

Situation Report

Situation Report Number: 07.17.2020		
Incident Name: COVID-19 MultCo Coordination		
OERS Number: 2020-0279		
EOC: Activated	Incident Commanders: Kim Toevs, Multnomah County Health Department Alice Busch, Multnomah County Emergency Management Casey Layton, Department of County Management Jessica Guernsey, Multnomah County Health Department	
Date: 7/17/2020	Time: 10:35 hours	Situation Reports are released on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at approximately 10:00 am. All posted Situation Reports are archived on the County's website.

To submit updates/actions to this report, email the Multnomah County EOC Situation Unit at eoc.situationunit@multco.us with the subject line: Update for COVID-19 Situation Report.

Need testing?

- [Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 can get tested, for free, at Multnomah County's East County Health Center](#) (600 NE 8th St., Gresham). We focus on reaching Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities, people without health insurance, and people without a regular health care provider. Testing hours are: Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Call 503-988-8939 to make an appointment.
- [Oregon Health and Sciences University \(OHSU\) offers mobile, drive-through testing sites in Portland and Hillsboro](#). OHSU uses guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Oregon Health Authority to determine testing parameters. Anyone over two months of age with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) can get tested. People without symptoms can get tested: if they are having surgery, giving birth, or having another qualifying procedure at OHSU; if they are severely immuno-compromised and are following a de-isolation protocol; if a public health department has required them to get tested; if they identify as a migrant or seasonal agricultural worker; if they are Black, African-American, Latinex, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Asian-American or Pacific Islander; if they have a disability; or if their first language is not English. This information was verified with OHSU staff on July 6, 2020 and is subject to change.

Testing locations are:

- Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Dr., Portland, Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Hillsboro Stadium, 4450 NE Century Blvd., Hillsboro, Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

People may be denied testing at OHSU, if they:

- Do not meet the testing criteria above,
- Have Legacy, Providence, or Kaiser insurance (people with these insurance plans will be referred to their in-network provider systems for testing), or

- At present the drive through test sites are very busy. OHSU begins to turn people away from the line when they fear they won't complete testing before closing at 4. Currently on most days, OHSU begins turning people away between 12:00 and 2:30 pm.
- For more information about testing sites, who should get tested, and what to expect from your COVID-19 test, see Multnomah County's [COVID-19 Testing](#) page.

Multnomah County Emergency Operations Section Updates

The Multnomah County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a temporary network that works within the [Mission, Vision and Values of Multnomah County](#). The EOC develops objectives based on guidance from the Chair and Chief Operating Officer. The EOC provides wrap around services to support County departments that are operating beyond their normal capacity. The EOC provides a framework that incorporates staff from across all County departments, as well as community volunteers and representatives from partner agencies and organizations to direct the full complement of this combined effort toward accomplishing the County's objectives.

EOC Section: [Public Information](#)

The Public Information Section provides accurate, coordinated, timely and accessible information with the goal of reducing the spread of COVID-19. This information is disseminated to local governments; media; the private sector; and the community through the Multnomah County COVID-19 website, social media, media outlets, call centers, and direct efforts with culturally specific communities. Particular attention is paid to the communities most affected by COVID-19 and people who may not receive information through mainstream means. Content and materials are developed for individuals with disabilities and/or access and functional needs, differing levels of literacy, and with particular care being taken to effectively meet the needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. The Public Information Section uses an equity lens to create material which is culturally specific to the needs of the many communities represented within the county.

Multnomah County [Novel Coronavirus COVID-19](#) website

- Updated [Face coverings](#), [Outdoor recreation](#), and [Business reopening toolkit](#) pages to include the outdoor face covering requirement that went into effect July 15.
- Updated [Get togethers & gatherings](#) to include the 10 person limit on indoor social gatherings that went into effect on July 15.

Social media highlights

- [Multnomah County Facebook](#)
 - [New statewide rules](#) announced Monday by the Governor.
 - [Starting Wednesday, July 15](#) face coverings are mandated in outdoor spaces where a distance of 6 ft or more from people outside your household cannot be maintained. This might come up at a crowded trailhead, on sidewalks while awaiting entry to a business, or commuting.
 - [What do health departments need most to rein in a virus that disproportionately impacts low-income and essential workers, and Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities?](#)

That was the question Oregon Senator Ron Wyden asked local health administrators this week during a visit to Multnomah County's free drive-through COVID-19 testing site in Gresham.

- [Four ways to lower COVID-19 risk for workers at the stores where you shop.](#)
- [Multnomah County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - [Starting July 15, private gatherings](#) in Oregon will be limited to 10 people.
 - [Indoor social gatherings with family and friends are fueling the rise in #COVID19 cases.](#) Starting July 15, private gatherings in Oregon will be limited to 10 people. If you love them, don't gather indoors!
- [Multnomah County Twitter](#)
 - [Wearing is Caring](#)
- [Multnomah County Health Department Twitter](#)
 - [Stand 6 feet apart while waiting in line](#)—at the store, pharmacy, farmer's market, or getting takeout. Even if you don't see markings, it's up to us to keep our distance from others.
 - [Oregon's face covering requirement now includes outdoor public spaces](#) when you cannot keep 6 feet from others. Remember, face coverings do NOT replace physical distancing—stay 6 feet away whenever you can.
 - [Asking employees without symptoms to get a #COVID19 test](#) before they can work is not recommended. There are [better ways](#), such as employee screening, to protect your workplace from COVID19 infection.

EOC Section: [Operations](#)

The Operations section has several operational areas, each of which report on daily metrics. Weekly metrics are reported each Wednesday.

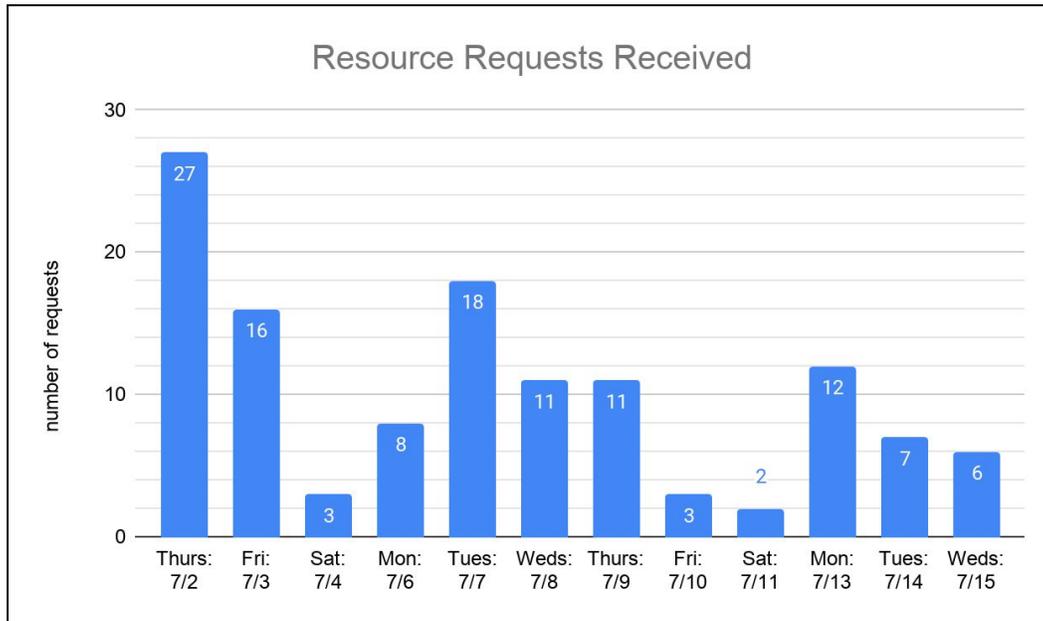
Resource Request Unit

The Resource Request Unit is a group of diverse subject matter experts that represent and advocate for the needs of the communities Multnomah County serves. The team allocates critical supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to health and community organizations in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. When allocating PPE, the Resource Request Unit prioritizes the needs of people living in congregate (group) settings, organizations experiencing an outbreak, organizations that perform life saving operations (hospitals, clinics, etc), and organizations that serve communities of color, people ages 65 and older, and people with underlying health conditions. These priorities are part of Multnomah County's commitment to dedicate resources to the populations most impacted by COVID-19.

