



August 24, 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 Oregonians tested through 8/22/2020

	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	5/30
Positive	2	16	58	260	436	506	411	350	389	420	467	369	262	326
Negative	16	195	1582	6987	6277	9958	8618	8487	12170	11259	13304	17219	16880	17788
Total results	18	211	1640	7247	6713	10464	9029	8837	12559	11679	13771	17588	17142	18114
% Positive	11.1	7.6	3.5	3.6	6.5	4.8	4.6	4.0	3.1	3.6	3.4	2.1	1.5	1.8

	6/6	6/13	6/20	6/27	7/4	7/11	7/18	7/25	8/1	8/8	8/15	8/22	Total to date
Positive	677	1066	1204	1537	1777	2297	2194	2048	2010	1810	1720	1233	22234
Negative	20711	25561	29772	30740	32424	37935	38706	33843	30390	32819	31289	22944	467761
Total results	21388	26627	30976	32277	34201	40232	40900	35891	32400	34629	33009	24177	489995
% Positive	3.2	4.0	3.9	4.8	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.7	6.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.5

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

As of August 22, Oregon's cumulative positivity rate is 4.5% of people tested. This is considerably lower than the national average of 9%. Of the 24,177 people tested the week of Aug. 16–22, 1,233 (5.1%) 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 25,646 tests performed in the week of Aug. 9–15. As results have continued to be reported to OHA, in today's summary the total for that week has risen to 33,009. 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.