



## CROOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*"A Healthy and Safe Future for the People of Crook County"*

375 NW Beaver St., Suite 100 Prineville, OR 97754

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**Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

### **Crook County Media Release – For Immediate Distribution**

#### **\*\*\*\*\* First Positive COVID-19 Case in Crook County \*\*\*\*\***

The Crook County Health Department reports today the first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Crook County. The Health Department in partnership with the County and City will continue to respond to this declared emergency. For some time now it has been known the virus is present in the community, and now through the ability to do more relaxed testing it will be possible to identify positive cases.

As of today, Crook County has 1 presumptive positive COVID-19 case.

This does seem to be travel related.

There is no hospitalization currently.

This individual is fully cooperating with public health.

As novel coronavirus – aka COVID-19 – continues to spread, local health officials stress that the health and wellbeing of our community is paramount. The safety of staff and community members are the highest priority and efforts will continue around releasing updates to the public with the most current information and guidelines available.

The leadership of Crook County and the City of Prineville respects and values the privacy of community members and the confidentiality regarding medical information. Therefore, no identifiable information will be released about presumptive or confirmed cases in Crook County.

Crook County Health Department Communicable Disease team has already started working diligently to identify and notify all known contacts of the presumptive positive case through case investigation.

- Case investigation includes identifying all known contacts of the presumptive positive cases so proper notification and risk assessment can occur. This allows local public health to then apply monitoring requirements set-forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Oregon Health Authority.
- The process is to identify how the patients were exposed and who else may have been exposed. That work is underway now and will be ongoing for this and any future cases identified in Crook County.

- Status on investigation of known contacts is ongoing. Currently all persons under monitoring are cooperative and following the guidance.
- Any persons under monitoring will be monitored by Crook County Health Department for a minimum of 14 days.

Crook County Health Department has been part of a Tri-County response around COVID-19 since the first of March and will continue to work closely with neighboring counties along with our local city and county organizations.

**Local Public Health and the Oregon Health Authority continue to recommend people in Oregon take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of many respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and influenza - The CDC is recommending non-pharmaceutical interventions to slow the spread of COVID-19, and other respiratory infections (including flu and pertussis) by taking everyday preventive actions, including:**

- **If you feel sick, call ahead to your healthcare provider** to discuss whether or not you need to be seen.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- Take care of your health overall. Staying current on your vaccinations, including flu vaccine, eating well and exercising all help your body stay resilient.
- Consult CDC's travel website for any travel advisories and steps to protect yourself if you plan to travel outside of the US.
- Stay home if you are sick and talk with your employer now about a plan if you do become ill and cannot show up for work.
- It is advised that anyone with compromised immune systems, chronic medical conditions and the elderly not attend large events and practice social distancing to protect yourselves.

For more information or general questions contact:

Crook County Health Department  
375 NW Beaver Street, Suite 100  
Prineville, OR 97754  
Office: 541-447-5165

If you have questions about COVID-19, call [541-699-5109](tel:541-699-5109), Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The call center is set up to take your calls. You may also call 211 for general inquiries.

For media questions please contact –  
Vicky Ryan – Crook County Public Information Officer  
541-233-8504 – Work Cell  
541-323-2467 – Direct line