

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Briefing from City of Ashland
Emergency Management Organization
Wednesday, April 8th, 2020**

Operations Update

- [Jackson County](#) now has 41 test confirmed cases (up 2 since Monday) of COVID19, six hospitalizations, and no deaths thus far. [Oregon](#) now has 1,239 cases (up 58 today) and 38 deaths (up 5 today). Jackson County has one of the [highest per capita test rates](#) in the nation.
- The County now refers to “Social Distancing” as “Physical Distancing”, following the WHO.
- State of Oregon today [officially canceled](#) all in person schooling for the rest of the school year and convened a medical advisory panel of medical experts across the state.
- Ashland Fire & Rescue continues to transport people with COVID-like symptoms. Policies are in place to prevent and deal with potential exposures.
- Regular communication with County EOC is taking place. They issue a daily email with updates for anyone who’d like to get it, also [available on their website](#).
- Daily communications with Jackson County Public Health, regional fire, EMS, and law enforcement is taking place. [First responder protocols are in place](#).
- Continuity of operations plans are in place for all essential city services (public safety, public works). Dept heads have executed work at home options for all employees who don’t have to be in the office.
- Kelly Madding is coordinating with OHRA, Jobs with Justice, Rep. Pam Marsh, Jackson County, United Way and others on homeless resources. City is contributing money or staffing to the County-wide effort to bring food to people on the Greenway and established car camping sites.
- Neighbor-helping-neighbor guidance for safely assisting others is now on the City’s [coronavirus site](#). Parks and Rec staff along with Councilor Graham and volunteers have successfully tested the [Adopt a Neighbor](#) program and full roll out has taken place with over 200 volunteers signed up and nearly 40 people asking for help.
- Ongoing communications with Chamber of Commerce and businesses is being led by Adam Hanks. A series of federally sponsored webinars was available today for business owners.
- Kelly and Adam are working with other cities to figure out what relief will trickle down to cities from the federal aid package. City is accumulating and tracking specific expenses related to corona response. It now appears that direct COVID expenses will be reimbursed to the City.
- Free AFN connection for students and teachers is available in Ashland and being utilized so far by at least 27 families.
- Parks closures under the new Executive Order have been signed throughout the community, now including Oak Knoll Golf Course access (except trails) and limits on trail traffic in other areas including a few watershed trails that are now one-way only.



- Car camping locations have been identified in the community. This program is a partnership with OHRA staff with coordinated hygiene stations, trash pickup, and supervision. OHRA had four cars using designated areas as of yesterday.
- APD delivered posters to grocery stores outlining best practices for shoppers last Friday. Thanks to Bill Molnar's staff in Community Development for printing and laminating them and PD delivery.

Public Information Update

Current PIO tasks

- Continue to monitor community information and social media for needs and feedback.
- Worked with Asante ACH on statement about their ongoing COVID19 preparations and how they are and will be dealing with an influx of confirmed cases. This is done and information will be passed on when questions come up.
- Asante is accepting PPE donations at [SOU Lithia Pavilion](#). This has been added to the City's site and shared on Facebook.
- Continuing to post reminders about physical distancing and health. Latest was information about the new mask recommendations from CDC, OHA, and the County. Also the County is discouraging use of medical gloves in public settings.
- City added a new sub-page about [public mask recommendations](#). Please read! Thanks to Elizabeth Taylor for working on it.
- Finished guidance for the public using grocery stores and other larger stores that remain open. Thanks for help from Dorinda Cottle in Parks. Stores have the posters and posts to Facebook have been shared.
- [This article about OHRA](#) staff Cass Sinclair gives high praise to Kelly Madding and the City's efforts.
- Work on updates to the City's coronavirus website will be up tomorrow, including a summary of unhoused population support.
- We have finished a series of common responses to various inquiries that are commonly sent to the Council and staff. We want people to know that we received their emails, with topic-specific information depending on the question/comment posed.
- [Story in the Tidings](#) today about success of the Adopt a Neighbor program that City has supported.

Please see www.ashland.or.us/coronavirus for what we currently have posted and all the news releases.

