

# COVID-19 UPDATE



**URGENT**

ALL K – 12 SCHOOLS IN OREGON WILL BE CLOSED  
MARCH 16, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020

## Josephine County Public Health

715 NW Dimmick Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
Phone: (541) 474-5325  
Fax: (541) 474-5353

<https://co.josephine.or.us/COVID19>

8:00 am – 6:00 pm M-Th (Closed 12-12:30 for lunch)  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm Fri

**WIC:** 8:00-5:45 M-Th (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00pm), 8:00 - 11:45 Fri

**WIC Wolf Creek:** 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

**WIC Cave Junction:** 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

Gov. Kate Brown has announced that all K-12 public schools in the state of Oregon will be closed starting Monday, March 16, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

During this closure, school districts will have the opportunity to develop plans to operate schools when student return on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. School districts will also use this time to ensure they have enough cleaning supplies for increased cleaning protocols.

“I have heard from superintendents, school board members teachers, parents, and students that it has now become impossible to functionally operate schools due to workforce issues and student absences,” Brown said in a statement. “Schools are experiencing critical shortages in staff, and superintendents are concerned for school personnel who are at elevated risk such as those over age 60 and those with underlying medical issues.”

**If you have questions or concerns regarding school closures in Oregon, contact your local school district office.**

**If you have general questions regarding COVID-19, call 2-1-1. For testing questions, contact your primary care provider or visit [co.josephine.or.us](https://co.josephine.or.us).**

## BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease originally identified in China that has since spread to many other countries around the world, including the United States. Depending on the severity of COVID-19’s international impacts, outbreak conditions can affect all aspects of daily life, including travel, trade, tourism, food supplies, and financial markets.

To reduce the impact COVID-19 may have on businesses, workers, customers, and the public, it is important for everyone to plan now. Lack of planning and preparedness can result in a cascade of failures as businesses and organizations address the challenges of COVID-19 with insufficient resources and staff who may not be appropriately trained for additional jobs they may have to perform.

COVID-19 has implications for multiple workplace concerns, including health and safety, leave of absence, discrimination, and travel. Although the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been publishing a steady stream of updated information and guidance, it is not always clear how to translate that information into appropriate practice in specific organizations and situations.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, including: between people who are in close contact (6 feet) with a confirmed case for 1 hour or longer, and through droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching the person’s own mouth, nose, or eyes; however, this is not common.

People are thought to be most contagious when they are symptomatic such as experiencing fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.

Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms, but this is also not thought to be the primary way this virus spreads.

Although the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s jurisdiction does not extend beyond the U.S., organizations should take action to assess hazards that arise from work-related travel, implement plans for eliminating potential hazards, and help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Everyday actions can help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These actions include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue in the trash can.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**People who think they might have been exposed to COVID-19 should CALL their local healthcare provider or urgent care.**

**If you are in need of IMMEDIATE medical assistance, call 9-1-1 ASAP.**

### Wash your hands

Wash your hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty



If your hands are not visibly dirty, wash them with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleanser




### Current Status– March 13, 2020

	United States	Oregon	Josephine County
Total Cases	1,629	30	0
# of Deaths	41	0	0

## COVID-19 Recommended Strategies

*The content provided below is advisory and informational. It is not a standard or regulation, and it neither creates new legal obligations nor alters existing obligations created by OSHA standards, or The OSH Act.*

### Signs & Symptoms

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

It's believed at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. This is based on what has been seen previously in similar viruses such as, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV).

**People who think they might have been exposed to COVID-19 should CALL their local healthcare provider or urgent care.**

**If you are in need of *IMMEDIATE* medical assistance, call 9-1-1 ASAP.**

### Travel Notices

If you have traveled to the following areas **and** are feeling ill, **CALL** your doctor or Josephine County Public Health ASAP.

- China
- Iran
- South Korea
- Italy
- Japan
- Cruise ships

*Travelers should avoid all non-essential travel to the locations listed above.*

## Prevention

The recommendations below are preventative actions **every organization** can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Actively encourage sick individuals to stay home.
- Emphasize staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene by for all individuals.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
- Advise and provide guidance to individuals before traveling to maintain hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Encourage individuals to notify organization of potential exposure and health risks immediately, *while maintaining confidentiality*.
- Communicate information to all individuals and partners (e.g., signs and symptoms, travel notices, case counts, recommendations, etc.).
- Anticipate fear, anxiety, rumors, and misinformation. It may be helpful to consult with a doctor or local health department and communicate appropriately.

## Important Considerations

All organizations should be ready to implement strategies to protect their workforce from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. Organizations need to consider how best to decrease risk and the spread of respiratory illnesses for their facility. Some of the key considerations when developing prevention plans are:

- Impact of illness on individuals that are vulnerable and may be at higher risk for complications.
- Prepare for possible increased numbers of absences due to individual illness, family members illnesses, or school closures.
  - Cross-train personnel
  - Work from home options (e.g., virtual meeting, telecommuting, etc.)
  - PTO/Sick leave banks
  - Support for individuals taking care of sick family members
  - Alternative staffing options from outside resources
- Assess the essential functions and reliance that others and the community have on the organization's services or products.
  - Identify alternative suppliers
  - Prioritize customers and/or services
  - Temporary suspension of services or operations if needed
- Organizations with more than one location may not have the same risks in separate locations. Conditions and plans should change in each location as needed.

## Sick Individuals

- People who arrive to work sick (or become sick during the workday) should be separated from others and be sent home immediately.
- People who are sick should **CALL** their doctor to discuss their illness.
- **Before** going to your medical appointment, be sure to tell your healthcare provider about your close contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19.



## Discrimination

To prevent stigma and discrimination in an organization, do not make determinations of risk based on race or country of origin, and be sure to maintain confidentiality of people confirmed with COVID-19. Only a medical doctor should administer all medical decisions in consultation with the individual or parent or guardian.

**There is much more to learn about the transmission, severity, and other features of COVID-19. For more information, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department.**

