

# Situation Report

**Note: Beginning October 7, Multnomah County COVID-19 Situation Reports will be distributed on Wednesdays.**

<b>Situation Report Number:</b> 10.7.2020		
<b>Incident Name:</b> COVID-19 MultCo Coordination		
<b>OERS Number:</b> 2020-0279 (COVID)		
<b>EOC:</b> Activated	<b>Unified Commanders:</b> Kim Toevs, Multnomah County Health Department Chris Voss, Multnomah County Emergency Management Jennifer Masotja, Department of County Human Services Marc Jolin, Joint Office of Homeless Services  <b>Deputies:</b> Jessica Guernsey, Multnomah County Health Department Lisa Corbly, Multnomah County Emergency Management Alice Busch, Multnomah County Emergency Management Aaron Monnig, Multnomah County Health Department	
<b>Date:</b> 10/7/20	<b>Time:</b> 1:05 pm	Situation Reports are typically released on Wednesdays 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.

## Multnomah County COVID-19 Emergency Response

### Announcements and Featured Media

- **Cloth Face Covering Donations Project:** Multnomah County's emergency response team at the EOC has developed a re-energized campaign to increase donations of cloth face coverings. With a focus on child-sized face masks which are in the most scarce supply. These face coverings will be distributed to communities that have been the most impacted by COVID-19. The County's aim is to distribute 10,000 child-sized masks to children who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color, immigrants, or refugees, to other children in need, and to childcare providers. A huge thank you to our community who donated over 23,000 adult sized face coverings! These were quickly distributed across the County.
  - Child size face coverings are 6-by-6 inch and 7-by-7 inch.
  - Cloth masks in unused and good condition, with two layers of tightly woven fabric (such as cotton or flannel) can be dropped off at:
    - Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (use the loading dock on SE 6th Ave.), 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Mondays and Wednesdays, or 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturdays.

- On October 2, the Oregon Health Authority released its latest modeling report, concerning [COVID-19 Epidemic Trends and Projections in Oregon](#). According to the Report, “Based on COVID-19 data through September 24, the model is consistent with transmission increases throughout May [2022], followed by transmission decreases from late-June through late-July.”
- On October 2, the [Governor’s Office announced](#) that Benton and Clatsop counties were added to the COVID-19 Watch List. Counties are placed on the Watch List when there is a sporadic case rate of 50 or more per 100,000 people over the past two weeks, and the county has had more than five sporadic cases in the last two weeks (i.e. those cases cannot be traced to a source, which indicates community spread.)
- On October 6, the [Governor’s Office announced](#) a new rapid COVID-19 testing strategy for Oregon. With the announcement that Oregon will receive 60,000 - 80,000 rapid COVID-19 tests per week until December 31, 2020. The new tests will be deployed using the following criteria for priority release:
  - Counties and long-term care facilities impacted by wildfire evacuations will receive tests first.
  - Tests next will be deployed to outpatient and mobile COVID-19 testing locations for use with symptomatic patients and their close contacts.
  - Tests will be distributed to school based health care centers, healthcare partners working with K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, in support of symptomatic students and staff, as well as close contacts.
  - Testing will be prioritized for:
    - Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) communities.
    - Migrant and seasonal agricultural workers.
    - People living in congregate settings, such as congregate care and Department of Corrections facilities.

## COVID-19 testing

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.

- **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

## 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. For more information, call the OHSU Coronavirus Hotline: 833-647-8222.

Locations and hours:

- Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Drive, 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

## Epidemiology Data

Although the EOC's Emergency Support Function 8 - Public Health and Medical Section has been fully incorporated into Multnomah County Health Department, the work continues. One of the many important bodies of work is accomplished by the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Team. This team looks at multiple data sources and emerging science related to COVID-19. The information is evaluated and summarized by the team, and combined with an analysis of local, regional, national, and international information which helps inform the County's COVID-19 response strategies.

With a goal of minimizing the impacts and spread of COVID-19, decreasing severe illness, and preventing deaths among the entire community, the County's COVID-19 Emergency Response works to strategically prioritize communities with the greatest needs, using race/ethnicity disparity research, community voice and wisdom, and public health best practice to guide this work.

