



Date: March 10, 2020
To: Interested Parties
From: Zintars Beldavs, Section Manager
Acute & Communicable Disease Prevention Section
Subject: Notice of Temporary Rulemaking – OAR 333-017, 018, 019 – "Adopting rules related to COVID-19"

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division, is temporarily adopting OAR 333-017-0800 and OAR 333-018-0900 which adds a definition of COVID-19 and adds COVID-19 to the list of diseases reportable within 24 hours. Positive tests for COVID-19 must be reported within 24 hours and negative COVID-19 test results within one working day.

In addition, OHA is also adopting OAR 333-019-1000 relating to exclusion from schools, children's facilities, food service facilities and health care facilities. An individual with COVID-19 cannot attend or work in schools or children's facilities, or work in health care facilities or food service facilities. Individuals with a substantial exposure to COVID-19, as determined by local public health authorities, must also be excluded by a school administrator, from children's facilities and schools. The local public health administrator or local health officer can remove restrictions if the disease is no longer communicable to others or adequate precautions have been taken to minimize the risk of transmission. Health care facilities are required to adopt policies regarding restricting employees with COVID-19 or employees with a substantial exposure to COVID-19. **These temporary rules are effective March 9, 2020 through September 4, 2020.**

An emerging disease called "COVID-19" caused by a novel strain of coronavirus named "SARS-CoV-2" was detected in China in December 2019 and in the United States January 20, 2020. It has since been identified in at least 19 states, including Oregon. Explicitly making COVID-19 reportable allows public health officials to isolate cases, investigate possible sources of illness, assess risk to the public and make appropriate preventive recommendations. These temporary rules require laboratories to report both positive and negative tests for COVID-19. Reporting of negative test results will allow public health officials to assess risk to various demographic groups.

Please report to the [local public health authority](#) within 24 hours (including weekends and holidays) any patient who is suspected of having COVID-19.

If the local public health authority cannot be reached, please report to the Oregon Health Authority (phone 971-673-1111)

Clinicians requesting COVID-19 testing from the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory should fill out the on-line form available at:

<http://healthoregon.org/onlinemorbidityform>

For more details, please see the Statement of Need and Justification and the full text of the temporary rules at the following website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGCOMMUNICABLEDISEASE/Pages/rules.aspx>

If you would prefer to be sent a hard copy, please send an email to publichealth.rules@state.or.us