Within the Resource Request Unit, the Community Resources team helps community groups such as social service organizations, food pantries, faith organizations, businesses, and many others navigate the EOC resource request and allocation process. In addition, they provide information and answer questions about availability of supplies and which PPE is indicated for particular circumstances. The team addresses the needs of the community with a strong equity lens and trauma-informed communication, and prioritizes service to those most at risk. You can reach the Community Resources team at communityresources@multco.us, or by calling 503-988-8940.

Daily Metrics: The Resource Request Unit tracks how many requests for resources it receives over a 24-hour

period ending at 12:00 pm each day. The chart below shows the number of daily requests over the past two weeks.



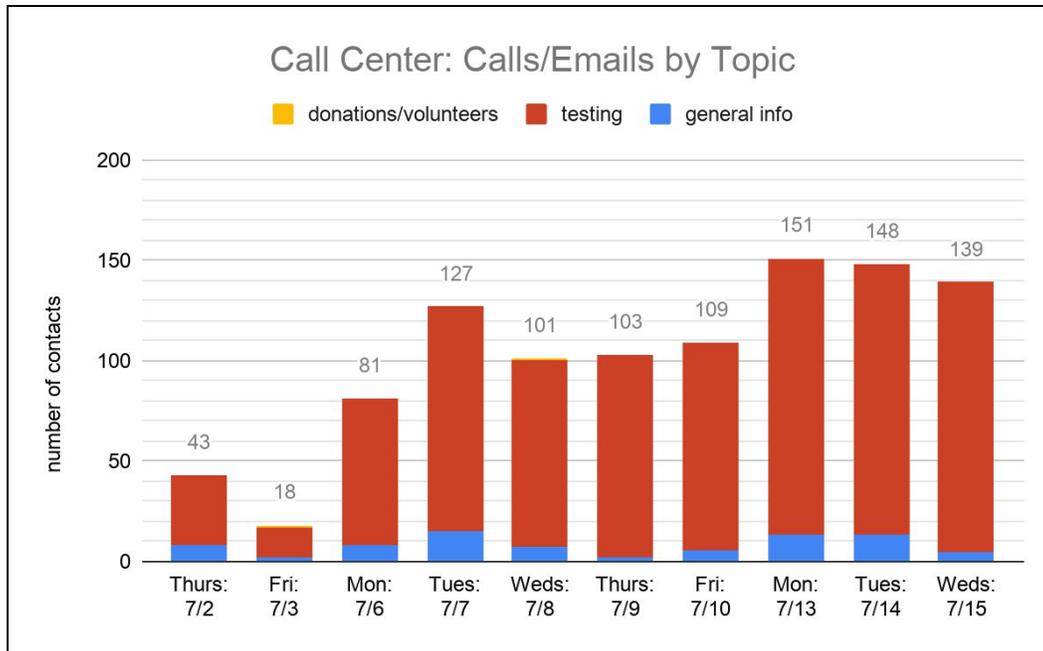
The Resource Request Unit operates Mondays-Saturdays.

Call Center

The EOC Call Center answers a range of questions and concerns from community members related to COVID-19. Callers are connected directly from the Multnomah County Health Department and occasionally from 211. The Multnomah County emergency response team at the EOC continually updates the Call Center script content based on questions received. The Call Center also helps provide information regarding the many questions related to testing and assists by supporting Multnomah County Health with contact tracing, and scheduling appointments for the County’s low-barrier COVID-19 testing.

Daily Metrics: The Call Center tracks how many calls and emails it responds to each day (the Call Center is open Monday through Friday). The chart below shows the number of calls and emails per day for the past two weeks, broken down by three topic categories.

(chart on next page)



The Call Center is open Mondays-Fridays.

EOC Section: Mass Care and Shelter ([Emergency Support Function 6](#))

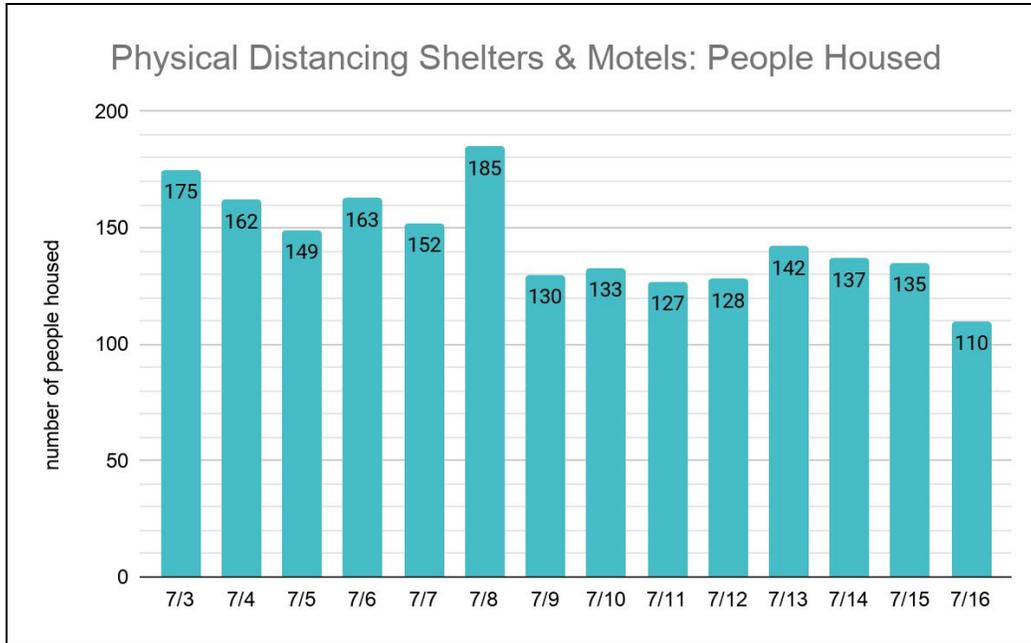
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Multnomah County has opened several temporary shelters and motels designed with physical distancing measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19 among people who are experiencing houselessness. Starting July 1, the County began a process of transitioning its Physical Distancing Motels to non-profit providers for long-term operations. Human Solutions, Inc. now operates a 53-room Physical Distancing Motel, Transition Projects, Inc. operates a 53-room motel, and Do Good Multnomah operates two motels, one with 40 rooms and one with 42. As these four properties transition to non-profit management, they will no longer be reported in this Situation Report.

Updates

- On July 15, the County began the process of closing one of its Physical Distancing Shelters. Guests at that shelter are being transferred to the new 43-room Physical Distancing Motel that is operated by Do Good Multnomah, or to the shelters where they were housed before the pandemic.

