

S. Scott McDowell

From: Rep. Marty Wilde <wildefororegon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:15 AM
To: mayor@ci.brownsville.or.us
Subject: COVID-19 Update



[What is Novel Coronavirus-2019 \(COVID-19\)?](#) COVID-19 is a virus similar to the ordinary cold or seasonal influenza. The most common symptoms are a fever and a cough. It appears to be somewhat more contagious than the flu and somewhat less contagious than measles. There is a test, which is becoming increasingly available, but no "cure." About 80% of people who get it will have a comparatively mild case, not requiring hospital treatment. COVID-19 appears to be 5 to 50 times more lethal than the seasonal flu, with the greatest danger to those who are over age 60, who are smokers, and/or who have some sort of respiratory illness. The danger to those under age 50 in good health is comparatively low, but anyone can be a carrier.



If you're not at risk yourself, here's a good video about why you should still take steps to avoid spreading it.

What is social distancing? Social distancing includes things like closing schools, going to take-out only for restaurants, eliminating visitation at long term care facilities, and reducing the size of social gatherings, all of which the Governor has ordered. It slows the spread of a disease through reducing social contacts. Slowing the spread has two purposes. First, it keeps medical systems from being overwhelmed by a large number of patients in a short period of time. Despite the lack of a cure, people with serious cases who receive supportive care in healthcare settings are much more likely to survive. Second, as people recover, we believe that they stop spreading the disease. So, if you contract COVID-19, the fewer people you see, the better. The Washington Post has a good example of [how this works](#).



What is happening to make sure that people are taken care of in terms of their health, housing, and household and business finances? We are prioritizing the responses that have the most immediate impact. For instance, we are working with hospitals to make sure that patients in immediate need get sent to facilities that have the ability to support them. Similarly, OHA is working to make sure

that healthcare providers have the personal protective equipment they need to stay healthy as they help us. When it comes to priorities that are less immediate but still important, we expect that there will be funding to keep people secure in the housing they have, as well as assistance for the unhoused. For those who cannot work from home, who get sick and can't work, or who lose their jobs temporarily or permanently because of COVID-19, we are working on removing barriers to accessing our existing housing assistance, workers compensation, and unemployment insurance programs with federal and state funds. Finally, we expect that federal legislation will provide some assistance to businesses that need it, as has occurred in earlier disasters like 9/11 or the 2008 crash.

What will happen next? It will get worse before it gets better. How much worse depends on YOU. South Korea provides a good example of how social distancing can significantly shorten and limit the spread of COVID-19. Italy is an example of what happens if the immediate response is inadequate, and the disease quickly exceeded local capacities to respond. An effective response depends both on responsive leadership and people willing to make personal sacrifices to prevent the spread of the disease. South Korea's fast response meant that the peak of cases came a mere half of a month after the initial reports, while China's peak took two months to occur. Also, the Spanish Flu had *two* peaks – a smaller one in the spring of 2017 and a bigger one in the fall and winter. While we don't have all the answers yet, please be assured that we will continue to work hard to get them and get them to you as soon as possible.

What others can do to support older adults:

- **Know what medications your loved one is taking** and see if you can help them have extra on hand.
- **Monitor food and other medical supplies** (oxygen, incontinence, dialysis, wound care) needed and create a back-up plan.
- **Stock up on non-perishable food items** to have on hand in your home to minimize trips to stores.
- **If you have a cough or are sick**, wear a mask around older adults or keep your distance.
- If you care for a loved one living in a care facility, **monitor the situation**, ask about the health of the other residents frequently and know the protocol if there is an outbreak.



For more information visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211



What can you do? Here are a few things you can do to help protect us all –

1. **STAY HOME.** Whether you get the disease or not, the most effective thing you can do to prevent the spread is to stay home.
2. **Adopt good personal hygiene practices.** Some are things your parents likely told you to do-- covering your coughs and sneezes, [washing your hands](#) frequently, and throwing away used tissues. Others require some changing of your social or personal habits, like avoiding shaking hands (go for an elbow bump) and trying not to touch your face.
3. **Be a community resource.** Reach out by telephone or electronic means to the people you know who

may need assistance in your neighborhood. Help a healthcare worker with a household need or childcare issue. Spread information from reliable sources. Here are a few –

[Lane County](#)

[Oregon Health Authority](#)

[CDC](#)

[Washington Post](#)

What is closed/prohibited and until when –

Restaurant seating April 13

Gatherings of more than 25 people April 13

Public (and most private) schools April 28

Many school districts are still providing meals (click links below for locations)

[Central Linn](#)

[Creswell](#)

[Eugene 4J](#)

[Lebanon](#)

[Marcola](#)

[Pleasant Hill](#)

[Springfield](#)

[Sweet Home](#)

What is open –

Grocery stores

Take out at restaurants

Pharmacies

Workplaces

[University of Oregon/Lane Community College](#) (online/virtual until 3 weeks after Spring Break)



The Legislature will be having a special session in the next few weeks to address coronavirus. Please write or call me to let me know how this is impacting you. I'm particularly interested in hearing about obstacles we can tackle to help you through this tough time. You can reach me at rep.martywilde@oregonlegislature.gov or 503-986-1411.

Due to the cancellation of public gatherings, our town halls are on hold

Linn County Town Hall Tuesday, April 7 at 6:00pm at Brownsville City Hall

Lane County Town Hall Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00pm at UO Law School Room 175

We look forward to rescheduling as soon as it is safe to do so.

Marshall Z Wilde



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