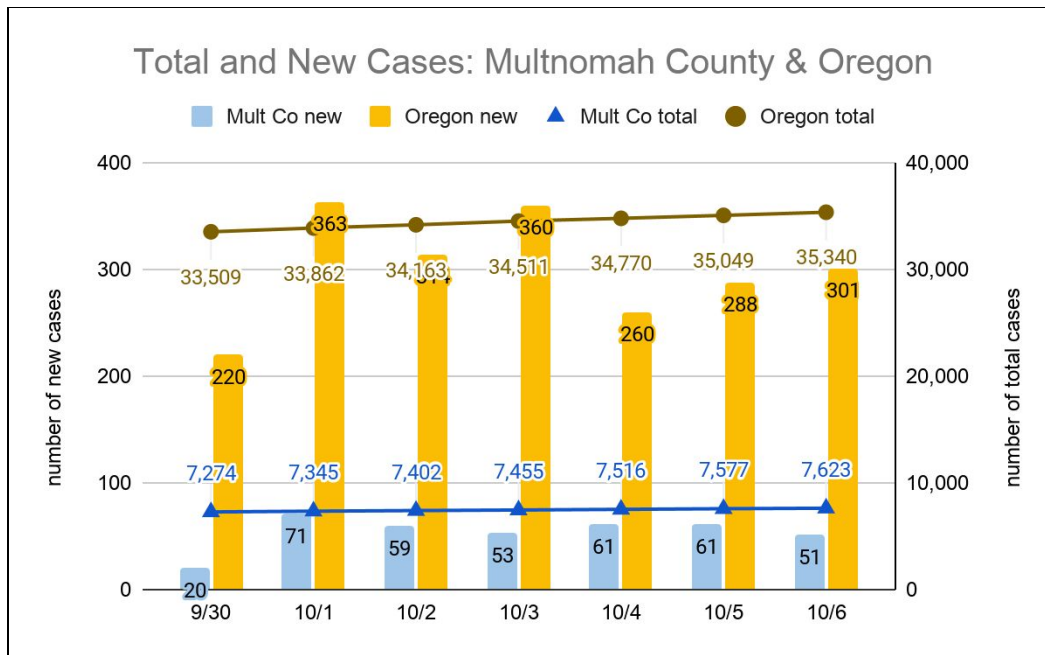
### Epidemiology Data

County level epidemiological data for each metro area county is available on the [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#).

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

There were **301 new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases** reported in Oregon on October 6. **Fifty-one** of these new cases are in Multnomah County. Since the pandemic began, there have been a total of **7,623** confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases in Multnomah County and **35,340** cases in Oregon. Multnomah County cases make up **22%** of the state's total. The chart below shows cases over the past week.

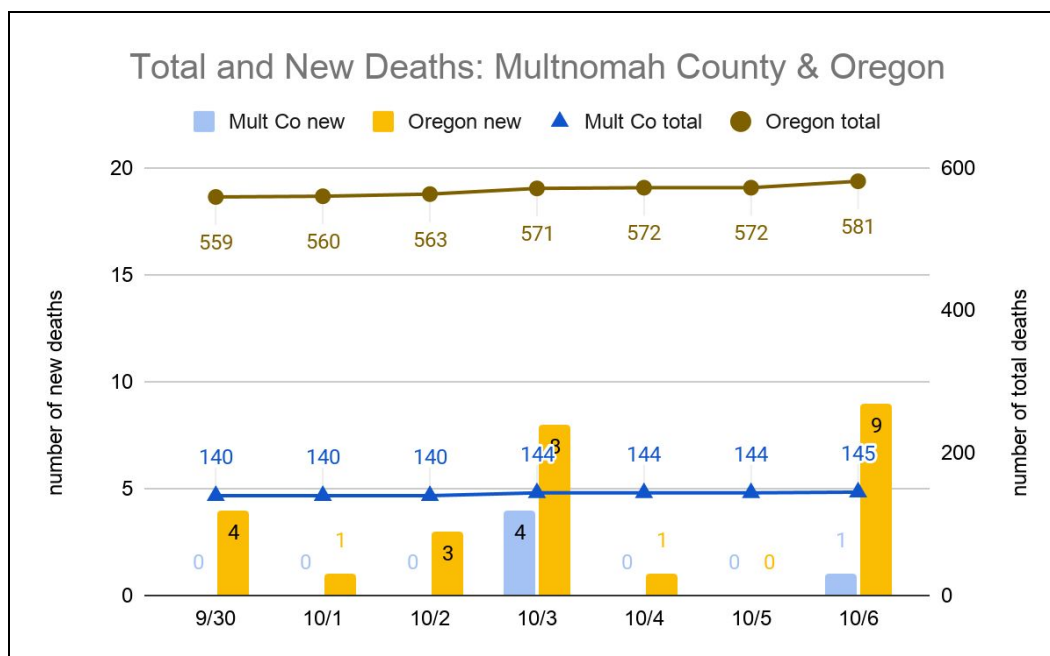
*(chart on next page)*



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

Note: The right axis of this chart, representing new cases statewide, has been adjusted to accommodate the State's growing COVID-19 caseload.

There were **nine new COVID-19 deaths in Oregon** reported on October 6. **One** of these deaths occurred in Multnomah County. A total of **145** people are known to have died of COVID-19 in Multnomah County since the pandemic started. There have been **581** known COVID-19 deaths in Oregon, statewide. Multnomah County deaths make up **25%** 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](#).

