COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Fundamentals
Health Authority

COVID Response & Recovery Unit (CRRU) Training Team

Acknowledgements:

The CRRU Training Team acknowledges there are institutional, systemic, and structural barriers that perpetuate inequity and have silenced the voices of communities over time.

We recognize community-engaged health improvement is a long-term and dynamic process. We are committed to continuous quality improvement, and to bring our best work in every way.



CRRU Values Statement

The CRRU Training Team is committed to:

- Bringing a trauma-informed approach with a lens of cultural humility to empower the public health workforce to effectively engage with communities, especially those marginalized communities that experience institutional, systemic, and structural barriers.
- Delivering trainings that equitably support and embrace access to quality services and programs, toward the progressive elimination of avoidable disparities.
- Establishing trust and a sustainable dialogue with all training partners and participants.
- Being a trusted and valued resource to support Oregon's public health workforce.
- Offering a safe physical and virtual space to all participants, facilitators, and staff.

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	Transparency	
	This training is a collaborative effort:	
	It draws on "best practices" and resources from the	
	Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Centers for	
	Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). • We work closely with state, county and local public	-
	health officials as well as community-based partners to	
	respond to changing needs, protocols and capacity.	-
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	Learning Objectives	
	Learn to talk about the SARS-COV2 virus and the	
	COVID-19 disease process in plain language.	
	Understand the role of the CDC, Oregon Health Authority Legal/Tribal Public Health Authorities and	
	Authority, Local/Tribal Public Health Authorities and community members in preventing the spread of COVID-	-
	19 in Oregon.	
	Learn approaches for trauma informed interactions.	
	Understand Oregon's REALD and SOGI data collection	
	initiatives.	
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Guiding Group Agreements	
Ask questions	
Engage with curiosity	
Practice patience with yourself and others	
Group	
(Agreement)	
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Who we are	
OHA COVID Response Training Team	
Values and experience:	
We are Public Health educators and practitioners We work in academia and in community settings	
 We have harm reduction experience and are 	
comfortable conversing about sensitive topics	
We prioritize supporting communities at risk for additional harm	
We value training and outreach as a tool for bridging	
Who else is in the room?	
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Training Materials	
Contact Tracing OR Case Investigation	
Syllabus	-
Presentation Handout - for note-taking	
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Training Schedule

Welcome!

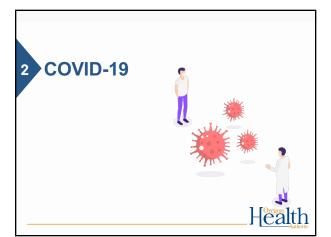
Module 1: Introduction
Module 2: COVID-19
Break: 5-10 Minutes

Module 3: Preventing Community Spread Module 4: Trauma Informed Principles

Break: 5-10 MinutesModule 5: REALD and SOGI
Module 6: Next Steps

End 12:00p.m.

Health



Topics

- COVID-19 Basics
- Stay Home. Save Lives.
- Resources



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COVID-19 Basics	
COVID-19 Basics	-
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What is it?	
COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that is caused by the	
SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Coronaviruses aren't new—they	-
are a large family of halo shaped viruses, common in many species of animals, that can be transmitted to humans.	
Common animal carriers include cats, cattle, camels and	
bats.	
The most common route for human infection is mucous	
membranes in our eyes, nose and mouth.	
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Source: CDC.gov Heath	
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What's in a name?	
CO = Corona	
VI = Virus	
D = Disease	
19 = 2019	
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Updates

- Vaccines are widely available.
- · Communities are slowly returning to normal.
- The virus is now endemic and annual booster shots may be recommended.
- New cases will be guided to isolate.
- Unvaccinated close contacts will be guided to quarantine.
- Fully-vaccinated close contacts may be exempt from quarantine.



