



September 14, 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 9/12/2020

Week Begin	Negative Tests	Positive Tests	Total Tests	Percent Positivity
2/23/2020	16	2	18	11.1
3/1/2020	194	16	210	7.6
3/8/2020	1,579	59	1,638	3.6
3/15/2020	6,980	261	7,241	3.6
3/22/2020	6,270	434	6,704	6.5
3/29/2020	9,918	508	10,426	4.9
4/5/2020	8,610	411	9,021	4.6
4/12/2020	8,476	349	8,825	4.0
4/19/2020	12,134	389	12,523	3.1
4/26/2020	11,282	420	11,702	3.6
5/3/2020	13,329	467	13,796	3.4
5/10/2020	17,192	368	17,560	2.1
5/17/2020	16,888	265	17,153	1.5
5/24/2020	17,767	326	18,093	1.8
5/31/2020	20,688	681	21,369	3.2
6/7/2020	25,538	1,072	26,610	4.0
6/14/2020	29,754	1,207	30,961	3.9
6/21/2020	30,727	1,543	32,270	4.8
6/28/2020	32,541	1,782	34,323	5.2
7/5/2020	38,274	2,306	40,580	5.7
7/12/2020	39,287	2,200	41,487	5.3
7/19/2020	34,353	2,055	36,408	5.6
7/26/2020	30,885	2,013	32,898	6.1
8/2/2020	33,388	1,825	35,213	5.2
8/9/2020	32,388	1,790	34,178	5.2
8/16/2020	30,269	1,596	31,865	5.0
8/23/2020	31,014	1,438	32,452	4.4
8/30/2020	28,931	1,294	30,225	4.3
9/6/2020	16,400	965	17,365	5.6
All time	585072	28042	613114	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 12, Oregon's cumulative positivity rate is 4.6% of people tested. This is considerably lower than the national average of 8%. Of the 17,365 test results reported so far for the week of September 6, 965 (5.6%) were positive. The total for that week is likely to rise as test results continue to be reported to OHA. Test positivity had been declining since a peak in late July; however, current results indicate a lower number of tests and a higher test positivity for the most recent week.

Data note: In last week's Testing Summary, OHA reported 26,855 tests performed in the week of August 30. As results have continued to be reported to OHA, the total for that week has risen to 30,225. 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](#).

Wildfire Smoke and COVID Testing

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) was closed on Sunday, September 13 and Monday, September 14 due to wildfire smoke in the area and hazardous indoor air quality. OHA is not aware of any additional laboratories that are closed due to smoke, but we are aware that many outdoor testing sites have closed due to hazardous air conditions. We anticipate this will result in lower testing numbers.

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