

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



JOHN K. LINDSEY
Commissioner

WILL TUCKER
Commissioner

ROGER NYQUIST
Commissioner

*Linn County Courthouse
P.O. Box 100, Albany, Oregon 97321
(541) 967-3825 FAX: (541) 926-8228*

RALPH E. WYATT
Administrative Officer

May 8, 2020

Sent by email to: jennifer.j.andrew@oregon.gov

Honorable Governor Kate Brown
c/o Jennifer Andrew
254 State Capitol
Salem OR 97301-4047

RE: Linn County's Plan to Reopen - Phase I (REVISED)

Dear Governor Brown:

The Linn County Board of Commissioners hereby petitions you to reopen Linn County for business on Friday, May 15, 2020. Below is our revised response to our May 1st prerequisite phase for reopening Oregon.

1. Declining prevalence of COVID-19:
 - A. Visit to emergency rooms for COVID-19 like illnesses – **See plan for Samaritan Health submitted for their opening.**
 - B. A 14-day decline in Covid-19 hospitalizations – Only applies if >5 Cases; **Linn County's maximum hospitalization was 3 with now only one hospitalized. Criteria met and not required.**
2. Minimum Testing Regimen:
 - A. Test at >30/10k per week – **We are and have been testing at greater than 30/10k per week. Health Region Requirement.**
 - B. Sufficient Testing Sites:
 1. **We have three fixed sites in Albany and there are three fixed sites in Lebanon; see attached list from Samaritan Health (Attachment 1).**
 2. **We are training and supplying our mobile Homeless Outreach Team to be able to test homeless camp situations out in the County.**
 3. **We have experienced standing up a 6-lane testing site at our Expo Center that can do hundreds per day and can do that again anywhere in the County.**
 4. **Now with the 8000 test kits from WVT on top of the OHA supply, we are offering to go to congregate sites; see attached plan (Attachment 2).**

3. Contract Tracing System:

- A. Need 15 tracers per 100k citizens – **1.29k times 15 is 19; we have trained 30.**
- B. Tracing workforce is reflective of County – **Yes, there are bilingual Spanish team members.**
- C. County is prepared to trace 95% of cases in 24 hr. – **Yes, we are doing that now and we are ramping up to be able to handle our expected increase of positive caseload as we increase testing.**

4. Isolation Facilities:

- A. Hotels rooms for those who cannot self isolate:
 - 1. **We have set up a tent for positive homeless person with monitoring, food and sanitation facilities.**
 - 2. **We have an agreement with a hotel for a block of rooms when needed.**
 - B. Narrative of how we will/have responded to three different outbreaks – **We have had four actual responses to outbreaks.**
 - 1. Nursing Home – **Veteran's Home in Lebanon was one of the State's earliest epicenters. With support from ODVA/OHA/Samaritan Health and others; nightly calls addressed issues like supply of necessary PPE (at ten times the usual burn rate), housing for isolation in the home, additional medical skills and backfilling of sick staff (at one time 5 asymptomatic cases) isolating off-site. Out of the 32 cases, all were managed by the facility, none were ever hospitalized.**
 - 2. Food Processing – **As soon as cases were traced to National Frozen Food (NFF), a large State and County effort was mounted. We worked with NFF and OHA/ODA to shut down operations. NFF has cleaned the facility, changed procedures, tested all employees and are ready to reopen today. Some of the employee cases reside in Marion and Benton Counties; no Linn County hospitalizations.**
 - 3. Positive Health Providers – **Early on, we had in one week a physician at the Albany "Corvallis Clinic" site and a few days' later two doctors in different offices of Samaritan Health. We demonstrated the ability to trace patients, and manage the effects to both the exposed public and the impact of health providers being ill; it was addressed quickly.**
 - 4. In a congregate setting – **we had one positive case come up in a group home. The next day we tested the facility and will respond as needed as this just happened.**
5. Finalized Statewide Sector Guidelines: **As guidance changes, we will respond with press releases and updated links to information.**
6. Sufficient Health Care Capacity: **See Samaritan Health's for Reopening Plan and the medical region.**

