

# Situation Report

**NOTE: Starting this week, the Situation Report will shift to a weekly schedule with distribution each Thursday.** The next Situation Report will be distributed on Thursday, August 20.

<b>Situation Report Number:</b> 08.17.2020		
<b>Incident Name:</b> COVID-19 MultCo Coordination		
<b>OERS Number:</b> 2020-0279		
<b>EOC:</b> Activated	<b>Incident Commanders:</b> Kim Toevs, Multnomah County Health Department Alice Busch, Multnomah County Emergency Management Casey Layton, Department of County Management Jessica Guernsey, Multnomah County Health Department Joseph Valtierra, Department of County Human Services	
<b>Date:</b> 8/17/20	<b>Time:</b> 11:00 hours	Situation Reports are released on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at approximately 10:00 am. <a href="#">All posted Situation Reports are archived on the County's website.</a>

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

## Need testing?

- **Call your doctor or clinic:** If you have insurance or a regular care provider, contact your doctor's office or clinic to discuss whether you should be tested.
- **If you don't have a doctor:** Call 211 for help finding a clinic. They can help you even if you don't have insurance. You can also call the Health Department's [Primary Care Clinics](#) at 503-988-5558 to enroll as a new patient.
- **Multnomah County community testing:** [no-cost testing by appointment only](#), for anyone with [symptoms](#). You don't need to be a clinic or Multnomah County patient to get tested. Limited testing may be available for people without symptoms. We focus on reaching Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities, people without health insurance, and people without a regular health care provider. **Call 503-988-8939 for an appointment.**

Location and hours:

- East County Health Center (parking lot), 600 NE 8th St., Gresham, Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00 am - 3:45 pm **[NOTE: Due to expected extreme weather, testing hours on Monday, August 17 will be 9:00 am -11:45 am.]**
- **Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) community testing:** [drive-through/walk up testing sites in Portland and Hillsboro](#). OHSU offers testing for people with symptoms ages 2 months and older, and for people in specific risk groups. [See who can be tested on OHSU's website](#). Testing is walk-in or drive-through only; no appointments. There may be a long wait if demand is high. For more information, call the OHSU Coronavirus Hotline: 833-647-8222.

Locations and hours:

- Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Dr., Portland, Monday-Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Gordon Faber Recreation Center, Hillsboro Stadium, 4450 NE Century Blvd., Hillsboro, Monday-Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 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.

## Announcements and Featured Media

- On August 14, [Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced that she will move Malheur County from Phase 2 back to Phase 1 of reopening status](#). Governor Brown said, "Over the past month, COVID-19 cases in Malheur County have risen so much that restrictions must be put back in place or we risk further illnesses and death in the region." The Governor's press release noted a variety of metrics she used to make her decision, including: "Over the past two weeks, the county has had a test positivity rate of 26%, which is far above the state average of approximately 5.8% for the last two weeks." Malheur County will return to Phase 1 status today, August 17, and will remain in Phase 1 for at least 21 days. This story was covered by [KTBV](#), the [Malheur Enterprise](#), and [Willamette Week](#).
- On August 14, [Oregon Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority issued revised guidance requiring face coverings or face shields for employees in private office spaces](#). (Face coverings are already required in office spaces that are open to the public.) The new guidance requires face coverings in public and private building hallways, bathrooms, elevators, lobbies, break rooms, and other common spaces, unless employees are at individual work spaces or in meeting rooms where 6 feet of distance from other people can be maintained. Exceptions are granted, allowing for people in offices to briefly remove their face coverings if their identity needs to be confirmed, such as interactions in banks or with law enforcement. This story was covered by the [Associated Press](#).
- On August 14, the [Oregon Health Authority announced the publication of a new study by OHA epidemiologists](#), saying "As of mid-June, 1% of Oregonians without COVID-19 had evidence of past infection of the virus in their blood, which is 10 times higher than the reported rate of infections obtained through conventional testing." [The study was published in the Centers for Disease Control's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) on August 14. [KDRV](#), [KTVZ](#), and [OPB](#) all reported on the study.

## 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 the page about [Community Organization Requests](#), and added a link to it on the [Faith Based and Community Groups COVID-19 Guidance](#) page.
- Added a new [Tigrinya language face covering video](#) to the [Tigrinya Face coverings, masks and COVID-19](#) page.

Social media highlights

- [Multnomah County Facebook](#)
  - [Blanca Perez normally works for the County's Multnomah County Student Health Centers helping young people access services](#). This summer she used her skills as a community health worker to support residents being tested for COVID-19 at East County Health Center's drive-through testing site. "It feels so rewarding. It makes me feel connected," she said.
  - Over the hot weekend: [Heading into another hot weekend, these water safety guidelines bear repeating](#). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many open-water swimming spots will not have lifeguards on duty. So, if you do plan to swim at the river: Use flotation devices, keep an eye on children, and avoid alcohol. [More information on open-water and general water safety](#).
  - [Answer the call: Contact tracing is a critical step to slow the spread of COVID-19](#). If a public health worker reaches out, please answer your phone. These calls are important, confidential, and informative.
- [Multnomah County Twitter](#)
  - [Remember: Contact tracers will \\*never\\* ask for](#) your Social Security number, your immigration status, or Credit card, bank or billing information.
- [Multnomah County Health Department Facebook](#)
  - [ICYMI: This week is National Community Health Center Week, an annual celebration spotlighting the mission and accomplishments of America's community health centers](#). Community health centers are the lifeblood of community, and this fact has never been more evident than during the COVID19 pandemic. Here, in Multnomah County, our community health centers have remained open and available to residents. [Watch this video to learn more](#).
  - [Do cloth masks actually work?](#) "In combination with social distancing, our cloth masks are very effective at preventing the spread of the virus. Remember, your mask protects other people; their masks protect you." [Read the full answer](#).
  - [What does your mask say about you?](#) It says you care for others. Share [this PSA from @BigCitiesHealth and @ASTHO](#) to encourage others to #MaskUp.
- [Multnomah County Health Department Twitter](#)
  - [For the best protection, your mask should fit well](#). Check if your mask fits before going outside by following these three simple steps: STEP 1: Inhale. STEP 2: Exhale. STEP 3: Check Leaks. [Learn more](#).