Higher Risk

- People ages 60+
- People who <u>live or work</u> in congregate settings like skilled nursing, assisted-living, psychiatric hospitals, correctional facilities and schools.
- Pregnant people
- · Weakened immune system
- · Chronic lung disease or asthma
- · Cardiovascular disease
- · Serious heart condition
- Uncontrolled diabetes
- Organ disease or organ failure





How it Spreads

• Airborne—close contact between people (within 6 feet for 15+ mins (cumulative over 24 hours)



- Droplets/aerosol mist from coughs, sneezes, singing or talking of infected person are inhaled by non-infected person
- Contact with contaminated objects or surfaces
- Possible but not the most common route
- Survival time on surfaces:
- Cloth up to 2 days
- Plastic and wood up to 7 days
 Metal and glass up to 7 days - Plastic and wood - up to 3 days

Source: CDC.gov



Infection Type

Asymptomatic 40-45%:

Symptomatic 55-60%:

A person may never develop any symptoms of the illness.

A person develops symptoms of the disease.



When a person is infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, they may or may not have symptoms:

- Average onset of symptoms is 5 days
- Peak infectiousness is two days before and one day after symptoms onset
- Reinfection can occur!

Source: CDC.gov



Symptoms

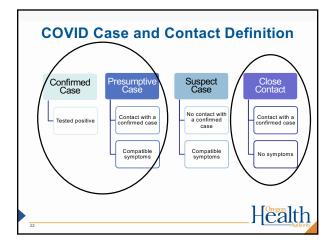
COVID-19 can cause a range of symptoms; from mild to severe. When symptoms do appear, they usually emerge between 2-14 days after someone is first exposed to the virus and may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- · Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- · New loss of taste or smell









Isolation Protocols

Isolation is used to separate Confirmed and Presumptive Cases separate from people who are not infected (whether they are symptomatic or asymptomatic).

OHA recommends 10 days, but discontinuation should be a symptom-based decision. For people who are:

- Symptomatic Isolation and precautions can be generally discontinued 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and with improvement of other symptoms.
- Asymptomatic Isolation and precautions can be generally be discontinued 10 days after the date of their first positive test.

Isolation Guidance

People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others:

- At home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from other household members
 - Stay in a specific "sick room" or area
 - Use a separate bathroom (if available)
- Avoid contact with household pets
- Don't share personal household items, like bedding towels, dishes, and utensils
- · Wear a mask when around other people.



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Quarantine	protocois

Quarantine is intended to reduce the risk that a Close Contact unknowingly transmits infection to others.

OHA recommends 14 days, but Local Public Health Authorities may establish shorter quarantine options for their jurisdiction.

- 10 Days Quarantine may be discontinued after Day 10, if <u>no symptoms</u> have been reported during daily monitoring.
- 7 Days Quarantine may be discontinued after Day 7, with a <u>negative test</u> and if <u>no symptoms</u> have been reported during daily monitoring.
 - Test should occur within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation.

Quarantine Guidance – Unvaccinated

Unvaccinated people in quarantine should:

- Stay home for 7-14 days and monitor their health.
- Watch for symptoms of COVID-19 (Fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath and other symptoms).
- Stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.
- Follow directions from their state or local public health authorities.

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Quarantine Guidance – Vaccinated

Vaccinated persons who are exposed to a confirmed or presumptive case are not required to quarantine if they meet the following criteria:

- Fully vaccinated (≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, <u>or</u> ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series) and
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure



Isolation vs. Quarantine

ISOLATION Applies to Confirmed and Presumptive Cases

- Purpose: Prevent the spread of COVID
- Cases ISOLATE at home for a minimum of 10 days AND until symptoms are absent or resolving for 24 hours

QUARANTINE Applies to Close Contacts

- Purpose: Watch for symptoms
- <u>Unvaccinated persons QUARANTINE</u> at home for **7-14** days (LPHA may implement flexible protocols)
 - Daily report of symptom status
- Vaccinated persons may be EXEMPT FROM

QUARANTINE



Testing, Immunity and Vaccination

- Nasal Swab or Blood Test
 - The virus can be detected as early as 3-4 days after exposure, but the entire incubation period is 14 days.
 - A negative test before the end of 14 days is **NOT** a guarantee that the infection won't take hold!
- Infection-based Immunity
 - Wanes at approximately 3 months
 - Reinfection is possible
- Vaccination
 - Everyone above the age of 12 is eligible to be vaccinated.

