2000

Curry Family Medical
525 Madrona Street
Port Orford, OR 97465
541.332.3861

Curry Medical Practice
94220 4th Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541.247.3910

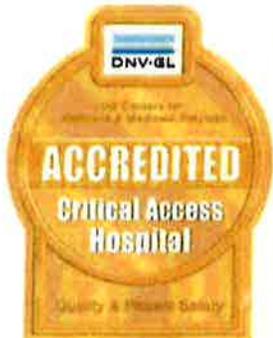
Curry Medical West
94125 4th Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541.247.6628

VISION

Curry Health Network will be the region's premier rural healthcare system.

MISSION

Healthy communities with compassionate, quality health care.



April 27, 2020

Curry County Board of Commissioners
94235 Moore St., Ste. 122
Gold Beach, OR 97444

Dear Commissioners,

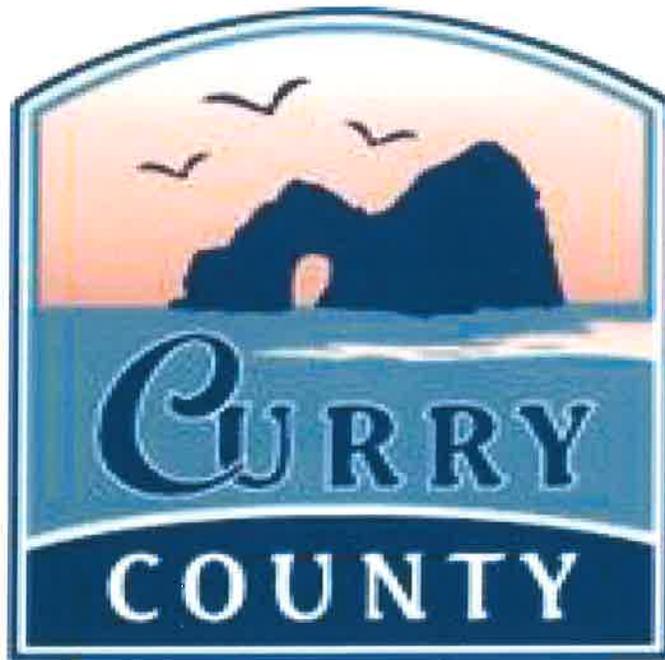
It is my understanding the Curry County Board of Commissioners has interest in petitioning the Oregon State Governor to lift Executive Order restrictions within the County and to proceed with Phase I of the Governor's plan to reopen Oregon.

Please be advised that Curry Health Network and Curry General Hospital has committed the organization to daily reporting of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Oregon Health Authority, and that it has adequate and steadily replenishable supply of PPE in addition to a well-developed and detailed plan that provides for adequate hospital bed capacity in the event of patient surge.

Providing that reopening the County is carried out safely and follows the guidance of the Governor's multi-phase plan, Curry Health Network looks forward to the continued provision of medical services to our communities.

Best regards,

Virginia Williams
Chief Executive Officer
Curry Health Network



Curry County

COVID-19

REOPENING PLAN

Prepared in accordance with Governor Kate Brown's

Public Health Framework for Reopening Oregon

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for those involved in the process of reopening by providing a framework and guidance for prevention, planning and response to a the Public Health Emergency in Curry County, and give information to be addressed in the implementation of individual plans.

Due to the ever-changing information and guidance associated with COVID-19, these guidelines will be handled as an adaptive *management plan* or *living document*. This means that as information is made available, or State or Federal orders and standards are issued, this document will be reviewed and amended as needed.



Overview

Curry County is located on the Southwest Oregon Coast, bordering Coos, Douglas, Josephine counties, and the California state line boarder of Del Norte County. The 2018 census estimates the population at Population of 22,813 with coverage area of 1,989 sq. miles.

Curry County Public Health (CCPH) serves as the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA). Curry County Public Health with the support of Curry County Emergency Management opened a Department Operations Center (DOC) with a virtual EOC activation on 5th of March, 2020 to monitor and respond to the COVID-19 incident. On March 8th, 2020 the State of Oregon declared a Public Health Emergency and the Curry County Board of Commissioners declared a local Emergency on March 18th, 2020 with limited EOC activation.

Curry County is committed to an evidence-based reopening strategy that considers the immediate and long-term health and welfare of our community members. We recognize the sacrifice of community members, businesses, first responders, and healthcare workers throughout this event; it is imperative that our strategy to reopen is deliberate, thoughtful and inclusive.

