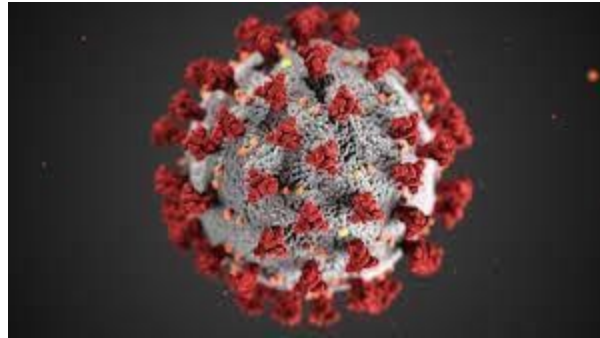


Testing showing relatively few positives for COVID-19

July 10, 2020



Note: This story has been updated from a similar article appearing in print today.

Residents of Del Norte and nearby Curry County, Oregon, continue to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as public health officials track and report testing results and some businesses struggle with operations.

Compared to more populated areas of California and Oregon, the incidence of the virus in the region has been relatively low, but with summer in full swing and hotels and some campgrounds reopened, there are more tourists along the coast. They bring needed income to businesses, but also more risk.

Face masks are officially required to be worn by just about everyone in indoor public spaces, but many are non-compliant and enforcement of orders from the two state governors appears to be nil.

School officials, meanwhile, struggle to figure out how classes can resume in just a few weeks. And at Pelican Bay State Prison, one of the largest employers in the region with employees and their families living in both counties, officials continue efforts to reduce population as the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation attempts to cope with a major outbreak of the virus at San Quentin State Prison.

More than 490 new cases at San Quentin in the last two weeks brought the total inmate cases of the virus to 1,330 as of data available Friday morning, July 10. The outbreak at San Quentin is the worst of any California prison and triage tents have been erected in an effort to keep those who are contagious away from others.

Fortunately, as of this writing, only two Pelican Bay staff have tested positive and are reported to have recovered and there have been no inmate cases reported at the prison. CDCR has begun doing mandatory testing of staff at other facilities. Testing is set to take place at Pelican Bay next week.

Recent reports from local health agencies include:

Del Norte County

There were no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported on July 9, although four new positive cases were reported on July 3. The previously-hospitalized individual was discharged and reportedly recovered and the seven active cases in the county were self-isolating at home. Of 2,803 tests, there have been 58 confirmed cases (51 of which are shown to have recovered). There have been no deaths; only two cases have required hospitalization.

More information is available online at <http://www.covid19.dnco.org>.

Curry County Sherrié R. Ward, Public Health Administrator for Curry County Public Health, reported three confirmed positive cases on July 2 and another on July 7. These were the first confirmed positive cases reported by the county since May 26.

The county's total confirmed positive cases is now at nine with none requiring hospitalization and zero deaths. Two of the cases reported in Curry County on July 2 were out-of-state residents and the report on July 7 was of a person who had just relocated to Curry from Lane County, Oregon.

More information is available online at <https://curryoem.com/>.