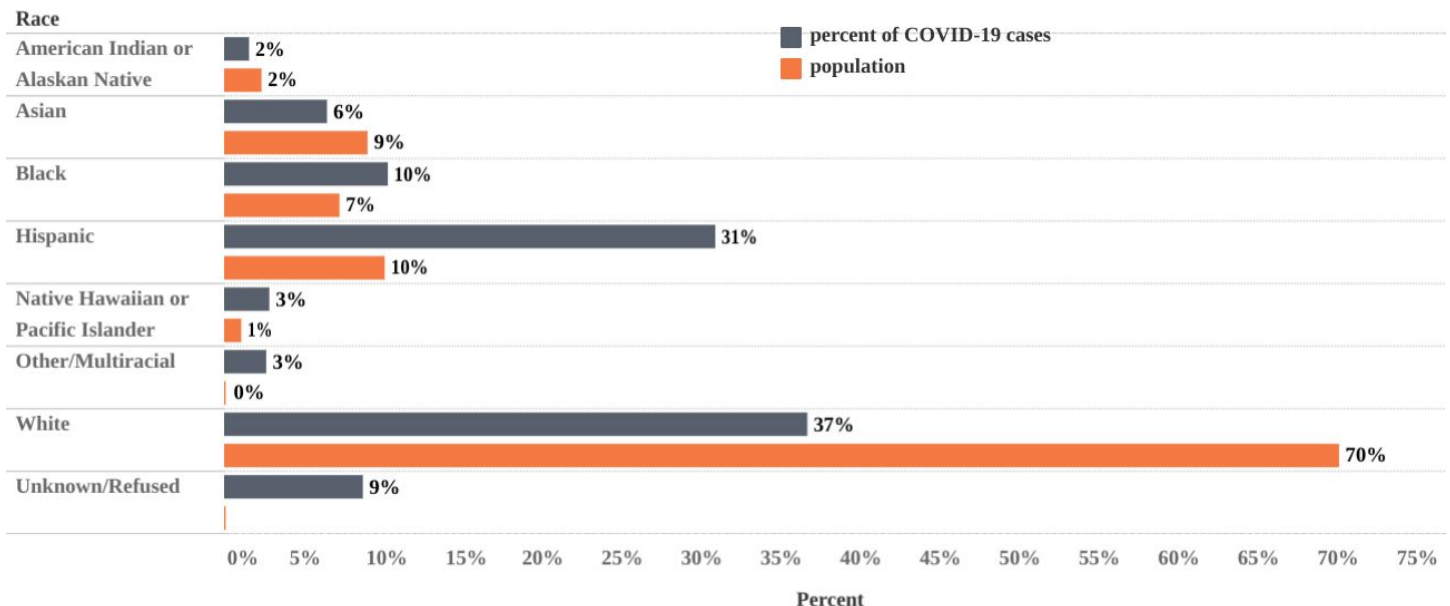
#### Race and Ethnicity Impact in Multnomah County

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-19 Racial Data Tracker](#), which is a joint project of the COVID-19 Tracking Project at *The Atlantic* and the [Center for Antiracist Research](#).

The charts below show **the percentage of total cumulative cases, deaths, and hospitalizations by race and ethnicity (in gray)**, as of October 4. 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*

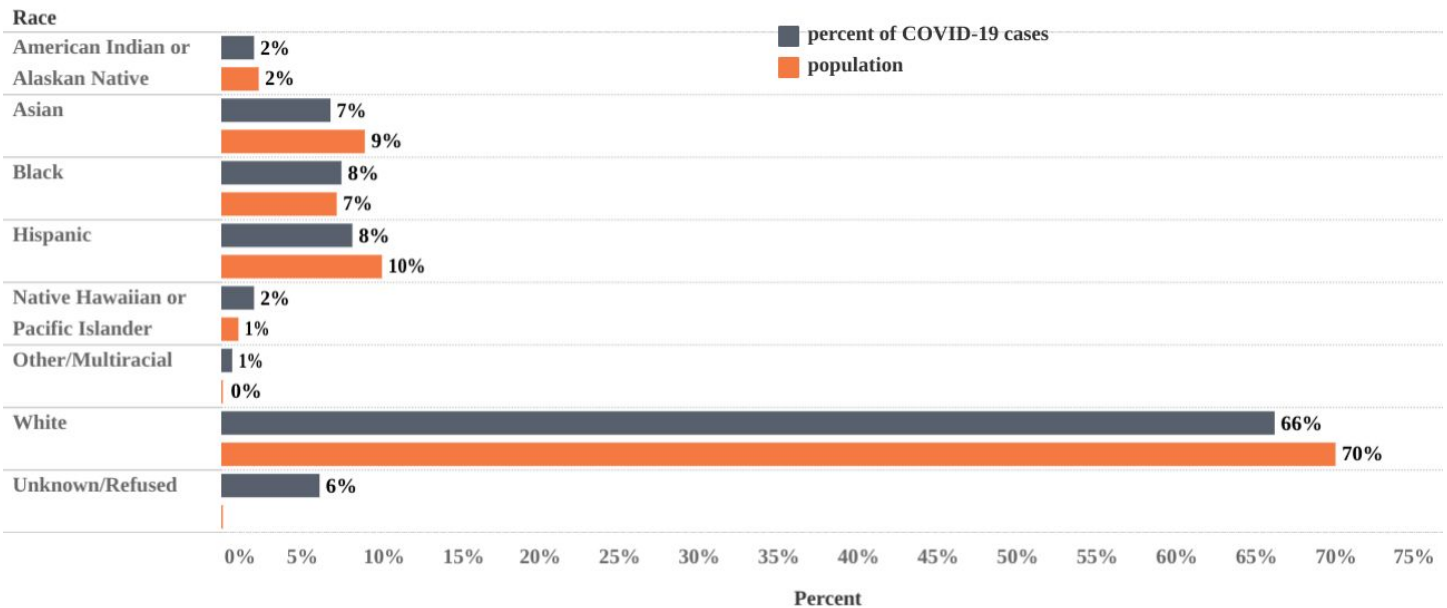


*Data current as of October 4, 2020 (source: [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)).*