- [Multnomah County Emergency Management Twitter](#)
  - [We'd like to remind you that a burn ban is still in effect for Multnomah County](#). There is currently a wildfire burning in the Gorge: all it takes is one spark to start a fire. No fire pits with wood (propane fire pits are ok) until we give the all clear. [Learn more in this video](#).

## EOC Section: [Operations](#)

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

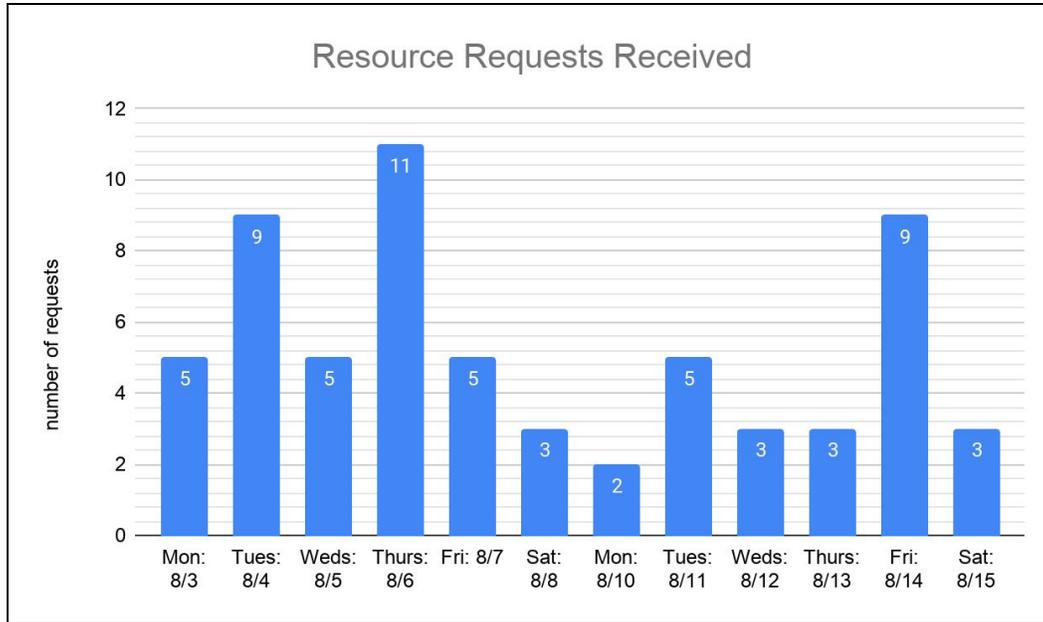
### Resource Request Unit

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](mailto: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.

*(chart on next page)*



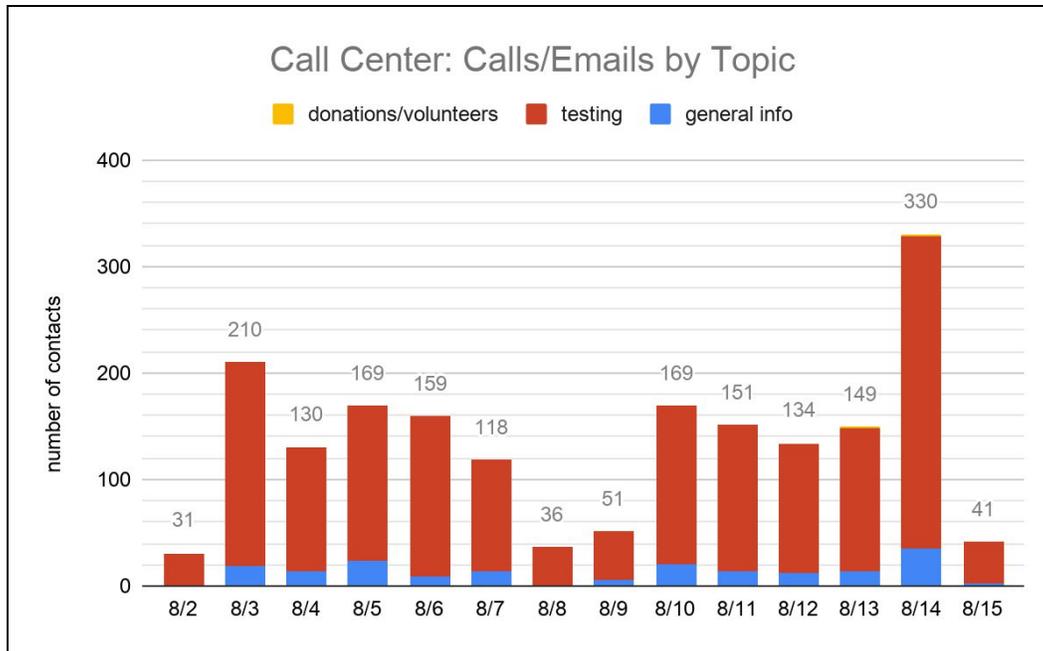
*Note: the Resource Request Unit operates Mondays-Saturdays.*

### 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 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)*



### 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. Human Solutions, Inc. 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 have transitioned to non-profit management, they will no longer be reported in this Situation Report.

