



June 8, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

To: Partners of Oregon State Hospital (OSH)  
From: Dolly Matteucci, OSH Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer  
Subject: Oregon State Hospital increasing admissions during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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I am writing to update you on the current status of admissions at OSH as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- We continue to prioritize admissions of patients under Guilty Except for Insanity (GEI) revocations, those who meet the criteria for expedited Aid and Assist admissions, and people under Aid and Assist orders pursuant to ORS 161.370 and 161.365, by the date the court orders were signed.
- We have started admitting persons who are in custody under Guilty Except for Insanity commitments when possible.
- We hope to begin admitting people under civil commitments sometime in July, contingent upon:
  - No significant increases in the rate of Aid and Assist orders and GEI admissions;
  - No patients testing positive for COVID-19 within the admission cohorts; and
  - No decrease in the current discharge rates from OSH.

To increase the admissions rate, OSH has:

- Reduced the quarantine period from 14 to 12 days as of May 11 after securing additional COVID-19 tests.
- Opened a third admission monitoring unit as of June 1 – which means OSH is now able to admit



19-30 defendants each week, provided there are no positive COVID-19 cases and the current rate of discharges remains the same.

The admission process begins with medical screening, followed by a quarantine period, COVID-19 testing, and additional screening before patients transition to other units. This expanded admissions process will continue as long as it is necessary to keep all patients safe from infection. To date, there have been no positive cases of COVID-19 since instituting these policies.

On May 13, 2020, the federal court injunction in *Mink* regarding admissions pursuant to ORS 161.370 was modified to allow OSH to implement this process. Between May 12 and June 1, OSH was able to admit an additional 57 people.

OSH continues to consult with state epidemiologists on other measures to protect all patients and to increase supplies of personal protective equipment and other medical supplies. For example, all patients are screened for symptoms — such as fever or cough — twice a day, and they are tested for COVID-19 if these symptoms are present.

We are grateful to our partners in Oregon's behavioral health continuum for your patience and collaboration as we all strive to provide the best care for those who need our services. OSH remains dedicated to ongoing communication with stakeholders related to all individuals awaiting admission, and we will endeavor to keep you informed as the situation changes.