*(additional charts on next page)*

## Deaths by race/ethnicity and population proportions

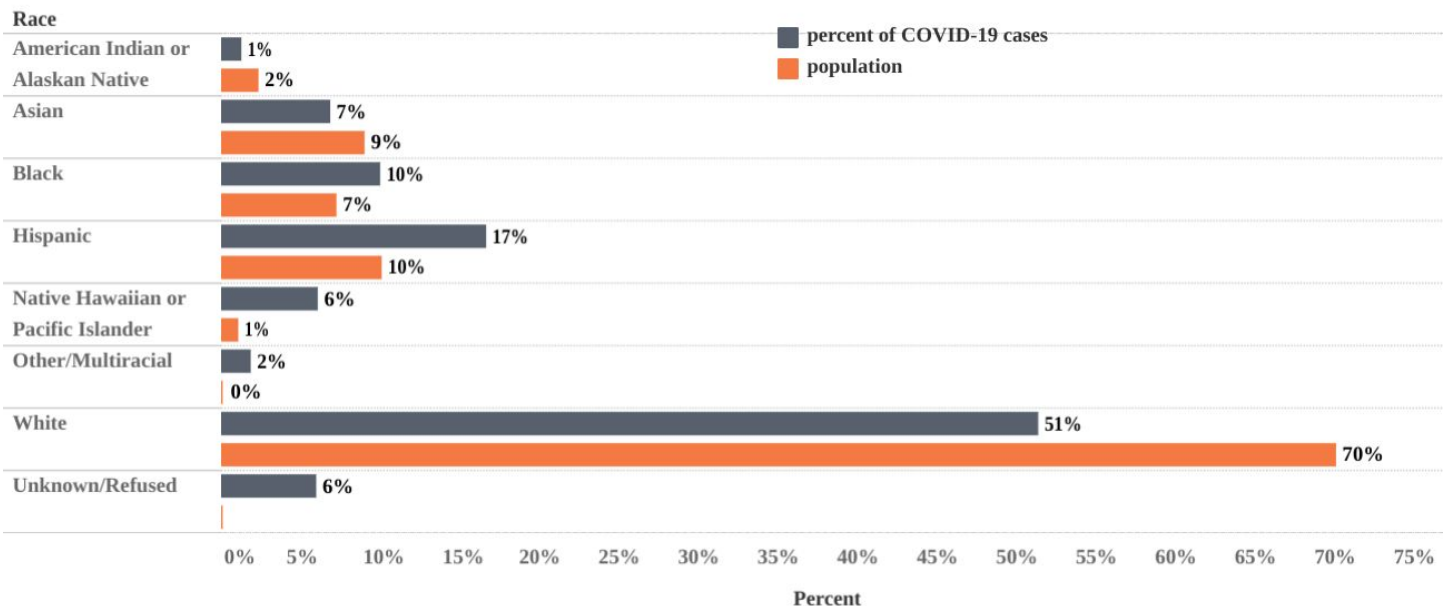
Percent of COVID-19 Deaths Compared to Multnomah County Population Proportions



Data current as of October 4, 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 October 4, 2020 (source: [Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)).



## Vaccine

The Communicable Disease Program is focusing on three COVID-related areas of vaccination work. Flu season is upcoming, and as of September, health care providers and retail pharmacies have begun to stock and provide flu vaccine. Flu vaccine is related to COVID-19 in a few ways: Influenza and COVID-19 infection cause overlapping symptoms, so as flu increases, individuals and households may miss more work/school needing to isolate longer than they normally would for flu symptoms, until COVID-19 is ruled out. In addition, hospital capacity may be stretched as individuals become infected with flu in addition to COVID-19. Assuring that as many people as possible receive the flu vaccine is a priority area of COVID-related work. In addition, planning for COVID-19 vaccine itself is underway. The CDC has recently released planning guidance and information, and Multnomah County will be working closely with OHA, health care systems, and community partners to develop plans based on a variety of scenarios for how and when COVID-19 vaccine may become available.

## Statewide Health System Capacity

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

Overall Capacity	Available	Total Staffed
Adult ICU Beds	147	713
Adult non-ICU Beds	683	4,532
NICU/PICU Beds	116	396
Pediatric non-ICU Beds	108	334

COVID-19 Details	Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19	Only Patients with Confirmed COVID-19
Current Hospitalized Patients	178	127
Current Patients in ICU Beds	55	37
Current Patients on Ventilators	18	14

Available Ventilators	801
-----------------------	-----

Data as of October 6, 2020. 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.*

# Multnomah County Emergency Operations Section Updates

The Multnomah County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a temporary incident response framework that operates within the [Mission, Vision and Values of Multnomah County](#). The EOC develops objectives based on guidance and priorities from the Chair and Chief Operating Officer. The EOC provides support to County departments that are operating beyond their normal capacity, and creates surge capability through the incorporation of community volunteers, partner agencies and organizations, as well as staff from across all County departments. The full complement of this combined effort is directed toward helping accomplish the County's incident objectives.

## EOC Section: [Public Information](#)

The Public Information Section provides accurate, coordinated, timely and accessible information with the primary goal of minimizing the impacts and 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.

Additionally, the Public Information Section provides materials and translation coordination in response to other emerging issues as they arise, with a focus on the intersection of COVID-19 with other crises. These issues have included, but are not limited to: wildfire, air quality, hot weather, water safety, and vaccinations.

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

- Updated the [COVID-19 Testing](#) page.
- Updated the [Get Togethers and Gatherings](#) page.
- Updated the [Community Resources](#) page.
- Updated the [Novel Coronavirus COVID-19](#) page in [Farsi](#), [Korean](#), [Kosraean](#), [Marshallese](#), [Napali](#), [Palauan](#), [Pohnpeian](#), [Russian](#), [Swahili](#) and [Tongan](#).
- Updated the [Contact Tracing for COVID-19](#) page in [Farsi](#), [Korean](#), [Marshallese](#), [Napali](#), [Russian](#), [Swahili](#)
- Updated the [Face Covering, Masks, and COVID-19](#) page in [Arabic](#).
- Updated the [COVID-19 Information in Multiple Languages](#) page.
- Added the [Get Help with Isolation and Quarantine](#) page.