Recently, Governor Brown laid out the Prerequisites for Phased Reopening of Oregon general framework to reopen our communities, consisting of 'gating' criteria (such as a downward trend of influenza-like illness encounters documented in the healthcare system, and a decrease in positive tests over a 14-day period), and the Core State Preparedness criteria, which include:

1. Robust testing, case investigation and contact tracing capability
2. Healthcare system capacity and adequate PPE supplies
3. Plans for health and safety

Curry County Public Health, as the LPHA, will continue to track and monitor trends in test results, cases, and hospitalizations. Working collaboratively with healthcare system partners, Curry County's capacity to conduct proper testing, case investigation and tracking meets the current needs, and the County is prepared to expand appropriately as needed. Healthcare system capacity and PPE supplies are currently stable.

This Reopening Strategy Plan outlines the efforts, actual and planned, of healthcare system partners and Curry County Public Health to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

1- Declining Prevalence of COVID-19.

This section does not apply to Curry County.

Curry County did **NOT** have any Hospitalized COVID-19 cases. Curry does not have any active cases, and Curry only had 4 confirmed cases and currently all 4 cases have recovered leaving Curry County with Zero Active cases.

Public Health has the ability to monitor the local hospital capacity daily via the State's HOSCAP system and the ability produce weekly reports if needed to support decision-making. As well has participated in daily Hospital HICS calls for communication and coordination purposes.

Hospital capacity is anticipated to be capable of meeting projected surge demand. Additionally, a robust testing program is in place for healthcare workers and high-risk individuals, utilizing multiple specimen collection sites, including Curry General in Gold Beach, Curry Medical Center in Brookings and Port Orford, and NBMC in Gold Beach. As well as testing is being done across borders at Sutter Coast in Del Norte, County CA, as well as NBMC in Coos County.

A conservative estimate puts Curry County's reliable capacity for testing at a minimum of 1,750 tests per week. This conclusion is supported by Quest daily collection capacity of 96 per day (Send outs), GenXpert daily testing capacity is 96 tests (in-house testing), and Abbott daily testing capacity is 72 tests (in house testing, currently in use).

2 – Core Preparedness

1. **Testing & Contact Tracing**
 - *Screening and testing for symptomatic individuals; and*
 - *Test syndromic/influenza-like illness indicated persons; and*
 - *Ensure sentinel surveillance sites are screening for asymptomatic cases*
 - *Contact tracing of all COVID+ cases*
2. **Healthcare System Capacity**
 - *Sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE)*
 - *Ability to surge*
3. **Plans**
 - *Critical Industries*
 - *High-risk facilities*
 - *Mass transit*
 - *Civilian Education*
 - *Condition Monitoring*

Testing – Target Met

COVID-19 Testing is currently being performed by Curry Health Network at Curry Medical Center Emergency care at 500 5th St, in Brookings and Curry General Hospital in Gold Beach. Curry County Public Health has received the results of COVID-19 tests. The main specimen collection site (testing is done elsewhere through a private laboratory) for COVID-19 in Curry County is administered by Curry Health Network, as well as some Curry residents have primary physicians in Coos and Del Norte Counties. The respective specimen collection capacity (and testing, as applicable) is as follows:

Curry Health Network: Curry Health Network (CHN) comprises of Curry General in Gold Beach, and Curry Medical Center’s in Brookings and Port Orford. Currently CHN processes their Rapid tests in-house using the Abbott testing platform, with a capability of 72 tests per day; Curry General has Nasopharyngeal tests that are submitted to test daily, with results averaging in 72 hours; Serology testing is available with an average of a 2- day turnaround; GenXpert Rapid Testing .

<http://www.curryhealthnetwork.com/getpage.php?name=index>

<https://www.facebook.com/replacethegeneral/>

North Bend Medical Center GB: Currently administers the test but sends the specimen out to a private lab, Quest, with a 72 hour turnaround time.

<https://nbmchealth.com>

Contact Tracing – Target Met

Curry County Public Health remains in alignment with Oregon Health Authority requirements and guidelines and is the lead agency for case investigation and contact tracing. Public Health staff continues to perfect and streamline these processes, utilizing the Incident Command System. The County, with a population of approximately 23,000, has the capacity to complete this work, with the ability to assign 5 staff to contact tracing. Curry County utilizes Language Line services to communicate with cases and contacts in their preferred language.

The Hispanic population comprises of 7.3 % approximating 1600 individuals, according to the 2018 Census data. Curry County Public Health also has a bilingual/bicultural staff member that is capable of providing case investigation and contact tracing in a culturally appropriate way and in a preferred language which will maximize our effectiveness when and if the need arises. Curry County Public Health is in collaboration with Coordinated Care Originations (CCO's); Allcare , for support and assistance with contact trace to help with the county's language access needs with the Hispanic population when and if the need arises.