#### Section Updates

The Mass Care and Shelter section of the EOC is currently helping support the operation of one Physical Distancing Shelter (PDS) with a total capacity of **120 beds**, and two Voluntary Isolation Motels (VIMos) with a total capacity of **120 beds**. The people working in this section include all of our on-site shelter staff who continue to respond with compassionate action as increasing numbers of guests are referred into the County’s PDS site from partner shelters. Staffing and response plans that take into consideration COVID-19’s extended duration are being finalized.

### 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. This Section contains Units that support Fatality Management, Region 1 Hospital and Health Systems, Emergency Medical Services, COVID Testing, and Communicable Disease Investigations which includes Epidemiology, Case Investigation and Contact Tracing.

## Schools Blueprint

The County in close collaboration with the Multnomah Education Service District is supporting local school districts and schools in their development of Operational Blueprints and other tools to guide their safe reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. The County's Emergency Operations Center is supporting schools as they develop these blueprints, helping to ensure that OHA-mandated communicable disease response plans including things like symptom screening, isolation space, cleaning, and other safety protocols are in place. By August 17, schools will publish their blueprints on their websites, and will submit them to the local Public Health review team and to the Oregon Department of Education for approval. As deadlines approach for schools -- both K-12 and higher education -- to submit their plans for reopening, a multi-disciplinary team of reviewers has been assembled to meet the state requirement for local public health review. Currently, this team is laying out frameworks to evaluate both types of plans while overlaying equity considerations into review criteria.

The Schools Liaison is working with various partners including Public Health, Youth Liaisons, and the Public Information section to develop a public health "Back to School" communications plan and toolkit, as well as continuing to support schools and districts as they work toward welcoming students back virtually or in person for the 2020-2021 school year.

On August 11, Oregon Department of Education released updated guidance for schools in the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners, Guidance for School Year 2020-21](#).

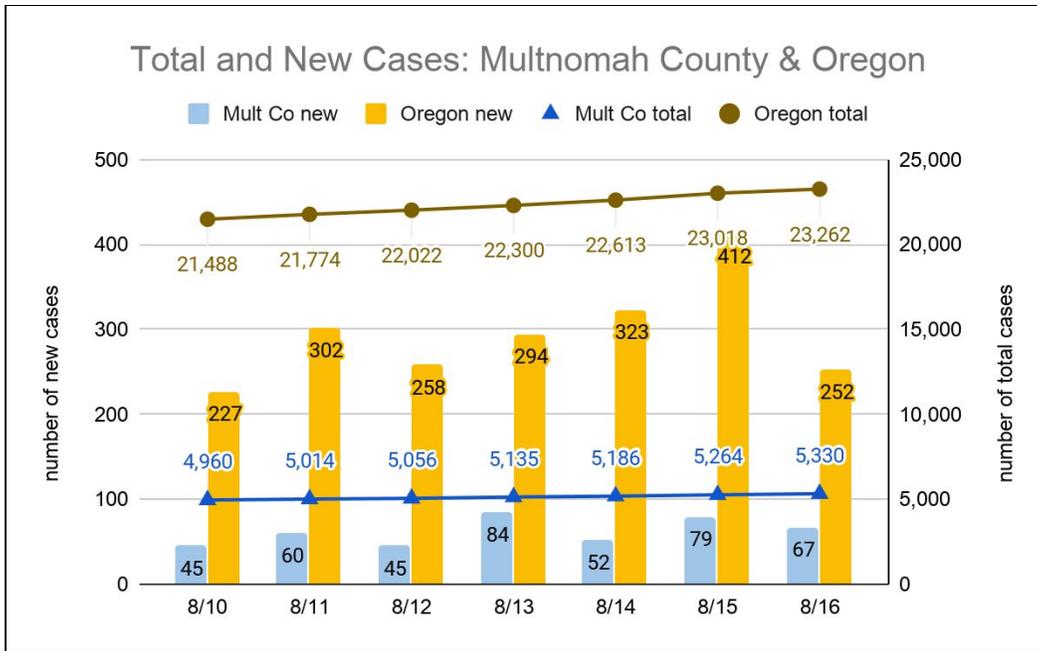
## Epidemiology Data

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

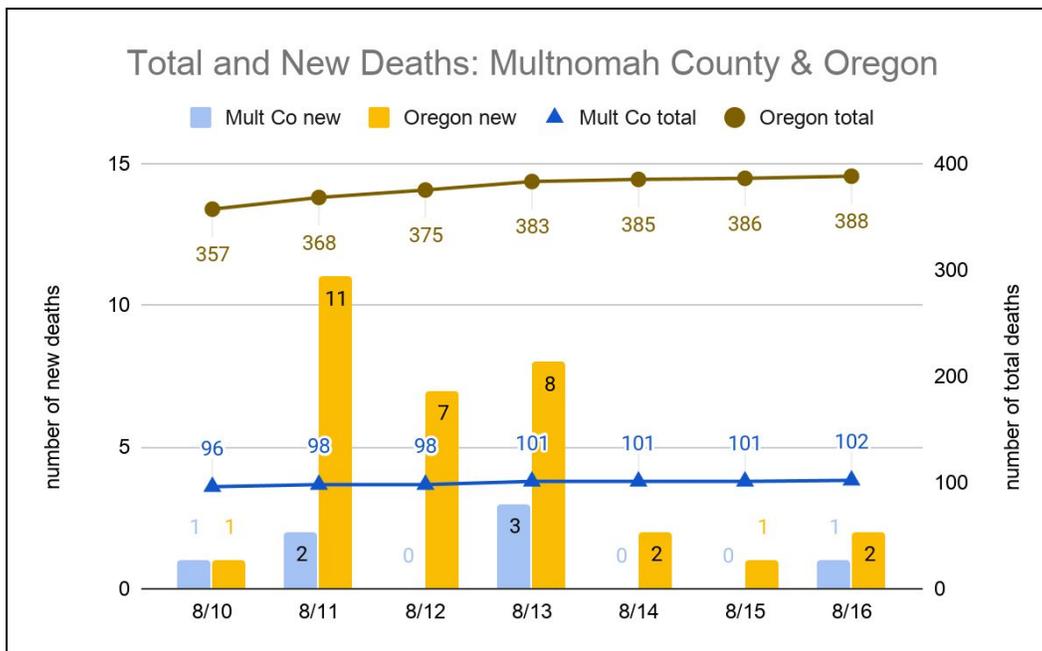
There were **252 new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases** reported in Oregon on August 16. **Sixty-seven** of these new cases are in Multnomah County. Since the pandemic began, there have been a total of **5,330** confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases in Multnomah County and **23,262** cases in Oregon. Multnomah County cases make up **23%** of the state's total. The chart below shows cases over the past week.

