

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Briefing from City of Ashland
Emergency Management Organization
Tuesday, April 15, 2020**

Operations Update

- [Jackson County](#) now has 47 test confirmed cases of COVID19 and no deaths thus far. Notably, there have been three days including today with no new infections reported. [Oregon](#) now has 1,663 cases (up 33 today) and 58 deaths (up 3 today), but the curve is flattening.
- Governor Brown announced a coordinated plan for [reopening Oregon](#), alongside both Washington and California.
- Ashland Fire & Rescue continues to respond to people with COVID-like symptoms. Policies are in place to prevent and deal with potential exposures on all medical calls.
- 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](#).
- Regular communications with Jackson County Public Health, regional fire, EMS, and law enforcement is taking place. First responder safety 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 has been 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. With Kelly gone, City staff and Adam Hanks will still be participating and supporting this effort.
- Neighbor-helping-neighbor guidance for safely assisting others is on the City's [coronavirus site](#). Parks and Rec staff along with Councilor Graham and volunteers have successfully implemented the [Adopt a Neighbor](#) program and full roll out has taken place with well over 200 volunteers signed up over 50 people asking for help at last count. Postcard flyers are now in nearly all stores to recruit more of those in need of help. Thanks to Councilor Graham and Isleen Glatt of Parks and Rec for a job well done.
- The Senior Services Division is supporting a new Senior Phone Buddy program where older people are connected with a "buddy" to check in with regularly to lessen social isolation. Residents of Talent and Ashland can get connected by calling 541-488-5342 or emailing seniorinfo@ashland.or.us.
- Ongoing communications with Chamber of Commerce and businesses is being led by Adam Hanks. Progress continues to be made in getting financial support for local business. Further relief is being advocated for by the City, Chamber, SOU and many organizations to our congressional delegation for further relief funding from the state and federal level.



- Adam Hanks is working with other cities to figure out what relief will trickle down to cities from the federal aid package or future aid packages. City is accumulating and tracking specific expenses related to corona response that would likely be reimbursable.
- Free AFN connection for students and teachers is available in Ashland and being utilized so far by around 30 families.
- Parks closures under the Governor's 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.
- 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.
- APD delivered posters to grocery stores outlining best practices for shoppers. Thanks to Parks and Rec staff for designing it, Bill Molnar's staff in Community Development for printing and laminating them and PD for delivery.
- City and Parks staff are helping locate shower facilities for those in need. City staff are also exploring further hotel-based housing options for unhoused population. Certain costs are now reimbursable through federal funds for this, so added time is being allocated to exploring possibilities.

Public Information Update

Current PIO tasks

- Issued news release about the City's transitioning leadership role and continued response.
- Parks and Rec is posting a theme everyday on Facebook to encourage participation and interaction. Tune in to see what's up each day at facebook.com/AshlandParksandRec
- Note: Social distancing is now called "physical distancing". The WHO started this to emphasize keeping social connections while staying physically separated. Jackson County is embracing this change in language.
- Continue to monitor community information and social media for needs and feedback.
- 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 social distancing and health. Latest was information about the new mask recommendations from CDC, OHA, and the County.
- City added a 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.
- The section of the City's corona page www.ashland.or.us/coronavirus called "[City Government Updates](#)" has been revamped. We added a page describing the [ongoing support](#) for the unhoused population and today we consolidated the homepage for ease of navigation and reading.

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



