



July 20, 2020

COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary

On May 1, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released its COVID-19 [Strategic Testing Plan](#) for Oregon. The Strategic Testing Plan includes the following goals:

1. *Test more people living in Oregon for COVID-19 based on [testing guidance](#), which was last updated on June 30. This guidance recommends testing all people with symptoms, and, if resources are limited, recommends prioritizing certain groups including the elderly, pregnant women, essential workers, people whose first language is not English, and people who identify as Black, African American, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, or as having a disability. The guidance includes testing considerations for asymptomatic people with exposure to COVID-19 and other vulnerable populations.*
2. *Use all available resources in Oregon, so all symptomatic people are tested for COVID-19.*

The Strategic Testing Plan is an essential component of active surveillance, which includes case investigation and contact tracing, to better understand and stop the spread of disease.

Summary of Oregon test results through 7/18/2020

	Pre-2/28	2/29-3/6	3/7-3/13	3/14-3/20	3/21-3/27	3/28-4/3	4/4-4/10	4/11-4/17	4/18-4/24	4/25-5/1	5/2-5/8	5/9-5/15	5/16-5/22	5/23-5/29	5/30-6/5	6/6-6/12	6/13-6/19	6/20-6/27	6/28-7/5	7/6-7/12	7/13-7/18	Total to date
Positive	1	12	35	66	348	437	472	414	392	402	453	438	255	304	413	765	1,137	1,441	2,117	1,638	2,292	13,832
Negative	3	122	466	1,460	7,050	7,434	9,318	8,683	8,779	12,282	14,028	16,349	15,433	17,143	20,126	22,136	26,534	32,183	37,797	26,676	37,009	321,011
Total results	4	134	501	1,526	7,398	7,871	9,790	9,097	9,171	12,684	14,481	16,787	15,688	17,447	20,539	22,901	27,671	33,624	39,914	28,314	39,301	334,843
% positive	25.0%	9.0%	7.0%	4.3%	4.7%	5.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.3%	3.2%	3.1%	2.6%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	3.3%	4.1%	4.3%	5.3%	5.8%	5.8%	4.1%

*The summary of Oregon test results time frame is shifting to match with CDC’s MMWR report week, which is reported Sundays through Saturdays. To achieve this without reporting overlapping data, today’s report reflects a six-day week (7/13–7/18). To be explicit, this week’s data represents 7/13–7/18. Next week’s data will show 7/19–7/25.

As of July 18, Oregon's cumulative positive testing rate is 4.1% of tests performed. This is considerably lower than the national average of 9%. Oregon's number of tests performed has generally been increasing week after week. After a decline in the number of COVID-19 tests performed last week, the upward trend resumed this week. The number of positive cases and the test positivity rate have increased significantly since late May, suggesting increasing numbers of individuals with COVID-19. Recent large outbreaks around the state have also contributed to these increases and OHA is monitoring these trends closely.

In early June, we reached the threshold of testing 2% of Oregon's population each month, the benchmark set by the Enhancing Detection supplement to the CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases cooperative agreement.

Testing capacity, testing turnaround times, and supply chain issues

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) monitors testing capacity and supply allocations for in-state laboratories. The most recent weekly testing capacity estimate is 41,000 tests for the week of July 13.

Several major manufacturers have informed OHA that testing supply allocation to OSPHL and clinical labs in Oregon may be reduced over the coming weeks due to the recent spike in positive COVID-19 cases nationally and increased demand for testing.

We are receiving widespread reports of extended turnaround time from commercial laboratories; in some cases, results are being reported up to two weeks following specimen collection. A list of additional COVID-19 testing laboratories has been distributed via HAN to local health authorities.

Testing resources

OHA continues to facilitate requests on behalf of local emergency managers for laboratory testing through Quest and LabCorp. Commercial testing requests by local emergency managers are made via the ECC's OpsCenter platforms.

The Oregon Public Health Clinical Laboratory Consortium is coordinating testing capacity for partner laboratories to perform testing for at-risk and vulnerable populations.

To prepare for the upcoming influenza season, OSPHL will be implementing a new CDC multiplex RT-PCR assay, which tests respiratory specimens for SARS-CoV-2, influenza A and influenza B. We hope to begin validating the assay in August.

Oregon is receiving periodic shipments of testing swabs, universal transport media for specimen collection kits, and certain testing instruments, supplies, and reagents from the US

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These supplies are available for counties and tribes to request through their Emergency Managers using OpsCenter.

OHA continues to explore opportunities to expand collection and testing services.

Technical assistance

The Oregon Public Health Clinical Laboratory Consortium meets weekly to share technical information, updates about testing efforts, and information about supply-chain barriers. The OSPHL continues to provide technical assistance to laboratories working to implement COVID-19 testing. OHA continues to evaluate new COVID-19 testing platforms as they become available.