*(chart on next page)*



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

There were **two new COVID-19 deaths in Oregon** reported on August 16. **One** of these deaths occurred in Multnomah County. A total of **102** people are known to have died of COVID-19 in Multnomah County since the pandemic started. There have been **388** known COVID-19 deaths in Oregon, statewide. Multnomah County deaths make up **26%** of the state's total. The chart below shows deaths over the past week.



(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](#).

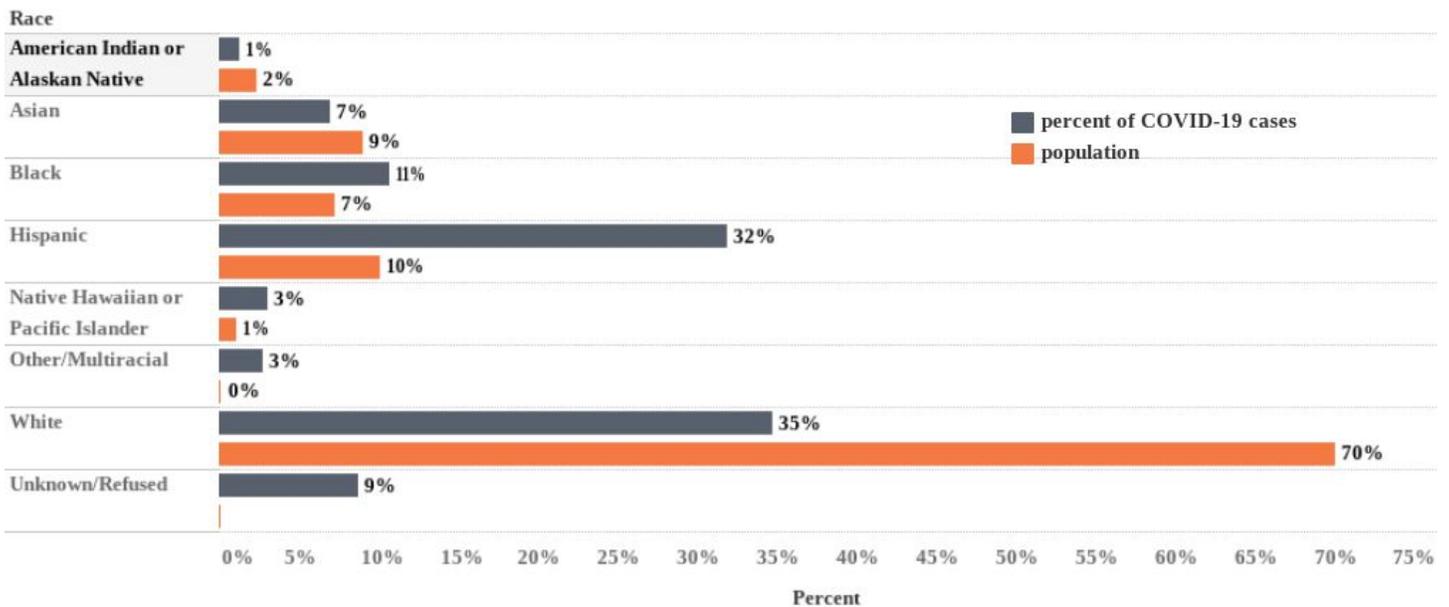
### Race and Ethnicity Impact in Multnomah County

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 August 13. 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.