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Treatment

- NO cure for COVID-19
- Antibiotics cannot be used to treat COVID-19, since it is a virus
- Most people who have symptoms or are sick with COVID-19, should:
 - Isolate at home
 - Get rest and stay hydrated
 - Manage their symptoms with over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen
 - Stay in touch with their healthcare provider



Debunking COVID-19 Myths Myth: The increase in positive cases is because of increased testing. Myth: The actual number of COVID-related deaths is much lower—the impact of the disease has been inflated. Myth: Herd immunity is a good idea— we should try to achieve herd immunity by letting the virus spread throughout the population. Myth: Only the elderly or those with underlying health conditions will get seriously ill and require hospitalization. Myth: COVID-19 is no worse than seasonal flu.

Stay Home. Save Lives.

Health

State Emergency Health Powers Act

During a Public Health emergency, State and local authorities are empowered to carry out the following functions:

- 1. Comprehensive planning for public health emergencies.
- 2. Surveillance measures to detect and track public health emergencies.
- Protection of persons, testing, treatment, isolation and quarantine when clearly necessary.
- Management of property, ensure adequate availability of vaccines, pharmaceuticals and hospitals, as well abate hazards to the public's health; and
- 5. Communicate clear and authoritative information to the public.







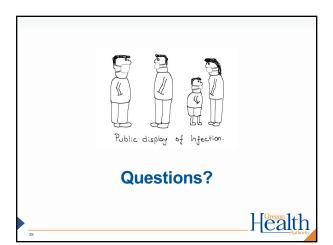




Summary

- COVID-19 Basics
- Stay Home. Save Lives.
- Resources

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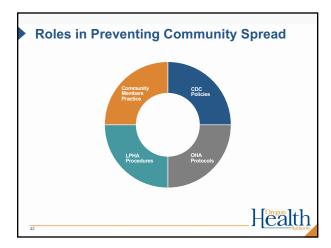
Topics

- Roles in Preventing Community Spread
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Oregon Health Authority
- Local and Tribal Public Health Authorities and Community Partners
- · Community Members
- Resources

Health

Roles in Preventing Community Spread

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Role: CDC NNDSS

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

Categories (partial list)

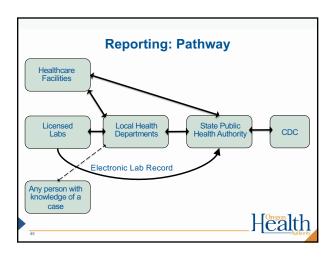
Vaccine-preventable

- Food and waterborne pathogens
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Outbreaks
- Diseases of "possible public health significance"

Delegated Authority

- State Public Health Authority
 - Healthcare Providers
 - Healthcare Facilities
 - Licensed Laboratories

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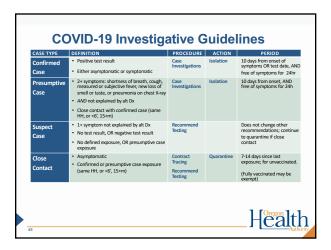


Role: COVID-19 Reporting

In Oregon, the following COVID-19 events are reportable:

- COVID-19 laboratory results (positive and negative)
- COVID-19 related hospitalizations
- COVID-19 related deaths



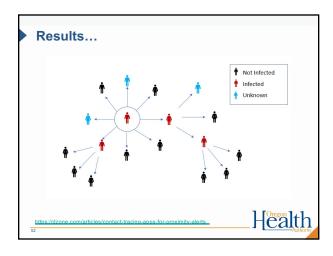






Role: Case Investigator

- Contact positive and presumptive Cases to conduct investigative interview.
- Collect demographics, health history, discuss travel, social interactions, and identify close contacts.
- Provide isolation guidance and information or education about reducing the risk of transmitting COVID-19 for themselves or their household members.
- Provide navigation or connection to pandemic relief programs.
- Refer to LPHA or CBO for case management when other services are needed.



Role: Contact Tracer

- · Notify Contacts of their exposure.
- Collect demographics and assess Contact for symptoms.
- Refer Contacts to COVID-19 testing.
- Provide quarantine guidance and information or education about reducing the risk of further exposure or acquiring COVID-19 for themselves and their household members.
- · Check-in daily to monitor Contact for symptoms.
- Provide navigation or connection to pandemic relief programs.
- Refer to LPHA or CBO for case management when other services are needed.
- Link Contacts to medical care and treatment, if needed

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Confidentiality

- · You have access to confidential information
- You must first sign a confidentiality oath
- You agree to lots of things when you sign (if you don't know what you agreed to, then you should read it again)
- This is a delicate and frightening time for people, the public should be able to trust you with their information.





