

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-099**

Recognizing the Observance of Annual World AIDS Day on December 1, 2020 in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- A. World AIDS Day is recognized each year on December 1st. The theme for this year's World AIDS Day is "Global Solidarity and Shared Responsibility." This year marks the 32nd anniversary of World AIDS Day, whose purpose is to show support for people living with and affected by HIV, and to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS.
- B. Multnomah County supports this theme through our continued commitment to implement the "END HIV in Oregon Strategy" that includes 3 key points: Testing is easy, Prevention works, and Treatment saves lives. Multnomah County has much at stake – forty-six percent (1,082/2,364) of new HIV diagnoses in Oregon from 2009–2018 were among Multnomah County residents. Multnomah County residents had the highest probability of 10-year survival (89%) compared to mixed urban/rural counties (86%) and more rural counties of Oregon (83%).
- C. The past 7 months have been pivotal to our community of persons living with HIV in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has clearly impacted their economic, health and quality of life on so many levels. Between the social isolation, limited access to resources, loss of income, loss of housing, and food insecurity, the profound implications on this vulnerable population has yet to be realized. Multnomah County to date has experienced 9,502 total cases (1,156 cases per 100,000) of COVID-19 (not HIV) with 2% death rate as of 10/30/2020.
- D. COVID-19 has demonstrated that during a pandemic, a community approach is critical in a public health crisis that impacts our most vulnerable populations (e.g. persons living with HIV) coupled with the intersectionality of eliminating white supremacy, stigma and discrimination, and focusing on human rights and gender responsive approaches.
- E. Our collective approaches amongst our community partners has truly exemplified this true essence of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and being responsive to the needs of our HIV community. Collectively we have stood up more communication channels to better coordinate and align services. We enhanced access to medical motels and hygiene kits for people that are unhoused and at highest risk of COVID-19 complications. We have increased access to food and home delivered meals for people without transportation or are homebound.

- F. Serving the community for 30 years, Multnomah County HIV Health Services Center continues to provide comprehensive HIV/HCV medical and social services during this pandemic, pivoting to use telehealth and telemedicine in addition to in person visits that includes same day antiretroviral therapy for newly diagnosed persons living with HIV.
- G. The Multnomah County STD Clinic offers confidential HIV testing both in house and out in the community including homeless camps. All testing services are non-judgmental, confidential, and no one is refused service because of an inability to pay. People at risk for HIV can also get HIV PrEP, a medication that protects someone from becoming infected with HIV, at the Multnomah County STD Clinic. Testing is also available through most health care providers as part of regular medical and family planning care.
- H. Community partners supporting this work include Cascade AIDS Project, OHSU Partnership Project, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon HIV Day Center, Quest Center for Integrative Health, Oregon Health Authority, Our House of Portland, HIV Alliance, Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living, and more.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

In observance of Annual World AIDS Day on December 1, 2020 in Multnomah County, Oregon, we demonstrate our support for people living with and affected by HIV, and remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS.

**ADOPTED this 3rd day of December, 2020.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

---

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

---

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** Commissioner Sharon Meieran, District 1