



August 17, 2020

COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) [COVID-19 testing guidance for health care providers](#) recommends that any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, regardless of severity, be tested for COVID-19. OHA recommends limiting testing of people without symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to the following groups:

- 1.) Close contact of confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 cases
- 2.) People exposed to COVID-19 in congregate settings (e.g., residential care facilities, group homes, schools, agricultural workplaces, food processing plants, jails or prisons, and shelters)
- 3.) Migrant and seasonal agricultural workers upon arrival in Oregon
- 4.) People who identify as Black, African-American, Latino, Latina, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Asian-American, or Pacific Islander
- 5.) People who identify as having a disability
- 6.) People whose first language is not English

The testing guidance 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 8/15/2020

	2/29	3/7	3/14	3/21	3/28	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25	5/2	5/9	5/16	5/23
Positive	2	16	58	260	433	506	411	349	390	421	467	369	262
Negative	16	195	1583	6991	6289	9966	8629	8494	12180	11251	13293	17218	16890
Total results	18	211	1641	7251	6722	10472	9040	8843	12570	11672	13760	17587	17152
% Positive	11.1	7.6	3.5	3.6	6.4	4.8	4.5	3.9	3.1	3.6	3.4	2.1	1.5

	5/30	6/6	6/13	6/20	6/27	7/4	7/11	7/18	7/25	8/1	8/8	8/15	Total to date
Positive	327	674	1064	1202	1530	1778	2292	2189	2042	2008	1792	1388	22234
Negative	17796	20708	25563	29779	30702	32382	37946	38704	33831	30412	32575	24258	467761
Total results	18123	21382	26627	30981	32232	34160	40238	40893	35873	32420	34367	25646	489995
% Positive	1.8	3.2	4.0	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.7	6.2	5.2	5.4	4.5

**The summary of Oregon test results time frame has shifted to match with CDC's MMWR report week, which is reported Sundays through Saturdays.*

As of August 15, Oregon's cumulative positive testing rate is 4.5% of tests performed. This is considerably lower than the national average of 9%. Of the 25,646 tests performed and reported the week of Aug. 9–15, 1,388 (5.4%) were positive. The total for that week is likely to rise as test results continue to be reported to OHA. It is reassuring that test positivity is relatively stable, which suggests that the number of people newly infected with COVID-19 each week is no longer increasing rapidly.

Data note: In last week's Testing Summary, OHA reported 25,744 tests performed in the week of Aug. 2–8. As results have continued to be reported to OHA, in today's summary the total for that week has risen to 34,367. Such lags are expected as OHA is now publishing testing data by the date on which specimens were collected. As such, prior weeks' data are being updated continuously.

Testing capacity and supply chain issues

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) meets weekly with the Clinical Laboratory Consortium to assess testing capacity and supply allocations.

Testing supply allocations from manufacturers have been stressed nationally due to the increased demand for testing and increased cases of COVID-19. Laboratories are reporting that allocations for most COVID-19 test manufacturers cannot keep up with the demand and are consequently sending specimens to outside labs for testing. Approximately 20% of specimens in Oregon were sent out-of-state for testing last week due to these restraints.

Oregon has an agreement with ThermoFisher to increase testing capacity and provide additional COVID-19 testing supplies at up to seven Oregon laboratories in the coming weeks.