Social media highlights - Please share widely

- [Multnomah County Facebook](#)
  - Even if you're not sick, [uncertainty from COVID-19 can affect your mental health](#) & your family's wellbeing. It's OK to not feel OK. It's OK to ask for support. Check out these [resources](#) . . . .
- [Multnomah County Twitter](#)
  - You can always call the [Multnomah County Mental Health Call Center](#): 503-988-4888.
- [Multnomah County Health Department Facebook](#)
  - We get it—no one wants to miss work or lose income. But if you have COVID-19, even if you don't feel sick, it's important to [quarantine at home](#). Call 211 for help finding financial resources that can help you stay home.
  - [Joining a COVID-19 "pod" for learning, childcare or play?](#) Everyone should follow the 3 Ws at all times - that means when pod is in session, and also when it's not: Wash hands, Wear masks, Watch your distance. Practice ["pod" safety!](#)
  - Does [remote learning](#) have you wondering how to keep your child active during the pandemic? Check out these [recommendations](#) . . .
- [Multnomah County Health Department Twitter](#)
  - How to [keep your child active](#) during the pandemic . . . and try these [ideas!](#)
- [Multnomah County Library](#)
  - [Some ideas](#) for [safer ways to celebrate](#) the fall holidays . . .

## Call Center

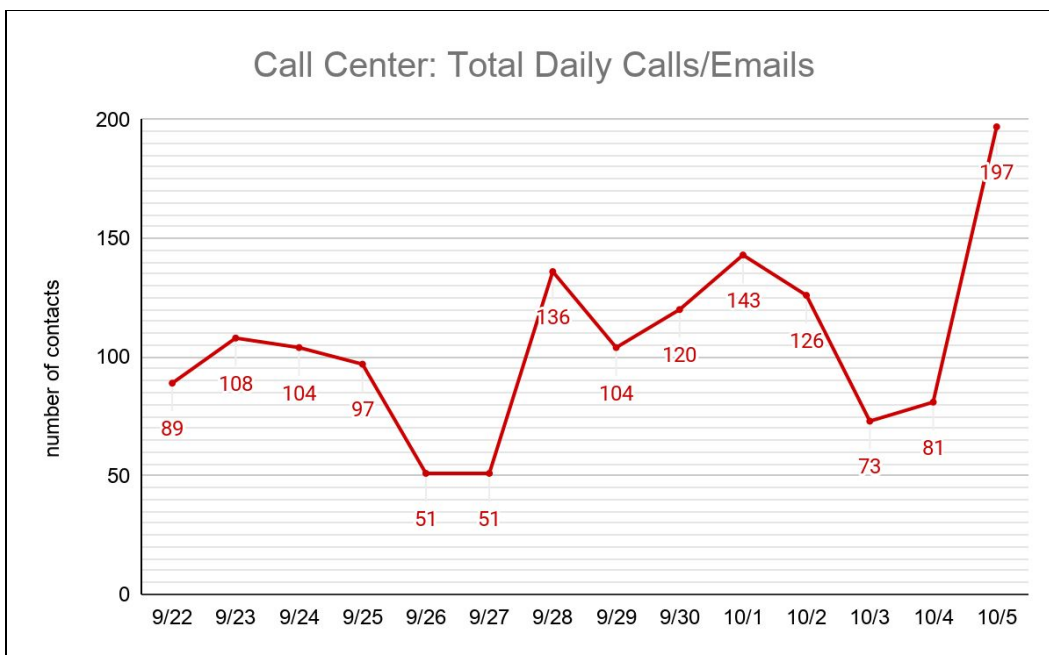
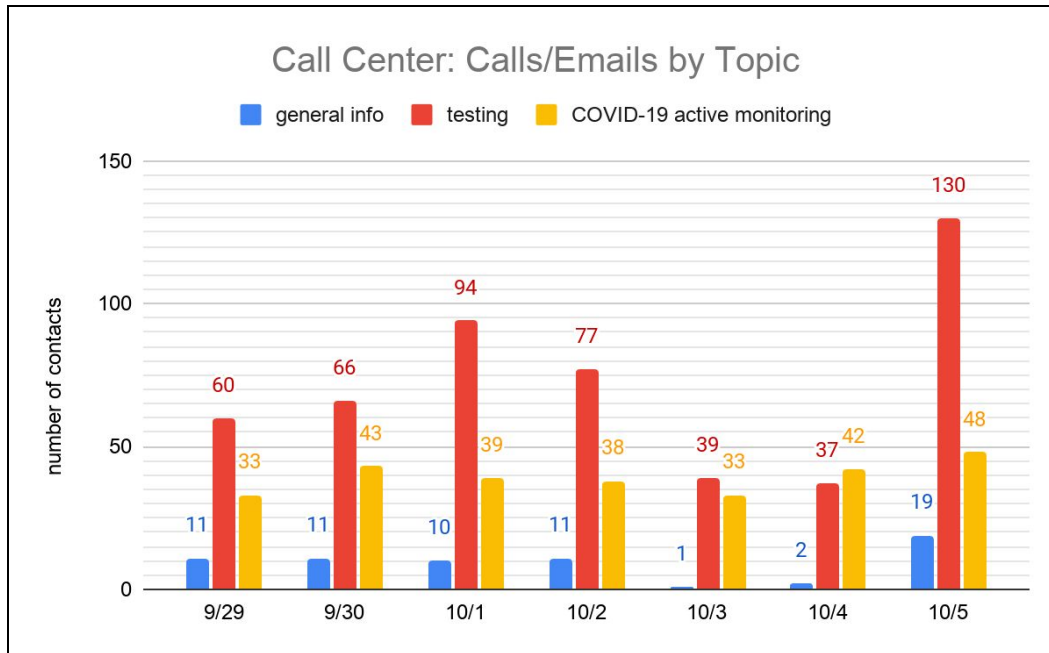
The EOC Call Center was established to answer a range of questions and concerns from community members related to COVID-19. Callers are connected directly from the Multnomah County Health Department and occasionally from 211. The Multnomah County emergency response team at the EOC continually updates the Call Center script content based on questions received. The Call Center also provides information regarding the many questions related to testing and assists by supporting Multnomah County Health with active monitoring/contact tracing, as well as by scheduling appointments for the County's low-barrier COVID-19 testing. The Call Center addresses additional public safety concerns as the need arises.

