

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Weekend Briefing from City of Ashland Emergency Management Organization Week Ending May 2nd, 2020

### Operations Update:

- [Jackson County](#) still has 49 test confirmed cases of COVID19 and no deaths thus far. [Oregon](#) has had 2635 cases (up 57 yesterday) and 109 deaths (up 5 yesterday). The State reports that distancing measures have prevented *70,000 infections and 1,500 hospitalizations*.
- Ashland Fire & Rescue responds occasionally to people with COVID-like symptoms that require full PPE for the call. Policies are in place to prevent and deal with potential exposures on all medical calls.
- Regular communication with Jackson 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.
- Adam Hanks and Linda Reid (Community Development staff) have 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, maintaining established car camping sites (3) in town, and providing up to \$150,000 toward hotel rooms, food, showering and support for unhoused individuals.
- 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 250 volunteers signed up and over 50 people asking for help. 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 the 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](mailto: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 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 over 30 families.
- Parks closures under the Governor's Executive Order have been signed throughout the community. Oak Knoll Golf Course has reopened. It was not part of the Gov's Orders for closures and Parks feels that it can operate safely with distancing measures in place.
- Car camping locations (3) have been identified in the community. This program is a partnership with OHRA staff with coordinated hygiene stations, trash pickup, and supervision. Well over half of the 30 spots are occupied.
- City provided grocery stores and pharmacies with shopping guideline posters for their stores.
- City and Parks staff are helping locate shower facilities for those in need as well as a supply of drinking water (many fountains are shut off for safety). City issued an RFP for a cleaning service to clean the OHRA shower trailer.
- Council extended the emergency declaration for two more weeks, until the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- City extended all payment deadlines for a second time. Utility bills, Food and Beverage, Transient Occupancy Tax, and business licenses all have extended deadlines or alternative payment solutions in place to assist the community.
- CARES Act funding allocated to Ashland Fire & Rescue (\$26,000) and the Airport (\$30,000) will be used for operational expenses.
- Staff are working with the Chamber of Commerce on summer plans to host a series of celebrations downtown, following future limits on congregations and distancing.
- City Staff are coordinating with County and State officials about navigating the reopening process outlined by Governor Brown on Friday. A City news release on Friday explained the City's role and powers. City Human Resources staff are updating policies and planning for modified functions for city employees under reopening phases.

### Public Information Update

- 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](https://facebook.com/AshlandParksandRec)
- 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.
- The City's corona page [www.ashland.or.us/coronavirus](http://www.ashland.or.us/coronavirus) page has been continually updated. Thanks to Elizabeth Taylor for keeping it up to date and expanding with all the new info.

Please see [www.ashland.or.us/coronavirus](http://www.ashland.or.us/coronavirus) for what we currently have posted and all the news releases.