Maintain Privacy

- Remember that this is all personal, protected information
- Do not share information with anyone in your home or social circle
- Having access to information or a database does not give you the right to look up your family, friends, acquaintances, nemesis, political figures





Equipment and Materials

Phones

- Case investigators and contact tracers will not utilize their personal phones
- Secure phones will be issued



Computers

- Most case investigators and contact tracers will be working from issued or personal devices with remote access
- Reliable internet access and data entry ability will be needed



Secure Physical and Digital Data

- · Physical, i.e. written notes or forms
 - Must be locked in a place only you can access
 - Ultimately, must be shredded commercially
- · Digital files
 - Must be saved to a secure location
 - Secure: firewall protected drives, accessed through your county or organization network
 - Not secure:
 - your personal laptop hard drive
 - cloud-based programs like google docs or google sheets



Report Problems!

- If you are worried you can't comply with the guidance tell your supervisor
- If an accidental data breach happens (of any size) tell your supervisor



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Role: Families and Community Members

Comply with Isolation or Quarantine Guidance

- Isolation (Positive and Presumptive Cases)
 - Self-isolate for 10 days
 - Seek medical care for worsening symptoms
- Quarantine (Close Contacts)
 - Self-quarantine for 7-14 days (OHA guidance)
 - Report Symptoms (if they develop)
 - Seek medical care for worsening symptoms



Role Comparison

- Case Investigators
 Contact positive and presumptive Cases.
 Collect demographics, health history and identify close
- · Provide personalized isolation guidance.
- Connect with pandemic relief programs or refer to LPHA or CBO for case management.

Contact Tracers

- Notify Contacts of their exposure.
 Collect demographics and monitor Contacts for symptoms.
 Provide personalized quarantine guidance.
- Connect with pandemic relief programs or refer to LPHA or CBO for case management.

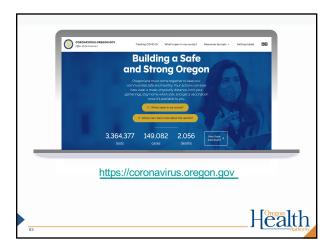
Community Members

Community Members

• Follow recommendations and comply with guidance Feath

Resources

Health





Summary

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Oregon Health Authority
- Local and Tribal Public Health Authorities and Community Partners
- Community Members
- Pandemic Relief Resources

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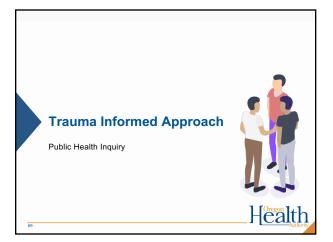


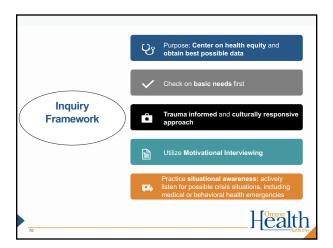
4 Trauma Informed Principles	
TopicsTrauma Informed ApproachCommunity Impact	

Health

Trauma and Stress Non-Violent Communication Motivational Interviewing

De-EscalationResources





Cultural and Social Lens

- Gain a better understanding of the cultures and identities of others. This involves learning about systemic discrimination and oppression experienced by other cultures.
- Consider your own cultural beliefs and identities, personal views and biases (preferences).
- Recognize and accept that cultural differences between people exist—and these differences don't mean that any group is better or worse than another.
- Avoid statements and behaviors that suggest your own culture or experiences are better than others.

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Bridging with Trauma Informed Principles

- Safetv
- · Trustworthiness and transparency
- Peer support and self-help
- · Collaboration and mutuality
- Empower voice and choice
- Cultural, historical, and gender issues

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Community Impact

Those most affected..