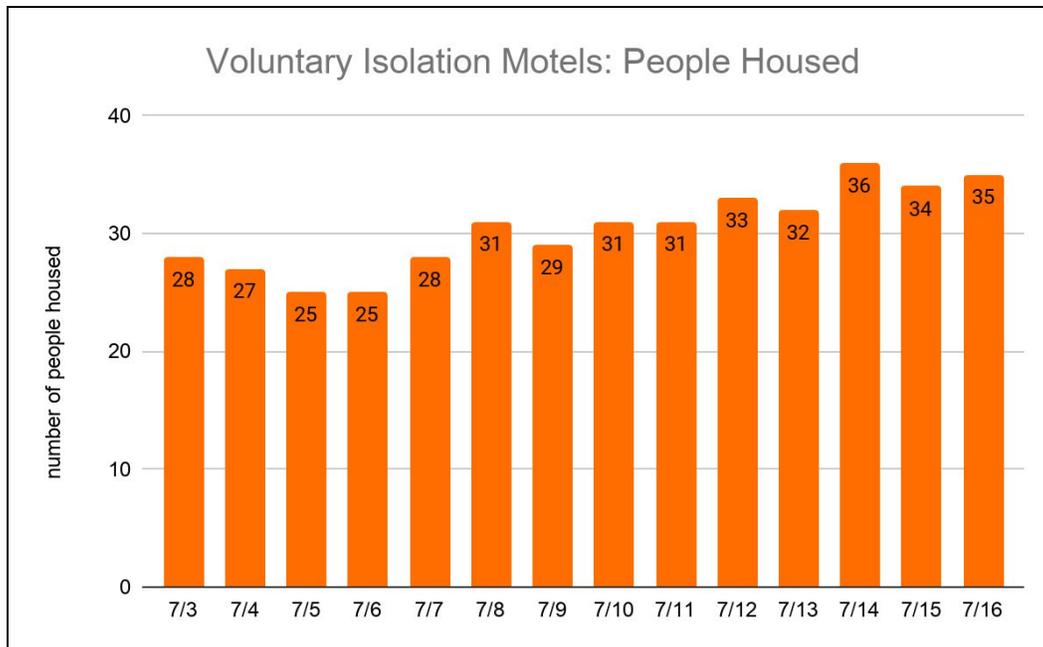
Daily Metrics: The Mass Care and Shelter section currently operates three Physical Distancing Shelters (with a total capacity of **315 beds**) and two Isolation Support Motels (with a capacity of **120 beds**). The charts below show the number of people housed in these shelters and motels for each day of the past two weeks.

(chart on next page)



Note: Data for 7/14 and 7/16 are estimates.

On July 15, the County began transferring 120 beds of Physical Distancing Shelter/Motel capacity to non-profit organizations that will run the program as part of regular Joint Office of Homeless Services contracts and programming. This results in a lower capacity reported in the above graph, although the total shelter capacity in the County remains the same.



EOC Section: Public Health and Medical ([Emergency Support Function 8](#))

The Public Health and Medical Section works to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Multnomah County, and to minimize the impacts of the disease on individuals and our community.

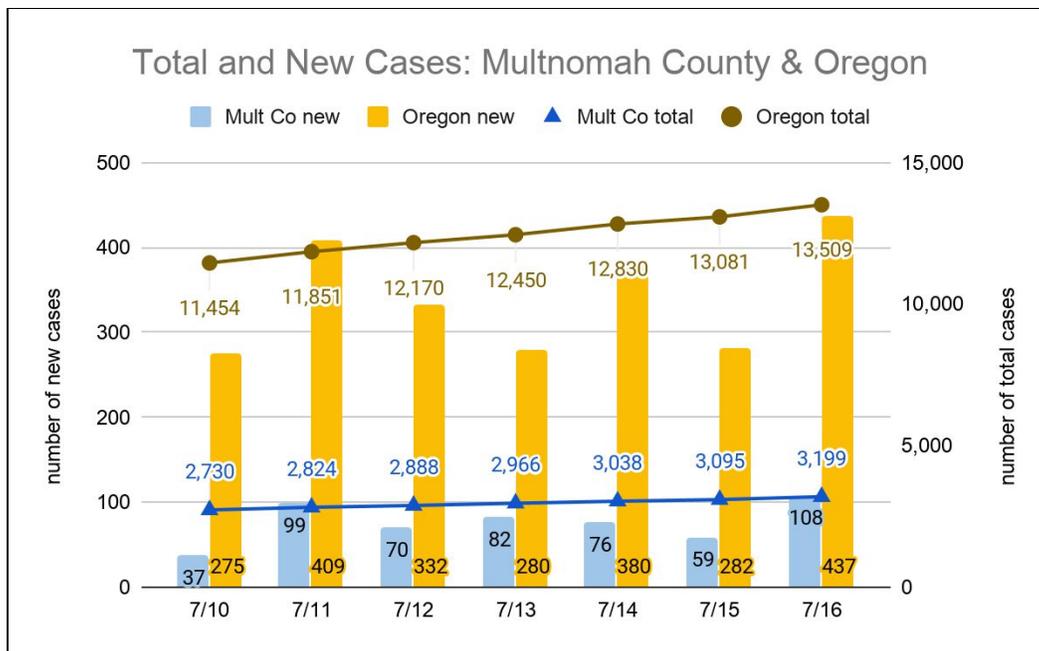
Epidemiology Data

This is a dynamic situation. Information and case counts are changing rapidly and the incident is ongoing.

COVID-19 cases and deaths in Multnomah County and in Oregon

There were **437 new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases** reported in Oregon on July 16. **One hundred and eight** of these new cases are in Multnomah County. Since the pandemic began, there have been a total of **3,199** confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases in Multnomah County and **13,509** cases in Oregon. Multnomah County cases make up **24%** of the state’s total. The chart below shows cases over the past week.

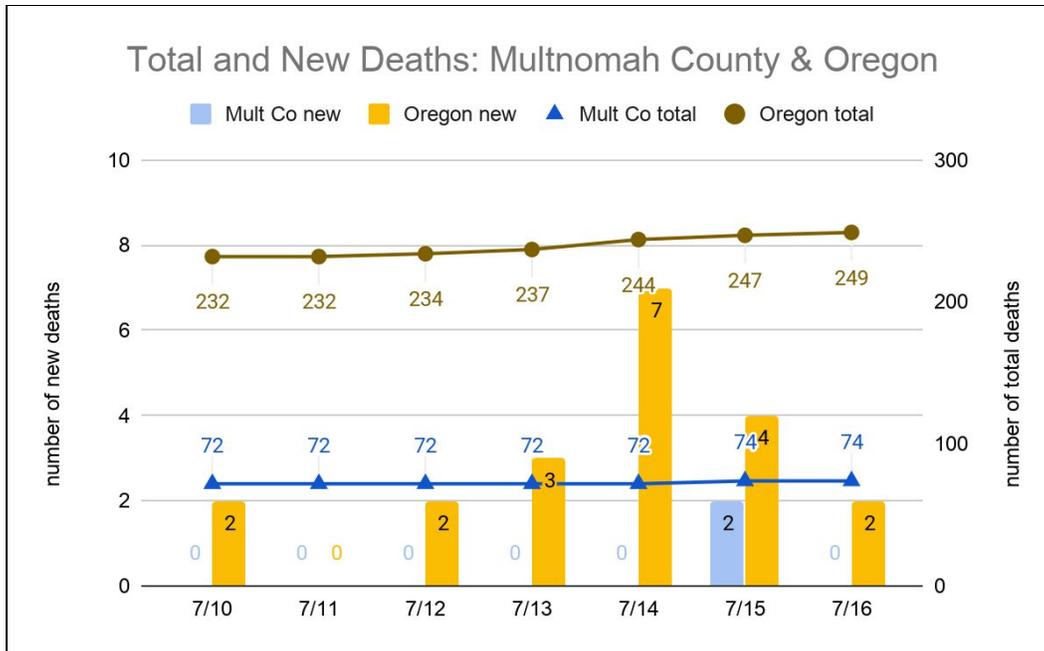
The July 16 COVID-19 case counts mark the highest single-day increases to date in both Multnomah County and statewide. An Oregon Health Authority news release dated July 16 notes, “The rise in cases is attributed to the spread of COVID-19 from social gatherings and sporadic spread. Worksite outbreaks and long term care facility outbreaks also are contributing cases to the daily count.” Multnomah County’s case count on July 16 is also a new record high.



