
Third Positive Case of COVID-19 in Oregon

March 3, 2020



The Oregon Health Authority confirmed Monday, March 2, the third case of COVID-19 in Oregon. The third case is an adult Oregon resident from Umatilla County who is hospitalized in Walla Walla, Wash. The second presumptive case, announced Sunday, March 1, is a Washington County resident who is an adult household contact of the initial presumptive positive case.

State and local health officials are moving quickly to contact people who may have been in close contact with the third individual who tested as a presumptive positive case. The third case is not linked to travel to a part of the world with known cases of COVID-19. It is considered a case of community transmission.

Preliminary reports indicate the Oregon resident attended a youth basketball game at a gymnasium at Weston Middle School, 205 E. Wallace St. in Weston, Ore., on Saturday, Feb. 29.

Under federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, other spectators who may have been in a closed environment with the individual would be considered “low-risk” exposures.

Athena-Weston School District officials have closed the gym and will conduct a deep cleaning out of an abundance of caution. The gym is physically detached from the rest of the school. Health officials do not consider the separate school building to pose any risk of exposure.

Oregon and Washington health experts are working together to determine if there are other locations where the individual may have interacted with other people in recent days, after symptoms of COVID-19 first appeared.

Health officials will announce if there are any additional locations where people may have been exposed, if they are determined.

The second adult did not require medical attention. The individual was identified as a contact of the first person during the public health investigation. The individual remains isolated at home.

This presumptive positive test result was one of nine total tests completed Sunday by the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory. Eight other tests were negative.

When a positive test result occurs, state and local public health officials conduct what is known as contact tracing which is a way to identify and notify others who have been in close proximity to the person who has tested positive. Health officials continue to follow up with these individuals.

Public interest and inquiries about COVID-19 have centered on the testing process. The following information is to help inform persons about this process:

- The testing process is two tiered. The first test is done by the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory and a second test to confirm is conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The results of the second (CDC) test have to be received on the presumptive case.
- Testing is only done upon request of a health care provider and is based on symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), travel to an affected area and exposure to a person or persons who have traveled to an affected area.
- Testing only occurs in state public health labs and at the CDC.
- The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory has materials to process up to 80 tests a day and is building surge capacity if needed. Supplies are on hand to perform approximately 1,500 tests; and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has pledged to replenish Oregon's capacity as needed.

Because the current presumptive cases of COVID-19 is affiliated with local schools, the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education partnered to create an "Information for Families and Schools" frequently asked questions document. Additional updated information, including daily tracking of Persons Under Investigation and Persons Under Monitoring is available at www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus.

The public is encouraged to find additional information online through these resources:

- www.211info.org/
- [Facebook.com/oregonhealthauthority](https://www.facebook.com/oregonhealthauthority)
- [@OHAOregon](https://twitter.com/OHAOregon)
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Oregon Governor Kate Brown launched the Coronavirus Response Team. The Oregon Health Authority and state agencies have worked through the weekend to address the spread of this new disease. The response team is tasked with coordinating state and local agencies and health authorities in preparation for response to the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19.