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Most Impacted by COVID-19

Burden of Disease

Nationally, Black, indigenous and people of color represent a higher percent of COVID-19 confirmed cases compared to the general population:

- According to the CDC, one-third of people hospitalized by the virus nationwide are African American: two and a half times greater than the proportion of Black people in the overall U.S. population.
- In Oregon:
 - One-third of COVID-19 cases identify as Hispanic (while 12% of Oregon's population identify as Hispanic)
 - An additional 10% of cases identify as communities of color and tribal members.



Impact on Prohibited Populations Systematically Marginalized: Public Health role: - Communities that already face - Address systemic oppression discrimination are exposed to additional harm - Facilitate access to direct care · communities of color · undocumented individuals • people experiencing houselessness · people impacted by mental health people experiencing addictions people living with disabilities - People relegated to underresourced communities · low socioeconomic status · low educational achievement Health

Trauma and Stress Sustained Stress Response

Health

Fundamentals of Trauma Informed Practice

- The 4 R's
 - Realize how trauma affects the experiences and behaviors of the family, groups, organizations, communities and individuals.
 - Recognize the signs of trauma. These signs may be specific to gender, age, or setting.
 - Respond using language, behaviors and policies that respect children, adults, and staff members who have experienced traumatic events.
 - Resist re-traumatization. Stressful environments or specific practices can trigger painful memories, interfering with recovery and well-being.

 Organizations must review and change

Trauma and Stress Commit to equity: • Foster trust and transparency • Promote physical and emotional safety Help maintain a sense of connection • Enhance feelings of empowerment Health **Trauma and Stress** Meet people where they are: • Listen actively and compassionately • Reflect-back emotions and feelings • Provide clear and honest communication • Avoid problem solving for others Health **Non-Violent Communication** Nurturing Compassion

Health

Building Rapid Rapport

- · Build and maintain trust
 - Discuss confidentiality
 - Share how the information will be used
- Take your time asking questions
- Pay close attention to their response
 - Don't make assumptions
 - Ask for clarification
 - Repeat back to the Case or Contact what you hear them say
- Allow for silence
- Adjust the script/question timing or flow to meet the needs and concerns of the Case or Contact
- Be supportive of information omission



Active Listening, Empathy and Respect

- Remember, these are difficult times the information you are providing may not be easy to hear
- \bullet Be prepared for a range of feelings when you call
 - Don't take their reaction personally
- Practice patience
- Seek to understand
 - Be an active listener by stepping back and listening to what they are saying
- Validate and reflect back feelings





Five Principles of MI MOTIVATIONAL	
Motivational Interviewing is an interview	
process to help the person you are working with move through a process of	
change:	
1. Express empathy while practicing reflective listening	
2. Help the Case or Contact understand the difference between their goals and	
values and their current behaviors	
4. Adjust to the Case or Contact's resistance, instead	
resistance, rather than opposing them 5. Support self-confidence and optimism Support the client's self-efficacy, or	
their belief that they can change	
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MI Techniques	
OARS Elicit-Provide-Elicit	
• Open Ended Questions • Ask detailed questions	
Affirmation Respond with information	
 Reflective Listening Summarize what you've Ask how they interpret it Neutral language: 	
heard • Unconditional	
 Avoid I/You statements 	
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Health Authority

De-Escalation

Defuse Anger and Avoid Aggression

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De-Escalation Tips

- Refer to M.I. principles
- Use positive and helpful statements
- Listen to concerns and acknowledge feelings
- Understand that behavior is communication
- If the de-escalation isn't working, STOP, and reach out to your supervisor
 - You are not required to tolerate racism, abuse, insults, or other harmful/violent behavior while doing this work
- No person, group or set of conditions can guarantee that a conflict will proceed constructively



Resources





Summary

- Trauma Informed Approach
- Community Impact
- Trauma and Stress
- Non-Violent Communication
- Motivational Interviewing
- De-Escalation
- Resources

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- Race, Ethnicity and Language and Disability (REALD)
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

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Golden Rule vs. Platinum Rule

The Golden Rule

Treat others the way <u>you</u> want to be treated.

VS.

The Platinum Rule

Treat others the way *they* want to be treated.

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Standardized Data Collection

Critical Building Blocks for Achieving Health Equity

Standardization of demographic data collection unmasks health inequities and institutional structures related to racism, discrimination and other forms of social oppression, that propel these inequities.