Curry Health Network has established Policies and Procedures for all types of language speaking individuals by utilizing a language service line Spectra Corp aka Cryacom service.

Public Health is also working with for Curry General Hospital infection control, as well as working with Douglas County Public Health, Coos County Public Health, and Del Norte County California Public Health for any type of surge.

Curry County Public Health: The Curry County Public Health Team is comprised of five Public Health staff members to do contact tracing as well as Public Health can pull from other county departments such as Emergency Management and work with our partnerships with Coos, Douglas and Del Norte County, and the CCO/Allcare, as well as having the option to request contact tracers through OPS Center for additional contact tracers when and if the need arises. Public Health has two team members that have access to ORPHEUS (Oregon Public Health Epidemiologists' User System); one out of those two staff members is Spanish Speaking Bilingual, should the need arise. The other three investigators do not have Orpheus access but have been trained on COVID-19 contact tracing by Public Health.

Curry Health Network: Curry Health Network has engaged their Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) and Employee Health (EH) team to respond to exposures among their healthcare workers, and first responders. Curry Health Network and Curry County Public Health work in conjunction to identify, contact, and respond to all potential cases as appropriate in compliance with requirements and guidelines set forth by Oregon Health Authority.

Sufficient PPE – Target Met

Local, state, and national PPE supplies have been an issue since this pandemic began and supplies in Curry County were no different with PPE reaching critically low levels in mid-March. However, supply chains through Oregon Emergency Management have improved dramatically. As of 05/07/2020, health care providers and the Hospital in Curry County have indicated they have sufficient PPE on hand to deal with existing caseloads and potential surge levels.

Curry Counties PPE inventory is tracked and monitored utilizing the Incident Command System. Distributions of PPE to ESF-8 Partners, including the hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), long-term care facilities (LTCFs), primary care facilities and clinics, emergency services, et al, are conducted using the logistics branch of the Public Health IMT at the DOC/EOC.

Ability to Surge ICU Capacity – Target Met

The Medical Advisory Group (MAG) consists of medical directors and officers of the region's healthcare organizations. The MAG has developed a regional plan to address ICU surge capacity needs, which has been utilized for several weeks.

Region 5 has an Adult ICU bed capacity of 63. Throughout the COVID-19 incident, the region has averaged approximately 33%, and never below 20%, of ICU beds available at any given time.

Additionally, Region 5 has a medical surge capacity of 383 beds, which can all be converted to ICU beds if necessary. Availability of these beds has remained around a third, ranging between 110-130 beds.

Plans – Target Met

Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF), Redwood Memorial Funeral Home, and other Congregate Care Facilities (CCF)

As has been seen across the nation, a facility outbreak can present significant harm to residents who are less able to physically distance and are at higher risk. This can cause significant negative effects to the healthcare system as a whole as it would require significant PPE, medical transport, hospital beds, and resources.

Curry County Public Health has conducted weekly agency calls with LTCF, Redwood Memorial Funeral Home, and the DHS –ESF 6 contact to assess PPE needs and ensure compliance with Executive Orders. Facilities have been provided with clear guidance and advice on when to contact Curry County Public Health for potential or suspected COVID-19 cases and outbreaks. In the event that an outbreak occurs at a LTCF, Curry County would assign staff to work directly with the LTCF to help with coordination of testing through Curry Health Network as well as working with DHS local contact on obtaining information from the LTCF to identify individuals whom may have been in contact with facility such as healthcare workers, EMS for transport etc, for contact tracing and possible quarantine.

Jail / Adults in Custody –

Curry County Sheriff's Office has adopted internal guidance on limiting and addressing the potential spread of COVID-19 within the facility. Additionally, Curry County will be utilizing the guidance document developed by the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Corrections that serve as guidance specific for correctional facilities and detention centers during the outbreak of COVID-19, to ensure continuation of essential public services and protection of the health and safety of incarcerated and detained persons, staff, and visitors.

Curry County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and Public Health are in collaboration with each other to help address outbreak situations. CCSO will continue to notify Public Health when and if the need arrives regarding and outbreak. Currently Public Health Administrator is working with the Lt. of Parole and Probation with the CCSO, regarding isolation/quarantining of individuals who could possibly be released from DOC into Curry County in order to have coordination and an action plan when and if the situation were to arise. Curry County Sheriff's Office utilizes Language Line services to communicate with cases and contacts in their preferred language.