#### Cases by race/ethnicity and population proportions

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

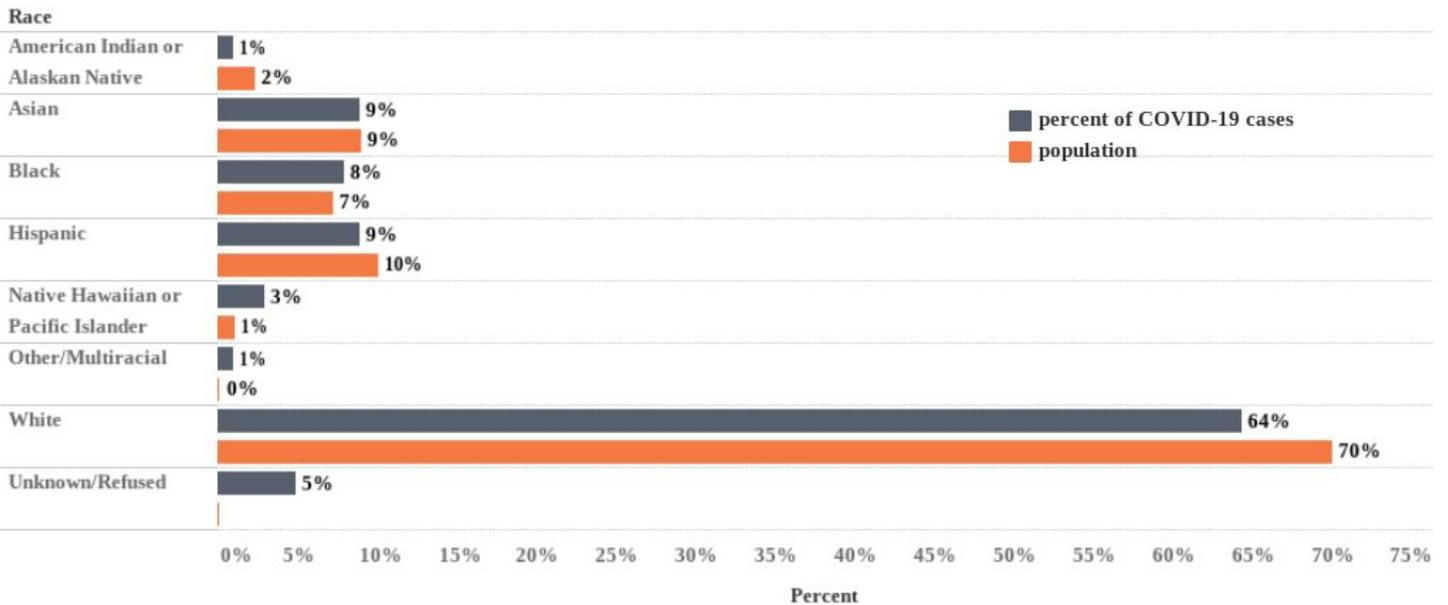


Data current as of August 13, 2020 (source: [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)).

(charts on next page)

### Deaths by race/ethnicity and population proportions

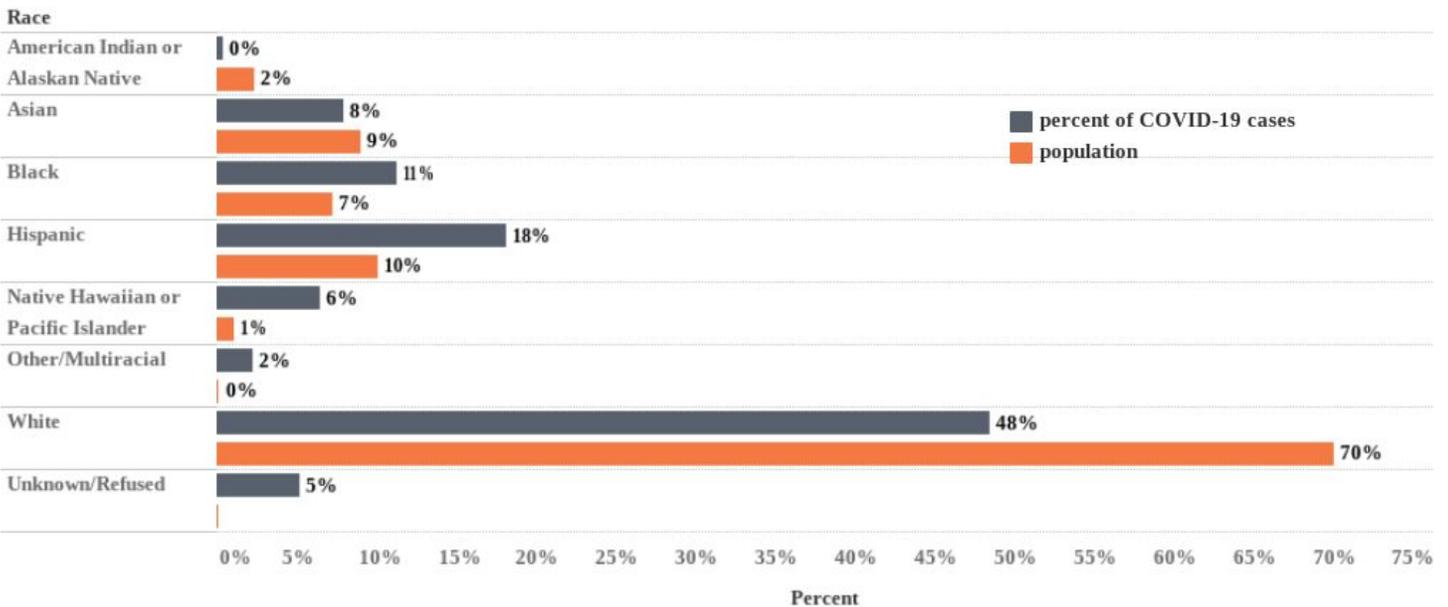
Percent of COVID-19 Deaths Compared to Multnomah County Population Proportions



Data current as of August 13, 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 August 13, 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.](#)