Comprehensive data allows public health to assess and address inequitable effects of COVID-19 on under-resourced communities that are relegated for people of color, people living with disabilities and other prohibited populations.

With REALD and SOGI data, OHA can:

- Design culturally appropriate and accessible interventions
- Improve access to prevention, testing, medical care and vaccinations
- Reallocate resources and power needed to effectively address inequities

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REALD Race and	d Ethnicity	•		
How do you describe your race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, country of origin, or ancestry? You can use any words you like.				
In addition to [repeat response], wh racial or ethnic identity?	ich of these terms or o	categories would you use for your		
American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American		
☐ American Indian	☐ Asian Indian	☐ African American		
☐ Alaska Native	☐ Chinese	☐ African (Black)		
☐ Canadian Inuit, Metis, First Nation	☐ Filipino/a	☐ Caribbean (Black)		
□ Indigenous Mexican, Central/South	☐ Hmong	☐ Other Black		
American	□ Japanese	Middle Eastern/Northern African		
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	□ Korean	☐ Northern African		
☐ Hispanic or Latinx Central American	□ Laotian	☐ Middle Eastern		
☐ Hispanic or Latinx Mexican	□ South Asian	Other Categories		
☐ Hispanic or Latinx South American	□ Vietnamese	□ Unknown		
□ Other Hispanic or Latinx	□ Other Asian	□ Declined		
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White □ Eastern European	□ Other:		
☐ Guamanian		If multiple races mentioned:		
☐ Chamorro	☐ Slavic	Would you like to identify as multiracial		
☐ Micronesian	□ Western European	or would you like to choose a primary		
□ Native Hawaiian	☐ Other White	race or ethnic category?		
☐ Samoan		□ Multiracial		
☐ Tongan		□ Primary race Health		
Other Pacific Islander				

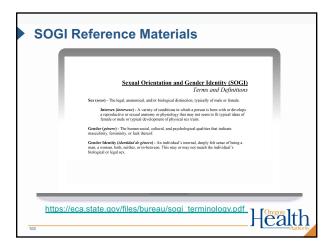
What languages do you speak at home? Would you prefer an interpreter to continue? Yes No What is your preferred language when speaking with a healthcare provider? What is your preferred language for written health communication?

re you blind, or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even who		
		□ No
o you need health information in an alternate format (Braille, la	rge font)?	
	□ Braille □ La	rge font
re you deaf or do you /have serious difficulty hearing?	□ Yes	□ No
sk if 5 years or older: DO YOU		
ave serious difficulty walking or going up stairs?	□ Yes	□ No
ave serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?	□ Yes	□ No
ave difficulty dressing or bathing?	□ Yes	□ No
ave serious difficulty communicating?	□ Yes	□ No
sk if 15 years or older: DO YOU		
ave serious difficulty doing errands alone?	□ Yes	□ No
ave serious difficulty with mood, intense feelings, etc?	□ Yes	□ No

How do you describe your gender? [Pause] You can use any words		
In addition to [repeat their response, and check if listed below], are there other terms or categories you use for your gender identity? You can choose as many as you want. [Check all that apply]		
[If their response is not included] Some of the options are [specific categories might be associated.]		
□ Woman or Girl	☐ Questioning	
☐ Feminine leaning	☐ Not listed – please specify:	
☐ Man or Boy	□ Don't know	
☐ Masculine leaning	I don't know what this question is asking	
 □ Agender or No Gender □ Non-binary 	☐ I don't want to answer (Declined)	
o you identify as transgender	?	
□ Yes	☐ Don't know	
□ No	I don't know what this question is asking	
□ Other – please specify:	□ I don't want to answer (Declined)	

Resources





Summary

- Race, Ethnicity and Language and Disability (REALD)
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

Health





OHA CI-CT Training Series

- Case Investigation
 - OHA Case Investigation training
 - OPERA (Oregon Pandemic Emergency Response Application)
- Contact Tracing training
 - OHA Contact Tracing training
 - ARIAS (At Risk Identification Alerting System)



Evaluation

Please complete the evaluation!

We can only improve with your feedback!

Contact: training.support@dhsoha.state.or.us





THANK YO)U!
 For your time and attention. For your commitment to reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus and maintaining your community's health. 	Oi
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