Homelessness / Non-Homeless/ Hospital Discharge

Should an individual or family that is experiencing homelessness or residents that have no means to safely isolate in their residence that contract COVID-19 or be identified as a contact of a known COVID-19 case, the hospital/provider will work with Curry County Public Health and the EOC to connect the affected individuals with local partners capable of providing appropriate support. Additionally, Curry County is contracting with local hotels, specifically the Brookings Inn in Brookings, Jots Resort in Gold Beach, Motel 6 in Gold Beach to provide isolation housing for individuals or family units with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, that have been discharged from the hospital and are in need of self-isolation.

Curry County Public Health as well as the County EOC continues to work with community partners, non-government organizations (NGO's), faith-based communities and volunteer organizations to ensure that the necessities of daily living, food, laundry, and medications are provided while individuals are in isolation. The Curry County Public Health and the County EOC continues to host and participate in regular scheduled meetings and agency cooperators conference calls with health and social care partners to continue to update and share valuable community information.

The Curry Homeless Coalition, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Brookings, Coast Community Health in Port Orford, ORCCA, and Coastline Neighbors are working in collaboration with each other to identify needs of the homeless as well as individuals of different cultures to help address their needs during this time. Curry Community Health will provide support to those who are mental health and or addictions patients just as they would under normal circumstances.

<https://curryhomelesscoalition.org/>

https://coastline.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=0&club_id=840728

Civilian Education

Curry County Public Health and Curry County Emergency Management have been conducting public outreach and education campaigns as part of a multi-faceted approach to slow the spread of COVID-19. The Public Information Officer (PIO) uses a number of media platforms, including Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CurryCountyPublicHealthOregon/>); internet (www.currypublichealth.com (<https://www.facebook.com/currycountyemergencymanagement/> ; internet (www.curryoem.com ;), news print, television and radio, to reach engaged populations. The PIO also maintains ability to engage with local media partners to further message through press releases, interviews, and other engagements.

Public Health was instrumental in updating a resources list for COVID-19 and has posted for the community on the Public Health, County, Facebook and Emergency Management site.

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/89ec0926-b644-4e43-8e2a-a28d6bc7d34e/downloads/County%20COVID%2019%20Resources.pdf?ver=1588956215131>

Curry Public Transit

The Curry Public Transit Program is the sole mass transit provider in Curry County. Curry Public Transit implemented a policy where all drivers AND passengers are required to wear a face mask and use hand sanitizer anytime they are on the bus. Education and strict enforcement of social distancing standards are required for each passenger. Lastly Curry County Transit has implemented a comprehensive bus

cleaning schedule which conducts spot cleaning between routes, as well as a complete bus cleaning each evening after operation. <https://currypublictransit.org/>

Condition Monitoring

Curry County fully supports and recognizes the need for an escalation plan to re-implement closures or other restrictions in the event there is resurgence in cases. This plan needs to be based on clear and agreed-upon metrics, which may include number of cases, average new cases, hospitalizations, and others as identified by OHA. If triggers are reached, the county may opt to return to previous phase levels with increased restrictions to stem the tide of new infections. These will be provided to the community in advance to encourage preparedness by community members and businesses.

The Curry County Incident Management Team will remain activated to monitor cases and trends in order to respond quickly in the case of resurgence, with support from other community partners.

General Guidance for the Public

Curry County's Phase 1 reopening plan will include the following General Guidance for the Public:

-
- Stay home if you are sick.
 - If you become symptomatic (cough, fever, shortness of breath) while in public, self-isolate immediately and return home and contact your health care provider if you need medical attention.
 - Individuals at risk for severe complications (over age 60 or have underlying medical conditions) should stay home to avoid exposure to COVID-19.
 - Practice good hand hygiene with frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content).
 - Cover coughs/sneezes with elbow or tissue.
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Practice physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between you and others not in your household.
 - Stay close to home. Travel the minimum distance needed to obtain essential services; in rural areas, residents may have to travel greater distances for essential services.
-

Additional Prerequisites

Three additional requirements, outlined below, are in progress and will be submitted to the Governor's Office as they are completed.

1. Letters from the CEO of Curry Health Network committing to meeting daily PPE reporting to Oregon Health Authority, PPE supply chain reliability and hospital surge capacity.
2. A letter from Curry County Public Health Administrator recommending that Curry County be allowed to reopen to a Phase 1 level.
3. A vote from Curry County Board of Commissioners certifying that PPE for first responders is sufficient.