(Source: [Oregon Health Authority](#))

There were **two new COVID-19 deaths in Oregon** reported on July 16. **None** of these deaths were in Multnomah County. A total of **72** people are known to have died of COVID-19 in Multnomah County since the pandemic started, and there have been **249** known COVID-19 deaths in Oregon, statewide. Multnomah County deaths make up **29%** of the state’s total. The chart below shows deaths over the past week.

(chart on next page)



(Source: [Oregon Health Authority](#))

National and global data about COVID-19 cases and deaths are tracked in the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#), available through Johns Hopkins University's [Coronavirus Resource Center](#).

Race and Ethnicity Impact in Multnomah County

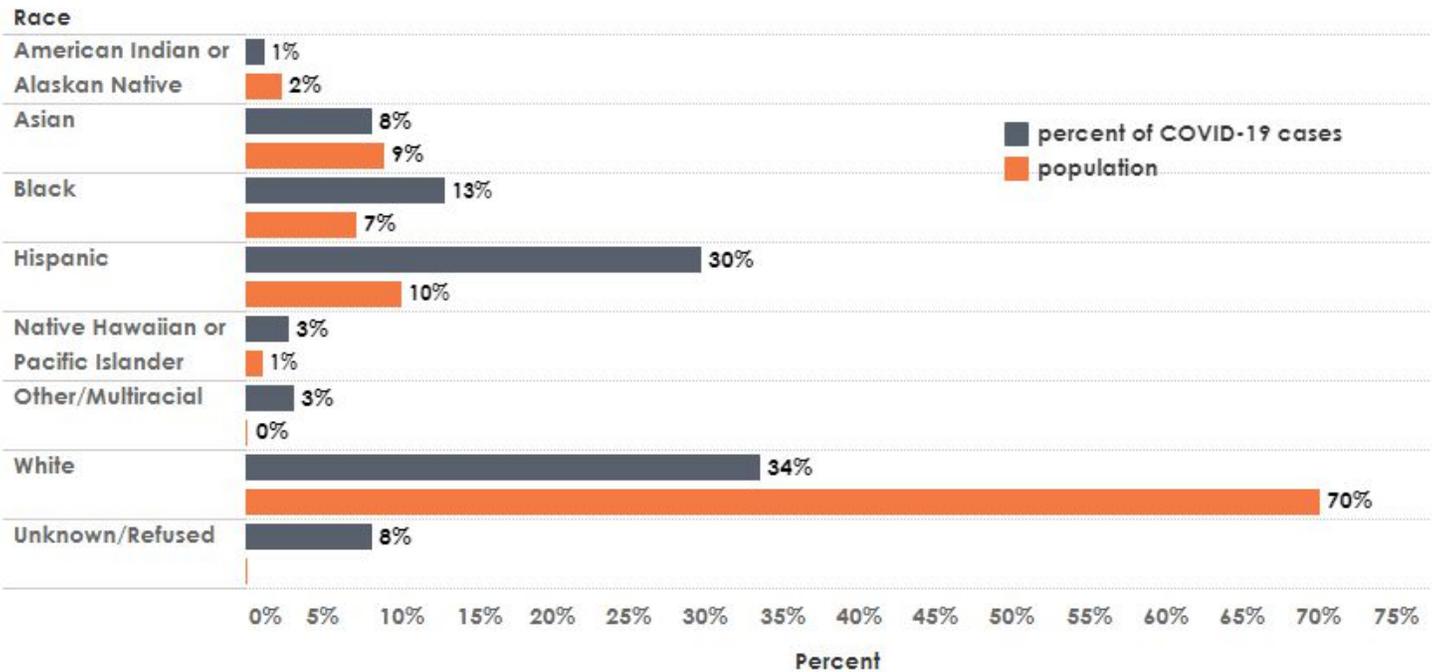
Detailed local data, including demographics (race, sex, age, and housing status) are available in the [Regional COVID-19 data dashboard](#) hosted by Multnomah County. The dashboard also contains data on case counts, hospitalizations, symptoms and coexisting conditions, and testing. For statewide data on COVID-19 cases in Oregon by sex, age group, race, and ethnicity, consult the Oregon Health Authority's [Demographics and Disease Severity dashboard](#). National data on racial disparities in the COVID-19 pandemic is updated daily in the [COVID Racial Data Tracker](#), which is a joint project of the COVID Tracking Project at *The Atlantic* and the [Center for Antiracist Research](#).

The charts below show **the percentage of total cases, deaths, and hospitalizations by race and ethnicity (in gray)**, as of July 15. Each chart also shows **the proportion of Multnomah County's total population by race/ethnicity (in orange)**. Instances where the percentage of cases, deaths, and hospitalizations exceeds the proportion of Multnomah County's total population by race/ethnicity indicate the communities that are most impacted by health inequity from COVID-19. These differences may reflect the inequitable distribution of the risks of being exposed to COVID-19 and the opportunities to access medical care and COVID-19 testing.

(charts on following pages)

Cases by race/ethnicity and population proportions

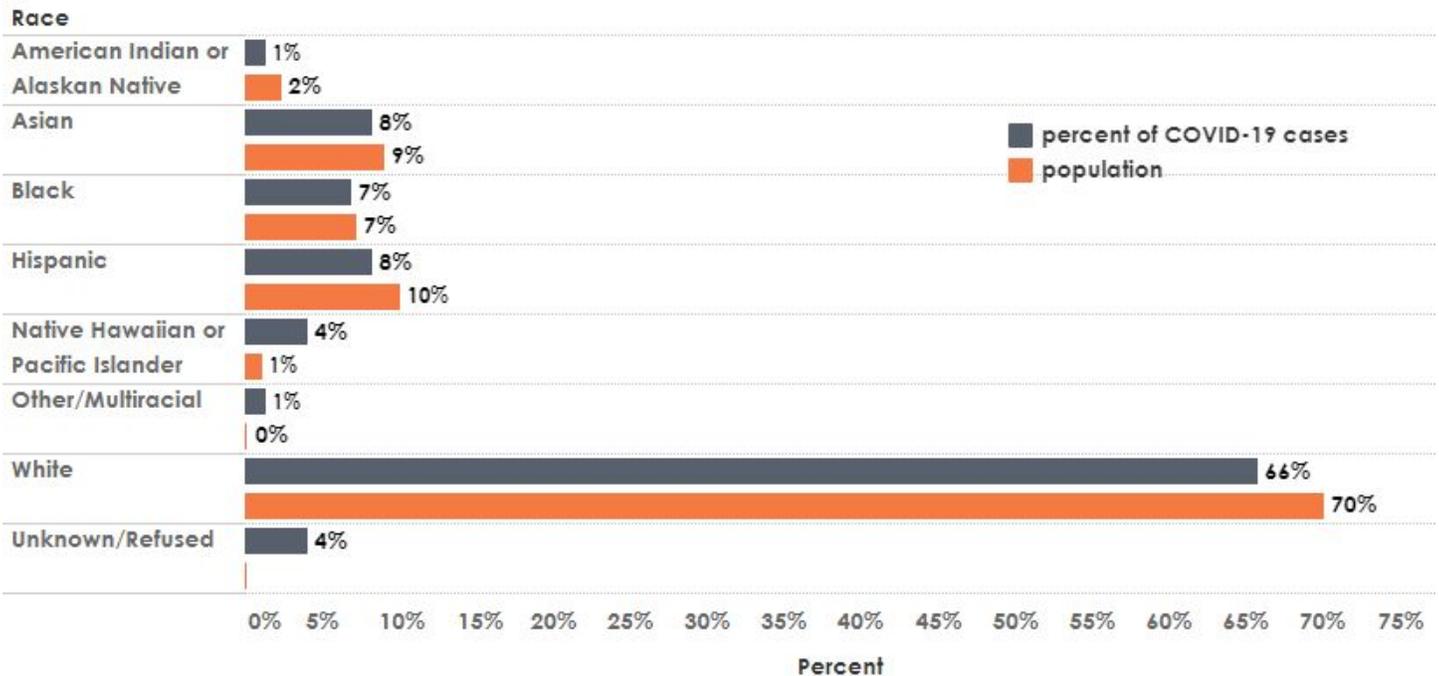
Percent of COVID-19 Cases Compared to Multnomah County Population Proportions



