



August 31, 2020

**COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary**

Testing for COVID-19 serves three main purposes:

1. Testing identifies individuals who need to isolate themselves to protect others in their families and communities.
2. Testing enables health care providers to provide appropriate care to patients who are ill.
3. Testing allows public health and other decision-makers to understand the spread of the virus and tailor Oregon's strategy to fight COVID-19.

Testing is just one part of Oregon's pandemic response and it leads to public health case investigation and contact tracing. People who test positive need to isolate themselves, and people who are in close contact with someone who tested positive need to quarantine. Isolation and quarantine are key actions that can reduce the spread of COVID-19.

*Summary of Oregonians tested through 8/29/2020*

	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	434	506	411	350	389	421	467	370	262	326
Negative	16	195	1582	6987	6275	9947	8613	8482	12152	11258	13319	17213	16878	17781
Total results	18	211	1640	7247	6709	10453	9024	8832	12541	11679	13786	17583	17140	18107
% 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	8/29	Total to date
Positive	680	1067	1205	1538	1780	2302	2196	2052	2012	1814	1744	1563	1173	25403
Negative	20702	25545	29764	30722	32410	37939	38702	33821	30366	32816	31692	29754	25377	530515
Total results	21382	26612	30969	32260	34190	40241	40898	35873	32378	34630	33436	31317	26550	555918
% Positive	3.2	4.0	3.9	4.8	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.7	6.2	5.2	5.2	5.0	4.4	4.6

*\*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 29, Oregon's cumulative positivity rate is 4.6% of people tested. This is considerably lower than the national average of 9%. Of the 26,550 people tested the week of Aug. 23–29, 1,173 (4.4%) were positive. The total for that week is likely to rise as test results continue to be reported to OHA. It is encouraging that test positivity is declining, which suggests that the number of people newly infected with COVID-19 each week is decreasing.

Data note: In last week's Testing Summary, OHA reported 24,177 tests performed in the week of Aug. 16–22. As results have continued to be reported to OHA, in today's summary the total for that week has risen to 31,317. 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.

### *Testing guidance*

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