7. Sufficient PPE Supply:

- A. Hospital must report PPE on HOSCAP daily – **As part of the Medical Reopening Plans, our hospitals are reporting daily supply through HOSCAP.**
- B. Hospital in region must have 14 or 30 days of PPE depending on size - **Hospital affirm they have PPE to meet/exceed the guideline; see HOSCAP.**
- C. Counties must have sufficient PPE for first responders – **We have canvassed all P.D. and Fire's and we have affirmations in meeting this requirement. We are able to back-fill PPE and move supplies around as needed.**
- D. Community PPE – **We have made arrangements with the Chambers of Commerce to stock PPE for the local business communities; we have a “buy back” agreement with the chambers.**

In summary, we believe Linn County meets the requirements for a Phase I re-opening as outlined in the final prerequisites outlined by your office yesterday. Should your staff need additional supporting documents, we will be ready to provide those immediately.

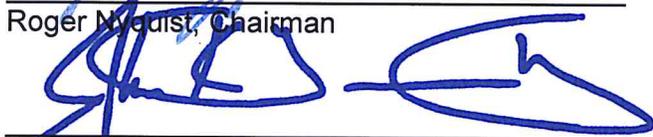
We thank you for your leadership in these difficult times, as well as, the opportunity to play a significant role in re-opening Linn County.

Sincerely,

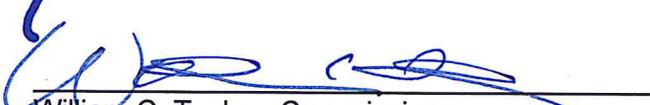
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Roger Myquist, Chairman



John K. Lindsey, Commissioner



William C. Tucker, Commissioner

Attachments

c: Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator

Samaritan Linn County Locations for COVID-19 Testing:

- 1. Samaritan Albany General Hospital Emergency Department**
 - a. Open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day
 - b. 1046 6th Ave SW, Albany, OR 97321

- 2. Samaritan COVID-19 Testing Site – Albany**
 - a. Open, Monday-Friday 9 am – 1 pm
 - b. 631 Elm Street, Albany, OR 97321

- 3. Samaritan Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic – Geary Street**
 - a. Monday – Friday, 9 am – 8 pm, Saturday 9 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 6 pm
 - b. 1700 Geary Street SE, Albany, OR 97322

- 4. Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital Emergency Department**
 - a. Open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day
 - b. 525 N. Santiam Hwy SE, Lebanon, OR 97355

- 5. Samaritan COVID-19 Testing Site – Lebanon**
 - a. Open, Monday-Friday 9 am – 1 pm
 - b. 35 Mullins Drive, Lebanon, OR 97355

- 6. Samaritan Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic – Lebanon**
 - a. Monday – Friday, 9 am – 8 pm, Saturday 9 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 6 pm
 - b. 35 Mullins Drive, Unit 2, Lebanon, OR 97355



Linn County Department of Health Services

P.O. Box 100, Albany, OR 97321
Toll Free (800) 304-7468 TTY/Oregon (800) 735-2900
www.co.linn.or.us/health

"Working together to promote the health and well-being of all Linn County residents"

May 7, 2020

ATTACHMENT - 2

To whom it may concern,

The Linn County Health Department would like to offer testing to local long term care facilities (LTCF) such as yours to try to avoid and/or contain outbreaks of COVID-19. LTCF's are invited to participate on a voluntary basis. Below we have outlined several ways Linn County Health Department can offer testing and support to our LTCF partners.