Data current as of July 15, 2020 (source: [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)).

Deaths by race/ethnicity and population proportions

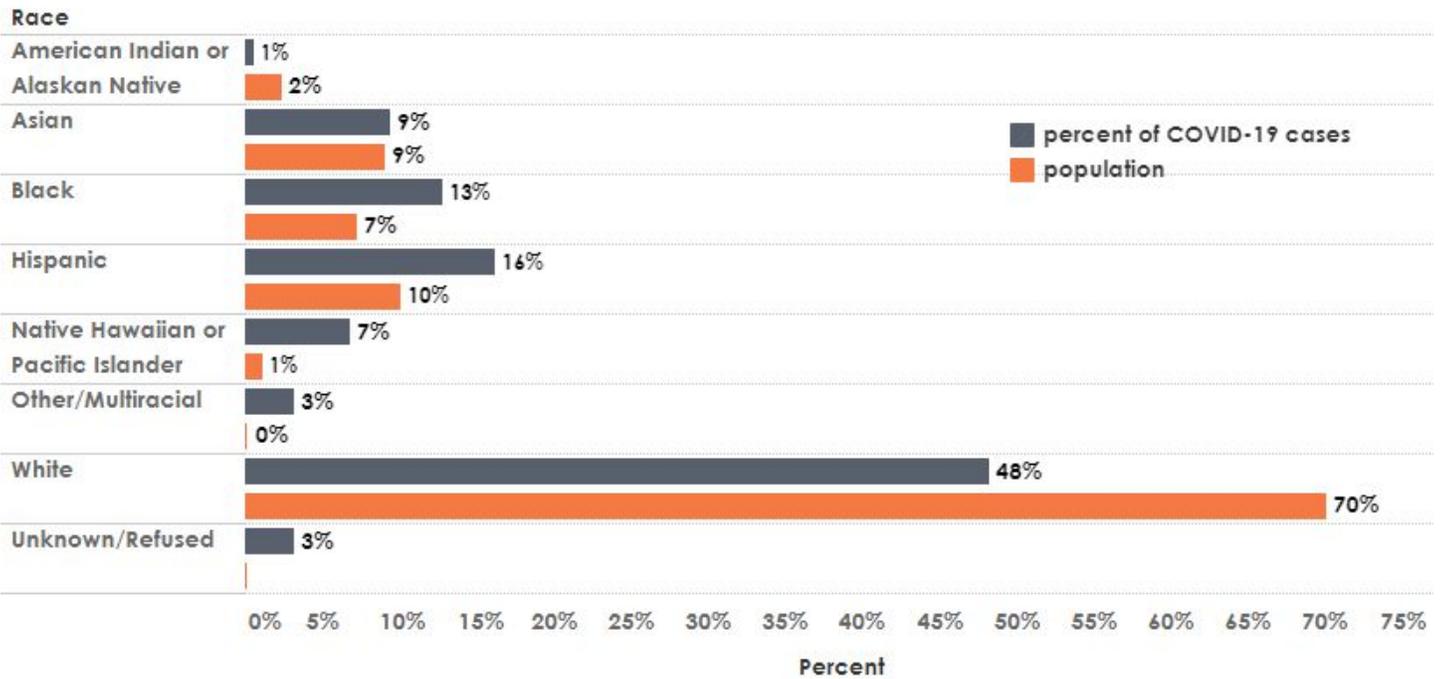
Percent of COVID-19 Deaths Compared to Multnomah County Population Proportions



Data current as of July 15, 2020 (source: [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)).

Hospitalized cases by race/ethnicity and population proportions

Percent of COVID-19 Hospitalized cases Compared to Multnomah County Population Proportions



Data current as of July 15, 2020 (source: [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)).

EOC Section: [Logistics](#)

The Logistics Section supports the response actions of all other EOC sections. Logistics focuses on procedures for activating, dispatching, distributing, allocating, tracking, and deactivating resources needed for emergency and disaster operations from government, private, or volunteer sources. For Multnomah County’s COVID-19 response, important Logistics functions include coordinating the donation of supplies, delivering resources to community partners, and coordinating volunteers.

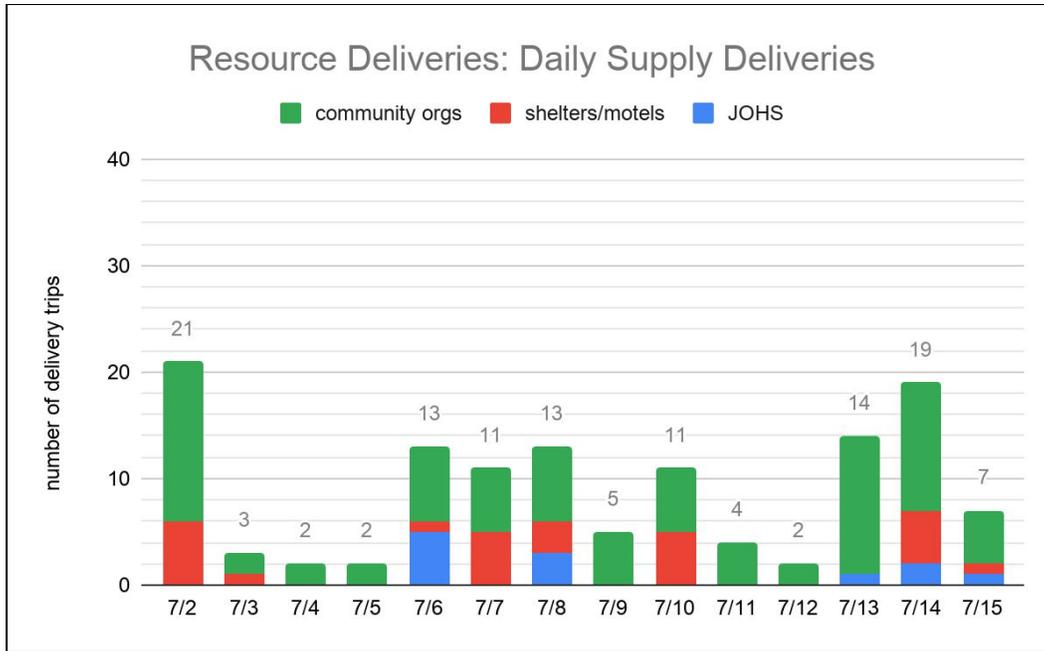
Donations Unit

Multnomah County is seeking **home-made face covers** and **home-made cloth face coverings**, which should be unused and in good condition. Multnomah County is dedicated to ensuring that these scarce resources are distributed to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. Across the country, these communities are statistically more likely to suffer grave outcomes of COVID-19 and are therefore, our donation priority. A multidisciplinary team of local municipal, county, and non-profit partners are working with community partners across the county to distribute these, and other supplies. [Learn more about how you can donate or volunteer to slow the spread of COVID-19.](#)

Resource Deliveries

The Logistics Section provides transportation for numerous response functions, including delivering supplies to community partners. The chart below shows the number of daily trips delivering resources to community organizations, County-run physical distancing shelters and voluntary isolation motels, and emergency outdoor

shelters run by the City of Portland and Multnomah County’s Joint Office of Homeless Services. The chart does not represent the quantity of supplies included in these deliveries, so a single delivery could include small or large quantities of resources.