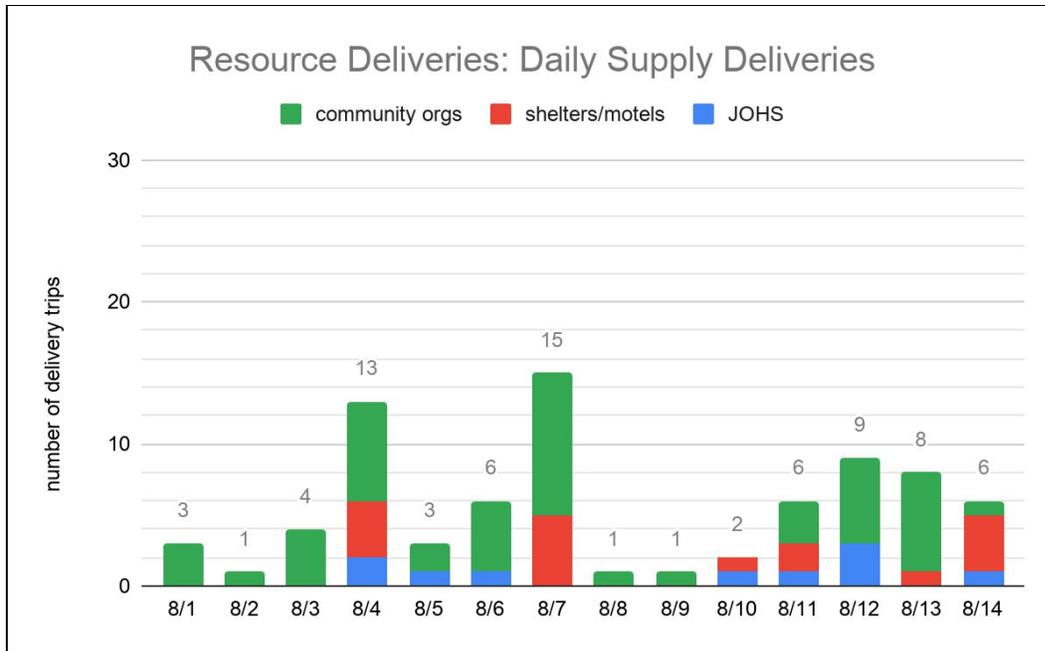
### Food Unit

The Food Unit supports guests at Physical Distancing Shelters and Voluntary Isolation Motels, as well as volunteers and staff contributing to emergency response operations. This team supports a 24 hour, 7 day a week operation and organizes, sources, and delivers more than 1,400 meals each week. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to place increased pressure on the local restaurant industry, the Food Unit prioritizes agreements with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned businesses. This is one example of the many ways County resources are being leveraged to mitigate the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on BIPOC communities.

### 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.

*(chart on next page)*



### EOC Section: [Administration](#)

The Administration Section provides targeted support to create an inclusive, positive, productive and healthy work environment across all response operations, that is responsive to the changing conditions of the COVID-19 incident. Functions include the recruitment, training and onboarding of staff and volunteers; equity and inclusion support; and human resources and labor relations consultation.

### EOC Section: [Community Liaisons](#)

The Liaison Unit is made up of four Liaison Officers and five Deputies who support 47 community liaisons across [27 sectors](#). Liaison Officers and Deputies foster community connection and information sharing by creating spaces to problem solve, share resources, and discuss community experiences. In addition, they track and identify trends within the community and elevate them to response leadership to inform outreach and policy. Community Liaisons use their subject-matter expertise to act as a critical link between the COVID-19 response mission and the audience it affects. They answer sector specific questions, ensure understanding of local and State guidelines as it pertains to their sector, and manage communication and information sharing between sector organizations and the Multnomah County Emergency Operations Center. More than 8,500 people actively participate in the liaison program and help spread accurate information throughout our community and beyond.

### Business

- As businesses reopen, the City of Portland and Multnomah County Health Department have [created videos to educate the community](#) on how to stay safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The videos are translated into more than 35 languages. Please help us to share this information.

### Faith-based/Community Organizations

- For Faith Leaders: [Questions & answers](#) from the OHA Case Investigation, Contact Tracing & Testing webinar are now available.

### Food Access

- The [Double Up Food Bucks](#) program remains available to SNAP shoppers at 20 markets in the metro area this season. This program helps families stretch their food dollars by matching SNAP benefits up to \$10 per visit. [Find your local participating farmers markets.](#)

### Food Access/Parks

- Portland Parks and Rec continues to offer [Free Lunch and Play](#) events this summer at Portland parks. ([Flyers about Free Lunch and Play are available in 16 languages.](#))

### Sector Contact Information and Conference Call Schedule

If you have specific questions, or to attend a regularly scheduled sector conference call, please [contact the sector liaison](#) via email.

## Local Updates

### Media and Announcements

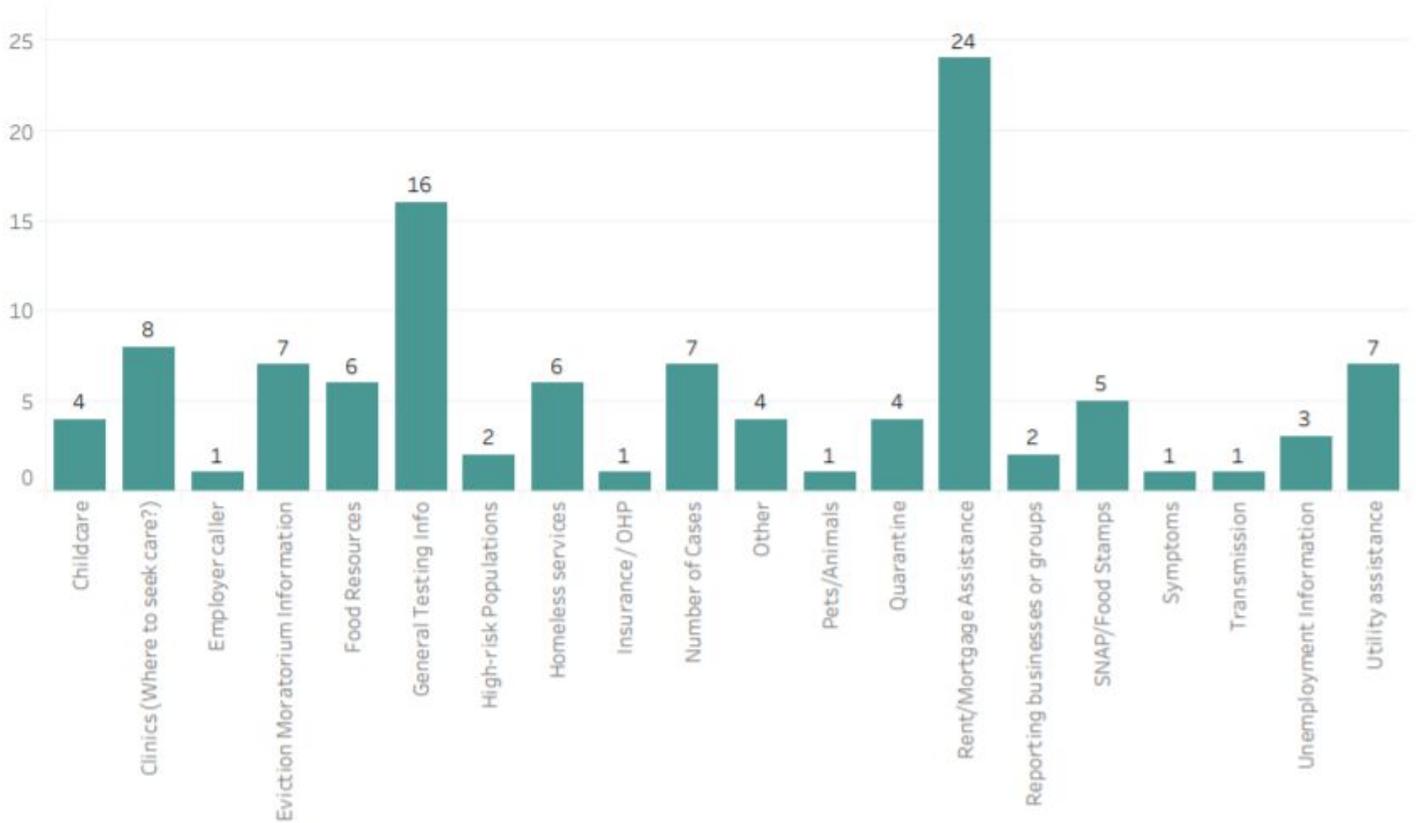
- On August 14, [KGW ran a story about resources for staying cool during the heat wave that was expected over the weekend.](#) The article noted that “Multnomah County isn't opening cooling centers right now but they are advising people [how to stay cool](#). . . (and) helping provide relief to people in the homeless community. Street outreach teams are fanning across the city to offer water, cooling towels and shade tarps to those who need it.”

