



PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

COVID-19 Response Communication – April 10, 2020

Public Health

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<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 am-5:45 pm M-Th
(Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 pm)
8:00 - 11:45 am Fri

WIC Wolf Creek: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
(Every 1st Wednesday of the month)

WIC Cave Junction: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
(Every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month)

How to prevent Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Wash your hands.

Wash thoroughly and often.
Use soap and warm water.



Don't touch your face.

Not as easy as it sounds, but it's important to keep viruses from getting into your eyes, nose, or mouth.



Sick? Stay home.

And get plenty of rest.



Cover your cough.

Make sure to cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

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

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

COVID-19 Technology Challenges in Our Community

Seemingly overnight, our society has moved from a world where technology conveniently supported daily life to that of a now entirely technology-focused life. How we work, attend school, socialize, and shop has had to adapt quickly to our current lifestyles. So what happens if you do not have access to those needed technology resources?

For portions of our community, technology such as computers and internet are not something that is easy obtained. Challenges can include not only income but also availability within the region. Before the pandemic, many people relied on other ways of supplementing their access to technology and internet by using locations like their place of employment, schools, libraries, and coffee shops. With many of those locations no longer available, this leaves limited access for many within our region.

The below map from the State of Oregon's Broadband Office shows the current access to broadband internet services in Josephine County, with the black areas indicating "No Service Reported." From reviewing this map, you can see large portions of the county can expect to experience little to no access to internet, even if they have personal devices to access those services.



<https://www.oregon4biz.com/Broadband-Office/Interactive-Map/Map/>

For those needing access to internet in areas where it is available but cost is the challenge, Spectrum Cable, in an effort to ensure Americans have necessary access to online resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, are providing qualifying households with students 60 days of free access with a new Spectrum Internet account. The service is available for households with K-12 or college students and is limited to new accounts. In addition, Spectrum Wi-Fi hotspots will be open for public use.

Other local organizations and businesses continue to search for ways to help provide access to those who need it, especially for student use.

Stay Home Save Lives: Effect on Those Experiencing Homelessness

Josephine County partners continue to focus efforts around identifying resources and outreaching to those who are experiencing homelessness in our county. These efforts currently include United Community Action Network (UCAN) establishing sanitary stations. The first sanitary station is installed outside the Grants Pass Warming Center. The Warming Center is open nightly and distributes hygiene supplies.

Stay Home Save Lives: Effect on the County Jail

The county has rented a portable sink, currently located outside of the Josephine County jail facility. Anyone entering the jail is required to wash their hands before entering. Protective equipment, such as masks, are available to all staff and inmate workers as needed. All door handles throughout the facility are being sanitized, with the jail booking, housing, and main hallways all being sanitized at least three times daily.

In preparation for any potential COVID-19 cases that may occur within the jail, actions were taken to ensure isolation beds are available should there be a need. Medical staff are also ensuring that anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms are given priority evaluation.



Additional Resources during COVID-19

Rent and Mortgage Concerns

If you are worried about being able to pay your rent or mortgage due to lost income due to COVID-19, you are not alone. Here some information that may be helpful for you during this time:

- Make sure to reach out to your landlord or mortgage servicer today. Don't wait!
- If you rent your home, Oregon Governor Kate Brown has issued a moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent due to the COVID-19 or for no-cause evictions. Her Executive Order issued April 1 prevents a landlord from giving an eviction notice or filing an eviction lawsuit related to non-payment of rent or no-cause.
 - Please read this great information from Oregon Law Center here: http://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/OLC_Eviction_updates_statewide_April_3_2020.pdf (Updated as of April 3.) If you are unable to pay your rent page 4 of the document listed above provides a helpful form to help you communicate with your landlord.
 - If you need this information in Spanish, it is available here: <https://oregonlawhelp.org/files/CCDACC15-944D-570E-7F1F-7BBF3DEC0018/attachments/0C9641D5-3BF6-4C9C-8839-32690B22F4A8/eviction-update-statewide-spanish.pdf>
- Remember, it is always against the law for a landlord to physically remove a tenant, to change the locks to keep a tenant out of their home, or to shut off the utilities to try to remove a tenant. Only the sheriff can use force to remove you, and only after a court order.
- If you own your home, the federal CARES Act has some critical protections for homeowners. Unfortunately, not every homeowner is covered. The National Housing Law Project has great information about who is covered, and how to find out if you are covered. Visit: <https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/foreclosure-protection-CARES-Act.pdf>

This information is changing very quickly. More information about housing issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak is available at OregonRentersRights.org and at <https://oregonlawhelp.org/issues/covid-19-resources/housing-protections>

Unemployment

If you have lost your job due to COVID-19, please visit

<https://www.oregon.gov/employ/unemployment/pages/default.aspx>

Lost your health insurance due to unemployment?

Please visit <https://one.oregon.gov/> to apply for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

During the current state of emergency, OHP benefits will not change for anyone who had benefits as of March 18, 2020 or later. This means:

- OHP benefits will not be closed or reduced for anyone who had benefits on March 18, 2020 or later. Even if you received a notice saying your benefits will end.
- You still need to report changes. Learn about what to report at OHP.Oregon.gov.
- The OHP will not act on changes you report that would close or lower your benefits. For example, if your income increases, you must tell us. However, if the income increase means your benefits would end, we will not act on that change. During the emergency period, your benefits will continue.