### General Updates from the Call Center

- Callers into the Call Center this week spoke English, Rohingya, Somali, and Spanish.

Daily Metrics: The Call Center tracks how many calls and emails it responds to each day. The first chart below shows the number of calls and emails per day for the past week, broken down by three topic categories. The second chart shows the total number of calls and emails received each day over the past two weeks.

*(charts on next page)*

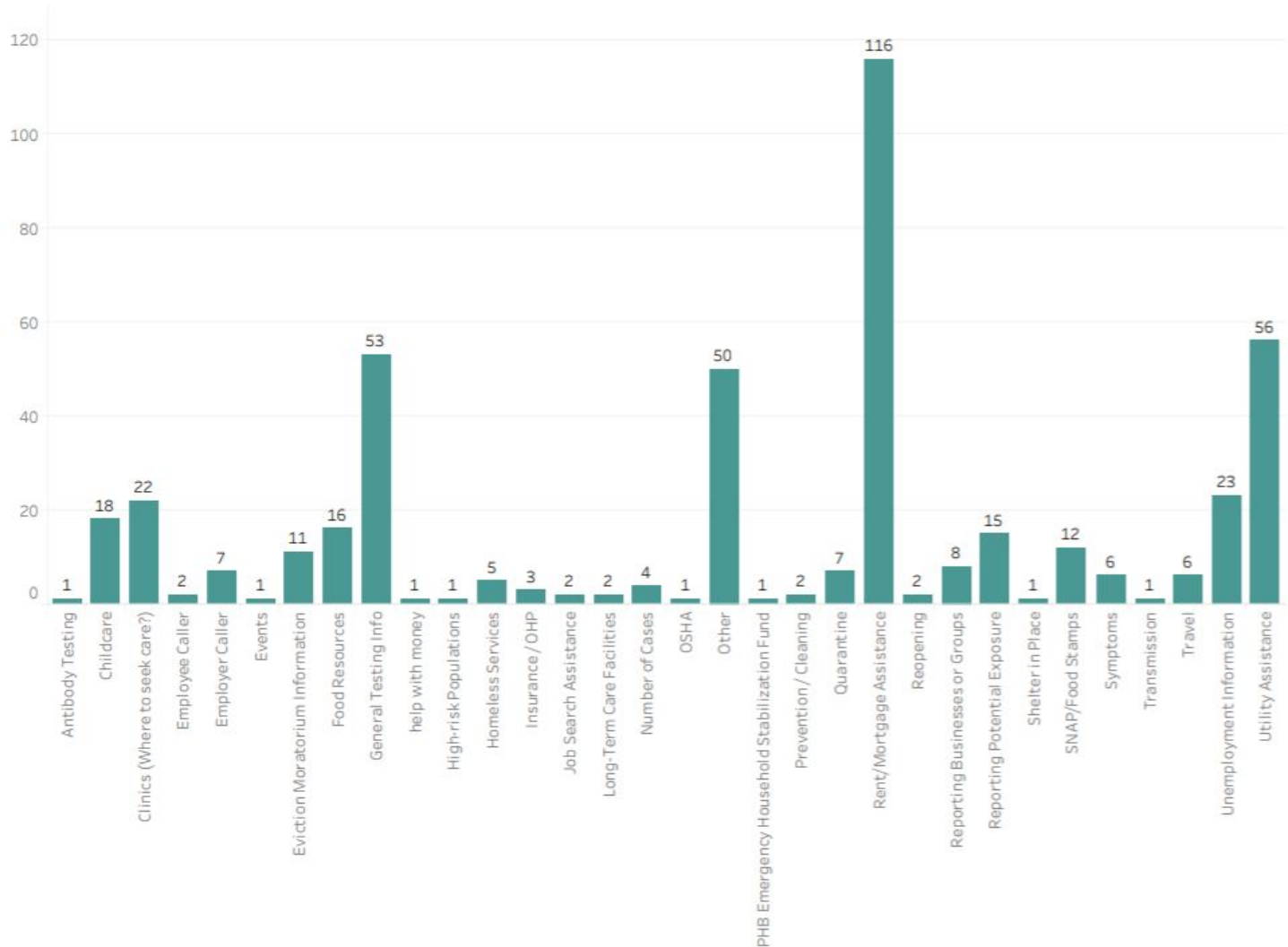


## 211 Calls

- There were 313 calls to 211 on Monday, October 5.
- The most common reason people called was to ask about rent/mortgage assistance. Other frequent inquiries were about utility assistance, general testing information, and unemployment information.