### 211 Calls

- There were 88 calls to 211 on Sunday, August 16.
- The most common reason people called was to ask about rent/mortgage assistance. Other frequent inquiries were about general testing information and clinics/where to seek care.

*(chart on next page)*

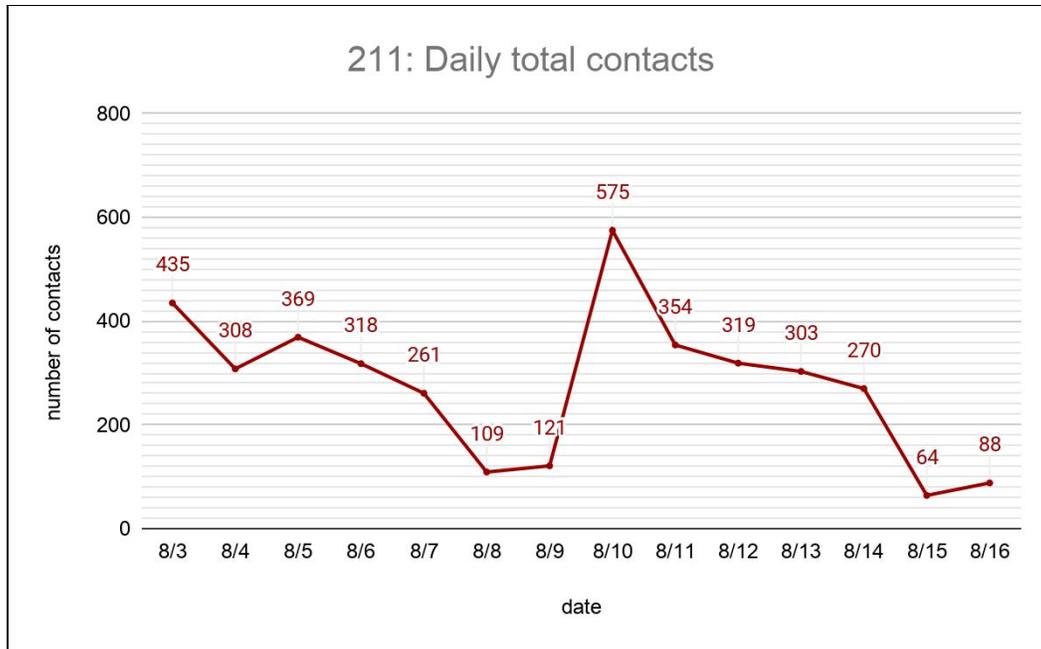
Reason for Contact



Data for August 16, 2020.

Aggregated data: The chart below shows the total number of 211 contacts each day, over the last two weeks.

(chart on next page)



## State of Oregon and Regional Updates

### Media and Announcements

- On August 12, [Willamette Week](#) reported that [vaccination rates in Oregon have declined](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On August 13, KGW [reported on a lawsuit filed by three Washington families of students with disabilities](#), who “say emergency rules adopted by the state because of coronavirus violate the right of a basic education.”
- On August 13, The [Skanner](#) reported that [Oregon has “received approval to implement Pandemic-EBT \(P-EBT\) benefits](#), which provides food benefits for students who lost access to free meals through a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) when they suddenly closed due to COVID-19.”
- On August 13, [Jefferson Public Radio](#) reported that [some cities in Jackson county have begun testing sewage for COVID-19](#).
- On August 13, [Columbia County Spotlight](#) reported “Columbia County Commissioners and leaders from local governments around the state have voiced opposition to the state Department of Administrative Services' request to purchase and distribute personal protective equipment to local governments, rather than distributing the funds directly to those local governments.”
- On August 14, the [Associated Press](#) and [OPB](#) both published stories noting that the Oregon Department of Corrections reported Oregon’s second death due to COVID-19, at the Snake River Correctional Institution in Malheur County.
- On August 14, [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#) ran a story from [Kaiser Health News](#), reporting that a “Medford clinic is the only COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial site in Oregon, so participants have come from as far as Portland.”

