

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Subject:

Union County COVID-19 Update: Fifth confirmed positive case identified in Union County

Today the Center for Human Development, Inc. (CHD) is reporting one new Union County case of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. The new case brings Union County's total to five. There have been no COVID-19 related deaths in Union County. Union County's total cases and other information can be found on the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) website: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>. This case will be reported on the website today.

This case was a contact to a confirmed case. CHD is working to contact and isolate or quarantine those who may have been in close contact with this individual. A close contact is defined as anyone within 6 feet of the individual for more than 15 minutes. If you are identified through this investigation as someone that may be at risk for COVID-19 public health will contact you.

Starting today Union County will move into Phase 1 of reopening. "As we move forward with Phase 1 we anticipate a growing number of people identified as contacts to a confirmed case" shares Elizabeth Sieders, Communicable Disease Nurse at CHD. "If you are contacted by public health and asked to isolate or quarantine we urge you comply with this request because it is the most effective tool we have in reducing the spread."

Phase 1 does not allow for a full reopening of all businesses, and there are very specific safety guidelines that must be followed. Phase 1 includes limited reopening of restaurants and bars, personal services, gyms, and malls along with gatherings of up to 25 people for recreational, social, cultural, civic or faith events that meet physical distancing requirements. Detailed Phase 1 guidance for all applicable sectors can be found in its entirety at <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>.

Our community plays a critical role in keeping Union County open by helping keep the spread of COVID-19 low. Supporting and following the sector guidance referenced above is critical in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the members of our community who are most vulnerable to serious complications from COVID-19. Those considered "high risk" include adults 60 and older, or anyone with a serious health condition, including lung or heart problems, kidney disease, or diabetes, or anyone who has a suppressed immune system.

Physical distancing is one of the most effective strategies we have to keep COVID-19 at bay and keep Union County open. Your risk of contracting the virus can be reduced by limiting contact with people outside of your household and maintaining six feet of distance from others when you leave your home for essential needs. The CDC and OHA are now also recommending the use of cloth face coverings when leaving your home for essential purposes.

Union County residents should continue to use the following basic prevention strategies:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

- Stay home if you feel ill.

The primary symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, but other symptoms can include chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell. Many people with COVID-19 symptoms recover at home without seeing a healthcare provider. If you feel sick enough to need a medical care, call your doctor's office. If it is an emergency, call 911.

If you need further information, please visit our webpage www.chdinc.org/covid19 or call 211 or 971-673-1111.