(chart on next page)

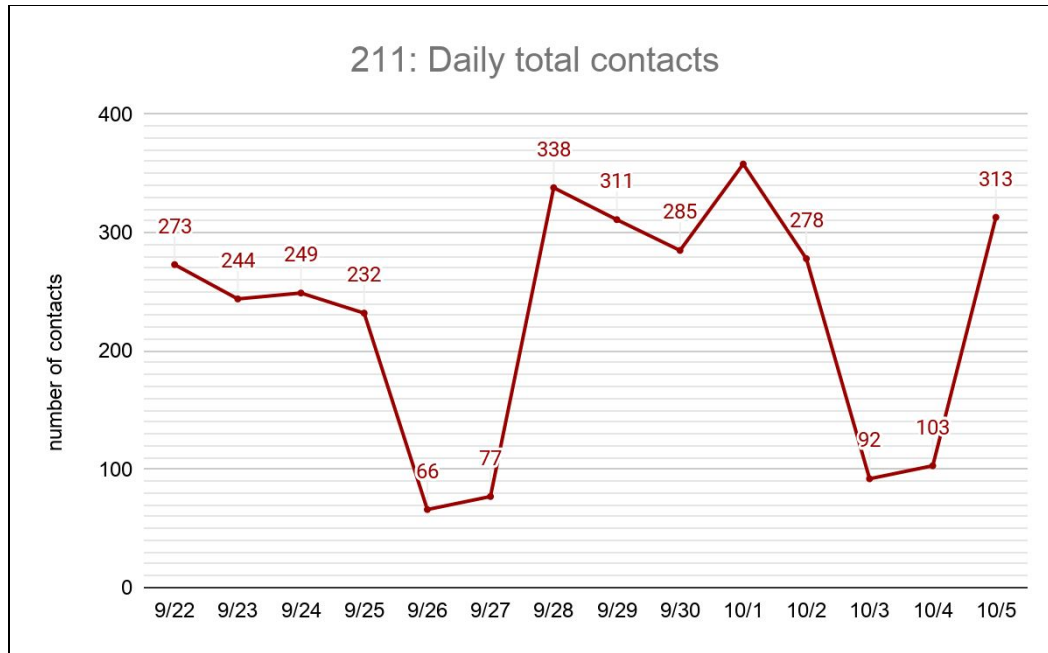
## Reason for Contact



Data for October 5, 2020.

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

(chart on next page)

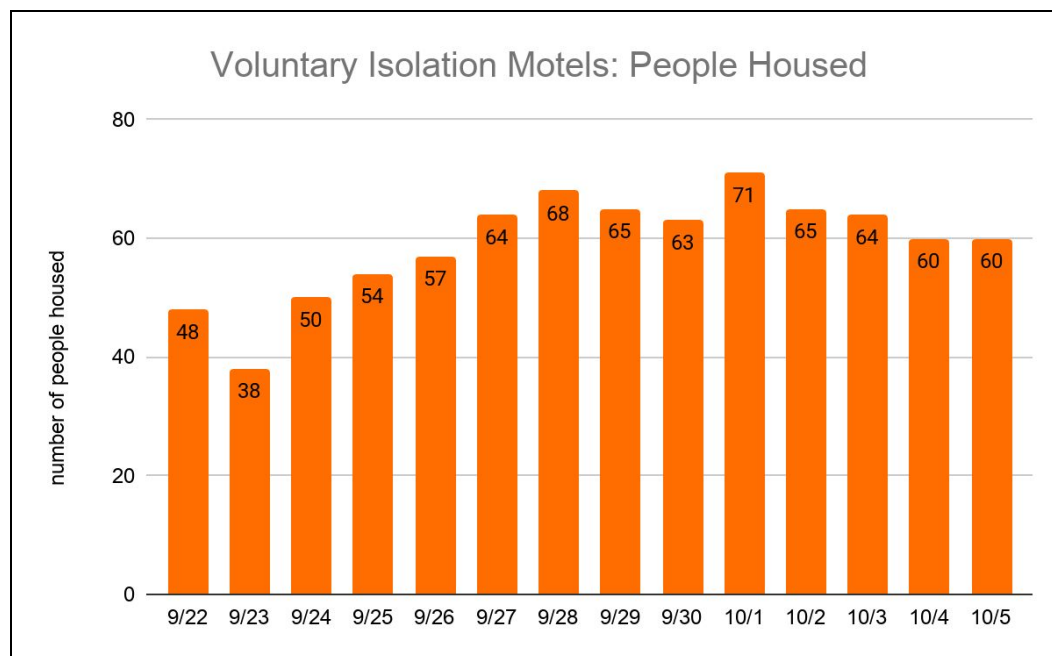
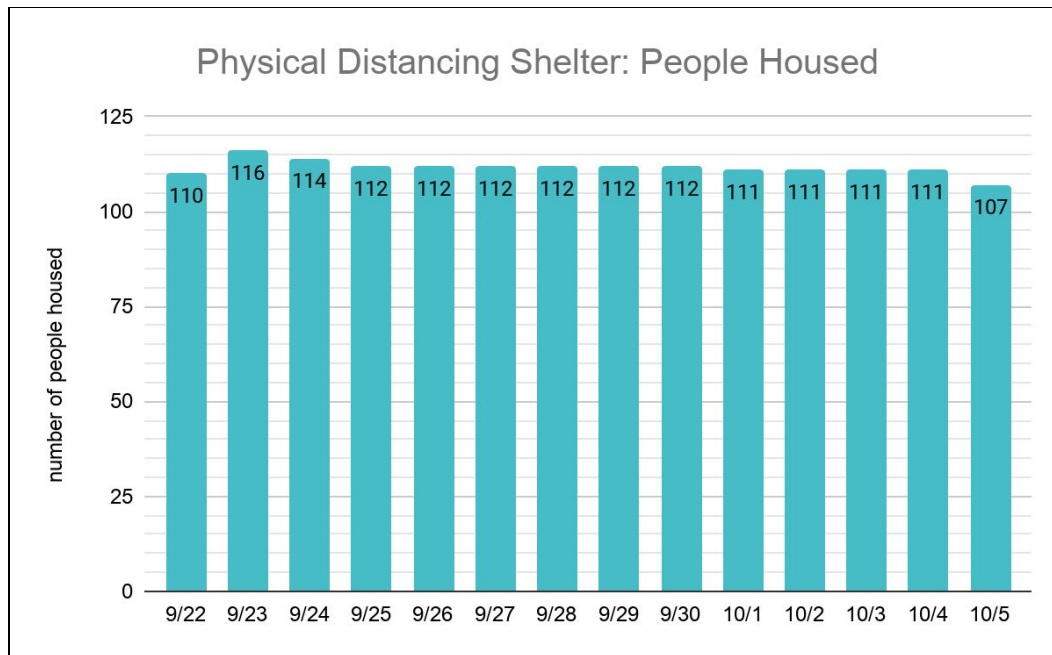