- On August 15, the [Mail Tribune](#) reported that “An Eagle Point rancher is suing the State of Oregon and Gov. Kate Brown for billions of dollars because — without a face mask — he couldn’t buy feed for his livestock.” The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Medford.
- On August 15, the [Salem Statesman Journal](#) ran a story about multiple, conflicting protests that were held at the state capitol on Sunday. The article stated, “Groups including Open Up Oregon and Ones Purpose arrived at the steps of the Capitol before noon Saturday, but before the organized rallies could start, several people with the Black Lives Matter movement were shoved down the steps and into a crowd of BLM protesters.”
- On August 15, [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#) reported that “State officials say Oregon care homes are on track to test all residents and workers for the coronavirus by a looming Sept. 30 deadline, even as the state so far has offered little direct help to get that testing done.”

## Health System Capacity

As of August 14, 2020:

### Hospital Capacity and Usage in Oregon as reported to HOSCAP\*

Overall Capacity	Available	Total Staffed
Adult ICU Beds	172	749
Adult non-ICU Beds	643	4,331
NICU/PICU Beds	88	324
Pediatric non-ICU Beds	85	332

COVID-19 Details	Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19	Only Patients with Confirmed COVID-19
Current Hospitalized Patients	224	167
Current Patients in ICU Beds	57	43
Current Patients on Ventilators	16	15

Available Ventilators	769
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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 August 12, the FDA updated its page listing [FDA updates on hand sanitizers consumers should not use](#), stating “FDA is warning consumers and health care professionals about certain hand sanitizer products, including those manufactured by Harmonic Nature S de RL de MI in Mexico, that are labeled to contain ethanol or isopropyl alcohol but have tested positive for 1-propanol contamination.” The update includes the FDA’s “do-not-use list of hand sanitizers” (scroll down the page to see the list).
- On August 13, *The Associated Press* reported that [African disease control researchers are collaborating across national borders to study COVID-19 antibodies](#) via the African Union’s Africa CDC. “The groups with the highest exposure to the virus were market vendors at 10%, followed by health professionals at between 5.5% and 7%, police at between 3.7% and 6% and shop and other business employees at between 5% and 5.5%.”
- On August 13, *The Associated Press* reported that [Rwandan researchers are using an epidemiological algorithm that limits re-testing once a positive COVID-19 case is found](#): “Rather than retest every sample in the batch individually, the mathematical formula dictates how to create and overlap smaller groups from the batch in a way that allows the positive samples to be identified.”
- On August 13, *Fortune* published an article arguing that [hospitals and health systems that work to counter social determinants of health need to be assessed, measured and rewarded](#). “Struck by a terrible pandemic and recognizing the devastating legacy of racism, many U.S. communities are hurting. . . hospitals and health systems can play a critical role not just in community recovery, but also in community renewal. Recognizing and rewarding exemplary contributions to community health and equity is one place to start.”
- On August 13, [Associated Press reported](#) that during a conversation about school reopening, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci said “If you want to open schools, do what you need to do. . . . Close the bars. Wear your masks. Because when you do that, you will bring the infections down.” The article also cites Dr. Fauci’s recommendation that school activities, including classes, recess and lunchtime, should be outside as much as possible.
- On August 13, NPR reported that [public health officials are concerned about a COVID-19 plus cold/flu season from October to February, asking the public to follow pandemic public health guidelines and get a flu vaccine shot](#). “While less than 50% of Americans did so last year,” NPR reports, the “goal is to get that number up to 65%...the CDC has purchased an extra 10 million doses of the vaccine this year.”
- On August 13, the [Associated Press reported on the increasing number of lawsuits brought by churches, challenging public health measures aimed at controlling COVID-19](#).
- On August 14, [The Hill](#) and [NPR](#) reported on the results of a recent NPR-PBS News Hour-Marist poll, which found that one third of American’s polled do not want to get a COVID-19 vaccine because of anti-vaccination beliefs, and that community engagement by public health experts will help. NPR’s story goes on to state that the study revealed that “experts like Fauci have some leverage in making the case to the public. Three-quarters of Americans (75%) say they trust the information they hear from public health experts a great deal or a good amount. State and local officials also fare well, with 62% of Americans saying they trust what they hear from those officials.”
- On August 14, [The New York Times reported that clinical trials are facing obstacles due to “a dearth of tests, overwhelmed hospitals and reluctant patients.”](#)
- On August 14, [NPR ran a story analyzing publicly-available data about contact tracing, from 14 U.S. states](#).

- On August 15, NPR reported that [air conditioners may be able to spread aerosol droplets of COVID-19 that linger in publicly shared indoor spaces](#): “The fact that aerosolized viral droplets can move in air currents in this way means that if you are in a room with an infected person and fresh air is not circulating, even if you are socially distancing to keep 6 feet apart at a minimum, you may not be safe.”

## 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
<a href="#">211 Call Center</a>	211	<a href="mailto:help@211info.org">help@211info.org</a>	seven days a week, 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
<a href="#">Mental Health Call Center</a>	503-988-4888 Toll-free: 800-716-9769 TTY: 711		open 24 hours a day, seven days a week

<a href="#">Aging &amp; Disabilities Resource Connection</a>	503-988-3646	<a href="mailto:adrc@multco.us">adrc@multco.us</a>	information and assistance to older people, people with disabilities, and caregivers, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
<a href="#">City County Information and Referral</a>	503-823-4000		Mondays-Fridays, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

## Help and Resources

- **Having symptoms?**
  - [C19Oregon.com](https://www.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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Approved By (Name & Position)	Alice Busch, Unified Command
Date; Time Approved	8/16/20; 22:22 hours
Date of Next Situation Report	Thursday, 8/20/20

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