EOC Section: [Community Liaisons](#)

Liaisons with subject-matter expertise have been identified to support community organizations, businesses, and agencies and are meeting weekly. Liaisons are listed below and are available to members of their respective sectors. Requests for additional sectors to be created that are not covered by the established liaisons can be sent to the Liaison Group Supervisor. If you are interested in serving as a liaison, please contact the Liaison Unit Leader. Please note that the cost for non-County staff interested and able to fill vacant roles will be the responsibility of their organization.

General

- Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (Oregon OSHA) is encouraging use of its [online form for COVID-19-related workplace complaints](#), which can be used by employees or members of the public. Oregon OSHA will address inquiries and complaints, and provide advice to employers related to any potential violation of existing Oregon OSHA rules or directives issued by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, if they involve potential workplace exposure. See Oregon OSHA’s [COVID-19 FAQ](#) for more information.

Food, Pools, Lodging, & Hospitality

- The Life Jacket Association recently published new guidance: [COVID-19 Virus: Cleaning & Storing your Life Jackets](#).

Small Business and Community Organizations

- The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an unprecedented toll on our local small businesses. Thanks to generous support from Business Oregon, [Point West is offering a limited number of grants for qualifying small businesses](#). Take their [pre-application survey to begin the application process](#). Grants will be made in the amounts of:
 - \$2,500 (no verification required); or
 - up to \$5,000 (verification of 60 days fixed expenses)
- Grants will be awarded on a first-come-first served basis with a focus on sole proprietorships. All applications are due to Point West by no later than July 31, 2020

Regularly Scheduled Liaison Calls

Contact the listed liaison for information on how to participate. Email addresses are also listed in a table below.

- [Affordable Housing Liaisons](#) hold a call **every other Monday 10:00-11:00 am**.
- [Business Liaisons](#) participate on the FEMA Regional Grocer calls **every Wednesday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**.
- [Culturally Specific Communities Liaisons](#) hold weekly calls: a *Communities of Color* call **every Thursday 2:00-3:30 pm**; *Comunidad Latinx Respondiendo al COVID19* (call held in Spanish) **every Tuesday 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**; and support a weekly *Oregon Pacific Islander COVID-19 Emergency Response* call **every Friday 6:00-7:00 pm**.
- [Fire Department Liaison](#) joins a regular call with multiple departments, EMS services, 9-1-1 Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC), and Multnomah County **every Monday at 1:00 pm**.
- [Food Access Liaison](#) holds weekly calls on **Thursdays at 9:00 am**.
- The Oregon Health Authority continues to hold a call **twice a month** for migrant and farm workers, please email linda.s.swyers@state.or.us to join in.
- [Liaison Sector Leaders](#) have a meeting to share updates related to the EOC, public information, and activities **every Tuesday at 9:00 am**.
- [Law Enforcement Liaison](#) hosts a weekly Zoom meeting with Portland Police Bureau, Gresham Police Department, Oregon State Police, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Port of Portland and Oregon Department of Justice **every Tuesday at 3:00 pm**.
- [Licensed Residential Facilities Liaison](#) holds phone calls with providers **twice a week**.
- [Maternal Child Health Liaisons](#) have a call on the **second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 pm** to discuss issues of concern and potential responses, increase familiarity with the people involved and the work they do, and share resources.
- [Parks Liaison](#) holds a meeting with other parks jurisdictions in the county to share news and gather questions or themes from the group **every Wednesday at 1:00 pm**.
- [School & Childcare Liaison](#) holds calls with public K-12 schools **on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm**, calls with private K-12 schools **Wednesdays at 11:00 am**, and communicates with child care providers through email **regularly**.
- The [Youth Liaison Team](#) has a coordinating call, **Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 pm**.

Community Liaison Team

The liaison unit comprises 47 liaisons who work in 27 sectors. These liaisons support community members by providing education and resources. They also listen to their members and elevate creative ideas and any questions to the EOC. **More than 8,100 people participate in the liaison program** and help spread accurate information throughout our community and beyond.

Liaison Group Contacts

Liaison Unit Leader	Gabby Rhett	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
	Taylor Steenblock	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
	Tiffany Colburn (Schools)	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
Deputy Liaison Unit Co-Leader	Devin Wilde	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
	Marianne Tanner	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
	Jade Budden	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
	Vanessa Tharp	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
	Lizzie Fussell	eoc.liaisonofficer@multco.us	503-988-0071
Affordable Housing	Shalynn Robinette	affordhousing.covid19@multco.us	503-988-0056
Aging and Disabilities, Veteran Services, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	Jenna Stormwich	advsd.covid@multco.us	503-988-0057
	Rosemary Schmidt	advsd.covid@multco.us	503-988-0057
Businesses-Grocery	Debbie Herron	business.covid19@multco.us	503-988-0064
	Cynthia Malen	business.covid19@multco.us	503-988-0064
County Clinics (ICS)	Dawn Shatzel	outpatientclinic@multco.us	503-988-6546
	Ryan Linskey	outpatientclinic@multco.us	503-988-6546
Culturally Specific Communities	Robin Davis	community.covid19@multco.us	503-988-7352
	Walter Rodriguez	community.covid19@multco.us	503-988-7352
	Regina Ingabire	community.covid19@multco.us	503-988-7352
Event Venues	April Severson	eventvenues.covid19@multco.us	503-988-0074
Faith-Based/ Community Organizations	Pilar Montejo	fbcocovid19@multco.us	503-988-0067
	Taja Nelson	fbcocovid19@multco.us	503-988-0067
	Anne Trudeau	fbcocovid19@multco.us	503-988-0067