In the event that a staff or resident displays symptoms of COVID-19:

1. Symptomatic Illness LTCF resident – Please notify Linn County Health Department of a symptomatic resident, a care team will be dispatched to your facility and perform anterior nares specimen collection (also referred to as a nasal swab) of the resident. The testing will be ordered by the facility medical director and submitted to Willamette Valley Toxicology (WVT) for processing.
2. Symptomatic staff – Staff members will be directed to obtain testing from Samaritan Health Services at one of their testing sites. This is according to the process outlined here:
<https://www.samhealth.org/about-samaritan/news-search/2020/04/22/coronavirus-testing-near-me-corrallis-albany-lebanon-newport>

In the event of an outbreak at your facility:

1. When two or more cases are definitively identified in residents of long term care facilities, care teams will be dispatched to perform nasal swabs of *all* residents in the portion of the facility housing the index case(s). If facilities have discretely separate residences (geographically separate buildings) it may not be necessary to test all residents at the discretion of the ordering medical director.
2. Care teams will obtain testing specimens from all clinical staff of a facility irrespective of their place of work on the facility campus. This includes all currently working and those who may have worked in the facility for up to one week prior to the onset of illness in the index case.
3. The testing will be ordered by the facility medical director and submitted to WVT for processing.

Ongoing monitoring of possible COVID-19 cases within your facility: **(Testing begins 5/11/20)**

1. Residents
 - a. On a weekly basis a care team dispatched by Linn County Public Health will test a minimum of 10 LTCF residents per facility and up to 20% of residents (whichever is greater). The specific number of residents your facility will be testing will be identified on the schedule spreadsheet. The test will be a nasal swab and ordered by the Linn County Health Officer.

Administration	Alcohol & Drug Treatment	Developmental Disabilities	Environmental Health	Mental Health	Public Health
(541) 967-3888	(541) 967-3819	(541) 967-3890	(541) 967-3821	(541) 967-3866	(541) 967-3888
Fax (541) 924-6904	Fax (541) 967-7259	Fax (541) 924-6905	Fax (541) 924-6904	Fax (541) 928-3020	Fax (541) 926-2102
Tnoble@co.linn.or.us	thowell@co.linn.or.us	jsneddon@co.linn.or.us	rpartipilo@co.linn.or.us	tthompson@co.linn.or.us	rhughes@co.linn.or.us

- b. On successive weeks, different residents can be tested until all residents have been so tested at which time the cycle may repeat. It will be the responsibility of the facility to maintain records of testing so that this process can proceed in a comprehensive fashion for all residents.
 - c. Specimens will be submitted to WVT for performance of testing.
2. Clinical Staff Testing
- a. Linn County Public Health will coordinate care teams to test all staff monthly at a drive thru location in Albany and Lebanon. Dates/times/location (TBD) are located on the schedule.
 - b. Testing will be ordered by the Linn County Public Health Officer and Communicable Disease staff of Linn County Public Health will notify staff of results.
 - c. It will be the responsibility of the facility to maintain records of staff testing such that this process can be performed in a comprehensive and consistent fashion for clinical staff.

(Please see the attached schedule for when Linn County will be on site to collect samples from residents. The sampling begins 5/11/20. Attached is the paperwork that we need to have completed for each resident being tested. Please have the paperwork ready on the day of or sent to Linn County beforehand (if possible). If you need assistance with paperwork, please reach out to us; as we have a team who can support you.)

Specimen Collection:

1. Specimens for COVID-19 testing at LTCF's in Linn County as per these recommendations will be via anterior nares swabs. This method is less uncomfortable to the resident and less apt to endanger the person obtaining the test.
2. In cases where residents are competent to do their own nasal swabbing under the socially distanced supervision of LTCF clinical personnel, that is acceptable. This is according to CDC guidance as here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
3. Collected specimens must be handled according to procedures assuring their validity as described in the link above.

Identification of Cases of COVID-19 by testing:

When cases are identified as positive by the COVID-19 testing as described above, residents should be isolated per Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines and staff place on work restriction according to current OHA guidance. OHA LTCF consideration in LTCF's are provided here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/LTCF-COVID-19-Response-Toolkit.pdf>

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact:

Erik Anderson, Emergency Preparedness Planner – eanderson@co.linn.or.us 541-223-8082
 Neva Anderson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – nanderson@co.linn.or.us 541-730-9261

<i>Administration</i>	<i>Alcohol & Drug Treatment</i>	<i>Developmental Disabilities</i>	<i>Environmental Health</i>	<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
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