

# LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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**RALPH E. WYATT**  
*Administrative Officer*

March 4, 2020

Linn County Residents:

To date, the Oregon Health Authority has announced three presumptive COVID-19 (coronavirus) cases in Oregon. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) epidemiologists are working closely with public health investigators at Washington County and Umatilla County to identify close contacts to those cases.

We understand and empathize that this is concerning news for all Linn County residents and there maybe questions about our local response. **You can get up-to-date information by going to webpages for the Oregon Health Authority and Center for Disease Control.**

The Linn County Health Department, in close coordination with the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division and a wide range of local health and medical organizations, has been closely monitoring the emergence of the 2019-n-CoV coronavirus. Our local partners include Samaritan Health Services, Samaritan Infectious Disease Clinic, Linn County Fire/EMS services, area municipal governments and virtually all local medical clinics. More partners including schools and businesses will likely be added as necessary.

We have assembled a COVID-19 Internal Response Team led by Linn County's Todd Noble, Health Department Administrator; Neva Anderson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Joe Larson, Sheriff's Office Emergency Manager. Yesterday, we activated the Linn County Public Health Department Operation Center to proactively respond to the growing local concerns.

We have the confidence in our response team; our Health Department and our local partners have trained for many of the current COVID-19 monitoring protocols and precautions.

**All residents are strongly encouraged to stay home at the first sign of any cold or flu symptoms.** At the present time, these symptoms are more likely due to influenza or other respiratory viruses than to COVID-19-related virus.

**Stay vigilant for signs of fever, cough, and difficulty breathing** in yourself and your loved ones if you suspect you may be sick with these symptoms:

- Do not go to work, school, or public areas.
- Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing or taxis.

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- Call ahead before visiting a healthcare professional. Your healthcare professional will work with OHA and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

**OHA officials continue to recommend Oregonians take everyday precautions** to prevent the spread of many respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and influenza:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- If you or a loved one suffer from a chronic condition such as diabetes, consider restricting your out-of-home activities since you are more susceptible to illness.
- Stay current on your vaccinations, including flu vaccine.
- Eating well, getting sufficient rest and sleep and exercising all help your body stay resilient.

Lastly, we encourage you and your loved ones to **rely on the Oregon Health Authority and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for coronavirus information**. Be wary of information spread through traditional and social media unless it is from a local, state, federal health authority.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

**LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**