	Amber Ziring	fbcocovid19@multco.us	503-988-0067
Fire	Scott Lewis	fire.covid19@multco.us	503-988-0059
Food Access	Frances Hall	foodaccess.covid19@multco.us	503-988-8942
Food, Pools, Lodging, & Hospitality	Jeff Martin	FPLH.COVID19@multco.us	503-988-9317
Governmental & Served Agencies	Taylor Steenblock	taylor.steenblock@multco.us	503-988-0063
HIV Services	Amanda Hurley	hivsvc.covid19@multco.us	503-988-5926
Homeless Congregate Housing	Celeste Duvall	JOHS-em-duty@multco.us	503-349-9946
Hospitals	Kathryn Richer	kathryn.a.richer@multco.us	503-988-8646
	Robin Holm	robin.m.holm@multco.us	503-988-8735
Law Enforcement	Harry Smith	lawenforce.covid19@multco.us	503-988-8943
LGBTQ+	Tyler TerMeer	LGBTQ.COVID19@multco.us	503-988-5942
Licensed Residential Facilities	Leticia Sainz	behavioralhlth.covid19@multco.us	503-988-9956
Maternal and Child Health	Ronnie Meyers	mch.covid19@multco.us	503-988-5946
	VaSheeta Charles	mch.covid19@multco.us	503-988-5946
Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers	Daniel Garcia	msfw.covid19@multco.us	
Neighborhood Emergency Teams	Jeremy Van Keuren	net@portlandoregon.gov	503-988-9429
Outpatient Clinics	Christine Bernsten	outpatientclinic@multco.us	503-988-6475
	Peg King	outpatientclinic@multco.us	503-988-6475
Parks	Shelby Coshow	parks.covid19@multco.us	503-988-5928
Pharmacies	James Slater	pharm.covid19@multco.us	503-988-9126
School Liaison (K-12, Childcare, Universities)	Gregory Beslile	eoc.liaisonschools@multco.us	503-988-0061
	Brooke Chilton-Timmons	eoc.liaisonschools@multco.us	503-988-0061
Small Business Liaison	Nathan Clarke	small.business.covid@multco.us	503-988-6790
Violence Prevention	Alix Sanchez	vp.covid19@multco.us	503-988-7522
Youth Liaisons	Sara Ryan	youth.covid19@multco.us	503-988-0093
	Nicole Meyer	youth.covid19@multco.us	503-988-0093

Local Updates

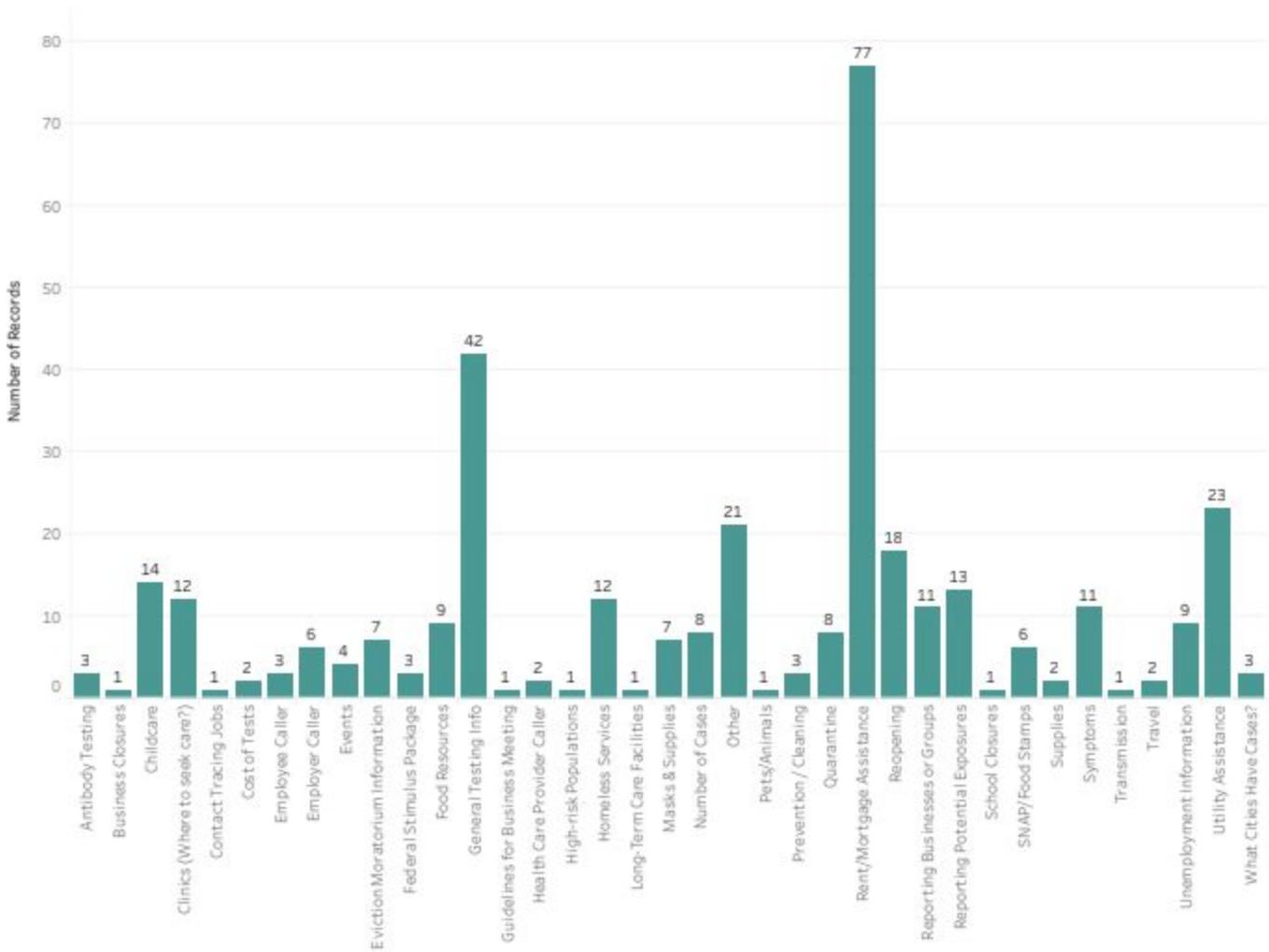
Media and Announcements

- On July 15, the Portland City Council considered a proposal to allocate \$114 million in federal aid obtained through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The [Portland Mercury reported](#) that “A city-appointed task force spent the past months talking with different community groups about how—and where—the money could best be divvied up before landing on the proposal presented to council Wednesday morning. . . . City commissioners are scheduled to vote on the proposal next Wednesday.”
- On July 15, [KOIN reported on widespread local contact tracing efforts](#). The article notes, “On average, for every case a person tests positive for COVID-19, contact tracers and case investigators reach out to 5 to 6 other people.”

211 Calls

- There were 263 calls to 211 on Thursday, July 16.
- The most common reason people called was to ask about rent/mortgage assistance. Other frequent inquiries were about general testing information and utility assistance.

(chart on next page)

Reason for Contact


Data for July 16, 2020.

State of Oregon and Regional Updates

Media and Announcements

- On July 14, the [Northwest News Network published a story questioning whether regional COVID-19 death data captures the full picture](#). The article notes, “Analysis of state and federal statistics for deaths from all causes shows hundreds of additional deaths above normal levels this spring in the Pacific Northwest. Some or many of those may actually be missed COVID deaths.”
- On July 15, [Willamette Week reported on the interventions Oregon has employed in fighting COVID-19](#). The article notes, “We found that Oregon is neither the nation’s strictest state, nor the most foolhardy. In some ways, we’ve been cautious. In others, Brown hasn’t made the tough decisions that could prevent wider spread of the disease. In fact, what the comparison shows is this: So far, Oregon has been pretty lucky. Our death rate is low, and our rise in cases doesn’t match that in other places. But

our stability is fragile. We don't have the capacity in tests and ICU beds to keep up with a spike that our rules aren't guaranteed to prevent.”

