



September 8, 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 SARS-CoV-2 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 has tested positive need to quarantine. Isolation and quarantine are key actions that can reduce the spread of COVID-19.

*Summary of Oregonians tested through 9/5/2020*

MMWR Week	Positive	Negative	Total Results	% Positive
2/29	2	16	18	11.1
3/7	16	194	210	7.6
3/14	59	1582	1641	3.6
3/21	260	6985	7245	3.6
3/28	435	6271	6706	6.5
4/4	506	9931	10437	4.8
4/11	411	8611	9022	4.6
4/18	350	8478	8828	4.0
4/25	389	12137	12526	3.1
5/2	420	11270	11690	3.6
5/9	468	13319	13787	3.4
5/16	369	17198	17567	2.1
5/23	265	16870	17135	1.5
5/30	326	17767	18093	1.8
6/6	681	20694	21375	3.2
6/13	1073	25536	26609	4.0
6/20	1206	29753	30959	3.9
6/27	1543	30708	32251	4.8
7/4	1780	32453	34233	5.2
7/11	2308	37915	40223	5.7
7/18	2200	38687	40887	5.4
7/25	2058	33847	35905	5.7
8/1	2012	30348	32360	6.2
8/8	1821	32813	34634	5.3
8/15	1775	31735	33510	5.3
8/22	1593	29954	31547	5.0
8/29	1441	31020	32461	4.4
9/5	1163	25692	26855	4.3
Total to date	26930	561784	588714	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 September 5, Oregon's cumulative positivity rate is 4.6% of people tested. This is considerably lower than the national average of 8%. Of the 26,855 people tested the week of Aug. 30– Sept. 5, 1,163 (4.3%) 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 percent positivity appears to be declining since its peak in late July/early August; this 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 26,550 tests performed in the week of Aug. 23-29. As results have continued to be reported to OHA, the total for that week has risen to 32,461. Such lags are expected as OHA is now publishing testing data by the date on which specimens were collected. Prior weeks' data will be updated continuously.

For more information about testing please visit OHA's data dashboards. The Testing and Outcomes by County dashboard is updated daily and provides information about test positivity and trends. This dashboard is available [here](#).

### *Long-Term Care Testing*

In June, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and OHA introduced a comprehensive, statewide COVID-19 testing plan for long-term care facilities, which called for testing all staff and offering tests to all residents of facilities with more than five residents by September 30, 2020. This plan, which was updated prior to implementation, covers Oregon's 685 large long-term care facilities, including 31,000 residents and 29,000 staff.

In order to facilitate this testing, teams from the Department of Veterans Affairs have tested 12,022 residents and staff in 126 long-term care facilities and 24 counties. These teams concluded their work on September 4, and will be replaced by new contracted testing teams, in order to complete all long-term care facility testing by September 30.

Additionally, facilities have the option to conduct their own tests and report results. As of September 1, 354 of Oregon's 685 facilities have reported completing testing.

### *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