- On July 15, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released its [Weekly Report, covering data trends for July 6-12](#). Some highlights:
 - Oregon's new cases, deaths, and positive tests all increased during the reporting week, compared to the previous week.
 - Hospitalizations plateaued, after increasing for five consecutive weeks. The report states, “These circumstances are probably due principally to detection and reporting of a higher proportion of all infections that occur. . . and: actual increases in underlying rates of infection among younger people who are at lower risk of hospitalization than are those in older age groups.”
- On July 15 and 16, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported on several organizations that announced COVID-19 reductions in their programming:
 - [Baseball's Wild Wild West League suspended their season after two players tested positive](#),
 - [Portland Japanese Garden announced that it would close to the public, five weeks after their re-opening](#), and
 - [the West Coast Conference, which includes the University of Portland, has delayed the start of the fall sports seasons until Sept. 24](#).
- On July 15, [OPB reported](#) that “Late last month, the Oregon Health Authority made a change to the way it assesses whether coronavirus patients in the state have recovered from their illness. Some say that change may be inflating the number of “active” coronavirus cases in Oregon.”
- On July 16, [Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced new limits on social gatherings, and a ban on live entertainment across the state](#). The *Vancouver Columbian* reported this story.
- On July 16, the *Seattle Times* [reported on delayed COVID-19 test results throughout Washington](#) the demand for COVID-19 testing has soared nationwide. The article notes, “Attempts to meet rising demand . . . have caused massive backlogs of test results, meaning waits of several days or more.” The article continues, “While . . . large health care networks can turn to in-house labs . . . hospitals and community clinics — that often serve low-income families, immigrant communities and other at-risk groups — don't have those alternatives and rely almost exclusively on the big national labs. The delay in test results imposed by those labs can exacerbate the risk of the disease's spread in communities that have been hit disproportionately hard by COVID-19.”
- On July 16, [The Oregonian/OregonLive reported on new COVID-19-related safety measures at the Oregon Employment Department](#). The article notes, “The Oregon Employment Department plans to begin requiring employees to wear masks at its call centers and claims processing facilities after a succession of coronavirus outbreaks that infected 13 employees and, last week, shuttered its Gresham facility.”
- On July 16, [OPB reported](#) that “Two Oregon prisons are on the chopping block, as state lawmakers wrestle with how to close a yawning budget gap spurred by the coronavirus pandemic.”
- On July 16, [OPB published a story about how Oregon county fairs are attempting to adapt to the pandemic](#).
- On July 16, [The Oregonian/OregonLive reported](#) that “With coronavirus cases spiking and tourists streaming in, the city of Bend is once again asking visitors to stay home.”

- On July 16, [The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that “Oregon’s immigrant communities have received more than \\$10 million in disaster relief through the Oregon Worker Relief Fund since its launch on May 10, according to the coalition of advocacy groups that pushed to establish the program.”](#)

Health System Capacity

As of July 16, 2020:

Data current as of 9:00am 7/16/2020		
Hospital Capacity and Usage in Oregon as reported to HOSCAP*		
Overall Capacity	Available	Total Staffed
Adult ICU Beds	144	764
Adult non-ICU Beds	659	4,375
NICU/PICU Beds	93	322
Pediatric non-ICU Beds	95	353

COVID-19 Details	Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19	Only Patients with Confirmed COVID-19
Current Hospitalized Patients	219	154
Current Patients in ICU Beds	63	52
Current Patients on Ventilators	33	29

Available Ventilators	781
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Note: Hospital capacity and usage data is published on weekdays only (source: [Oregon COVID-19 Update](#)).

*Note from OHA: *Every hospital in Oregon is asked to submit data twice daily to Oregon’s Hospital Capacity Web System (HOSCAP). Data are based on the most recent report from the hospitals, available as of 9:00 am. Hospital staff are asked to enter bed capacity information, by type, as well as the number of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 illness who are currently hospitalized at the time of data entry. These data may conflict with hospitalization status in Orpheus due to case reporting and investigation lags and temporary discrepancies in case classifications.*

National and International Updates

Media and Announcements

- On July 13, [Kaiser Health News reported](#) that “States across the country are beginning to roll back heart-wrenching policies instituted when the coronavirus pandemic began and allow in-person visits at nursing homes and assisted living centers, offering relief to frustrated families.”
- The July 14 edition of the [Centers for Disease Control’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report outlined results of a survey which asked Americans about their use of face coverings](#). One of the study’s recommendations is that “Public health messages should target audiences not wearing cloth face

coverings and reinforce positive attitudes, perceived norms, personal agency, and physical and health benefits of obtaining and wearing cloth face coverings consistently and correctly.”

- On July 15, the [Associated Press](#) and [Morning Edition](#) both ran articles providing more details about the Trump Administration’s recent mandate that hospitals send critical information about COVID-19 hospitalizations and equipment to the Department of Health and Human Services, rather than to the Centers for Disease Control. The new requirement took effect on July 15.
 - On July 15, [NPR reported that “Congressional investigators are launching an inquiry into a handful of companies that landed government contracts related to COVID-19](#), calling the deals “suspicious” because the companies lacked experience and, in some cases, had political connections to the Trump administration.”
 - On July 15, the [Associated Press published an overview of research into the biology and genetics of the novel coronavirus, and into vaccines and treatments that could slow or manage its spread](#).
 - On July 15, [NPR reported](#) on a new [study](#) which indicates that loneliness has not increased among Americans during the pandemic; instead, the study’s authors found “remarkable resilience in response to COVID-19.”
 - On July 15, the [National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine \(NASEM\) published a report](#) recommending that “federal and state governments provide significant resources to districts and schools to help them cover the cost of COVID-19 precautions, including masks, enhanced cleaning, facility upgrades, and reconfigured classes.” For more information, read [the NASEM’s press release](#), or [NPR’s article about the report](#).
 - On July 15, the [Associated Press published a story about the financial costs of school reopening](#), saying “As school districts across the country decide how and when they can bring students back to campus safely, a major sticking point is emerging: the money to make it happen.”
 - On July 15, the [Associated Press reported that “More than 70 rich countries have signed up to a global coronavirus vaccine initiative](#) intended to ensure that any effective shots are fairly distributed around the world - but which may also allow them to buy more vaccines to stockpile for their own citizens.”
 - On July 15, the [Associated Press reported that “Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt has tested positive for the coronavirus](#), becoming the first U.S. governor known to have been infected during the COVID-19 crisis.”
 - On July 16, the [Associated Press ran a story about how state and local governments are responding to rises in case counts across the United States](#).
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Stay Informed, Get Involved

COVID-19 Response

- **Local response:** the [Multnomah County COVID-19 website](#) is regularly updated with new information and guidance. Topics covered include:
 - [Daily Living](#)
 - [Reopening & Guidance](#)
 - [Symptoms, Testing & Care](#)

- [Outbreak Summary](#), including the [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)
- [Get or Give Help During COVID-19](#)
- [What's open — and what is closed — at MultCo during COVID-19](#)
- [Discrimination, stigma and COVID-19](#)
- **State response:** [Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 website](#)
- **National response:** [CDC website](#)

Media

For media inquiries related to COVID-19 please **contact Julie Sullivan-Springhetti**, Multnomah County Public Information Media Coordinator at: **503-502-2741**.

Check out our [list of trusted sources](#) for current national and regional COVID-19 information.

Volunteers

- Are you interested in assisting during this incident? Please complete a [volunteer interest form](#).

Activated Call Centers

Call Center	Phone Number	Email	Hours
211 Call Center	211	help@211info.org	seven days a week, 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
Mental Health Call Center	503-988-4888 Toll-free: 800-716-9769 TTY: 711		open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
Aging & Disabilities Resource Connection	503-988-3646	adrc@multco.us	information and assistance to older people, people with disabilities, and caregivers, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
City County Information and Referral	503-823-4000		Mondays-Fridays, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Help and Resources

- **Having symptoms?**
 - [C19Oregon.com](#) is an online triage tool that helps public health officials track COVID-19 cases and allows community members to check their symptoms and receive guidance.

More questions?

- Consult the [Multnomah County COVID-19 FAQs](#).
- [Call 211](#).
- Still can't find the answer you're looking for? Submit [questions about the novel coronavirus](#) to Multnomah County.

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