## COVID-19 Physical Distancing Shelter and Voluntary Isolation Motels (PDS/VIMos)

The COVID-19 Physical Distancing Shelter (PDS) and Voluntary Isolation Motels (VIMos) provide a total capacity of 260 beds -- **140 beds** in the PDS, and two VIMos with a total capacity of **120 beds**. The people supporting this work include all of the 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, and planning for shelter needs specific to winter weather is underway.

Weekly Metrics: During the week of **Monday, September 28** through **Sunday, October 4**, an average of **111 people** per night stayed in the County's Physical Distancing Shelter and an average of **65 people** per night stayed in the County's Voluntary Isolation Motels. The charts below show the number of people housed in these shelters and motels for each day of the past week.

*(charts on next page)*



## EOC Section: [Logistics](#)

The Logistics Section supports the response actions of all other EOC sections. Logistics focuses on procedures for activating, dispatching, distributing, prioritizing, allocating, tracking, and demobilizing resources needed for emergency and disaster operations in service of partners from: government, non-governmental organizations/non-profit, and private industry. For Multnomah County's COVID-19 response, important Logistics functions include, but are not limited to supporting the EOC, Physical Distancing Shelters (PDS), Voluntary Isolation Motels (VIMOs), processing resource requests, and the coordination of donated supplies.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the Logistics Section has worked diligently to address intersectional crises as they arise, which have included but are not limited to the regional wildfire response, smoke, and air quality issues. As part of these activities, Logistics has provided support to the Multnomah County and City of Portland's Joint Office of Homeless Services, as well as nonprofit partners such as the American Red Cross.

### 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 healthcare, shelter providers, and community organizations in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and respond to the current wildfire and air quality incidents.

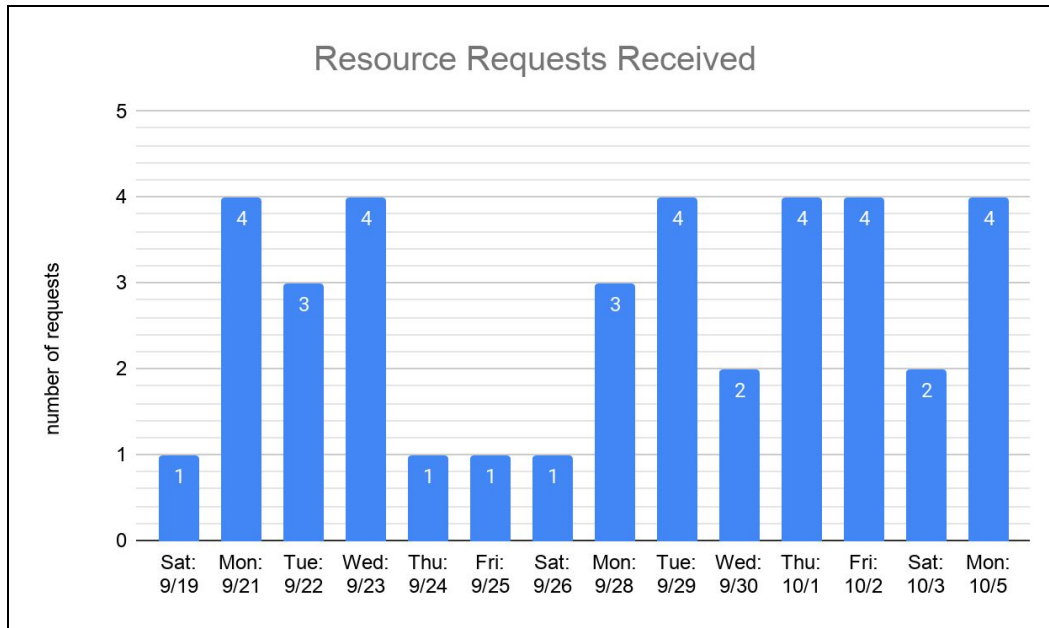
When allocating PPE for COVID-19, the Resource Request Unit prioritizes the needs of people living in congregate (group) settings, organizations experiencing an outbreak, organizations that perform life saving operations (hospitals, clinics, etc), and organizations that serve communities of color, people 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, the team provides information and answers 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 services 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.

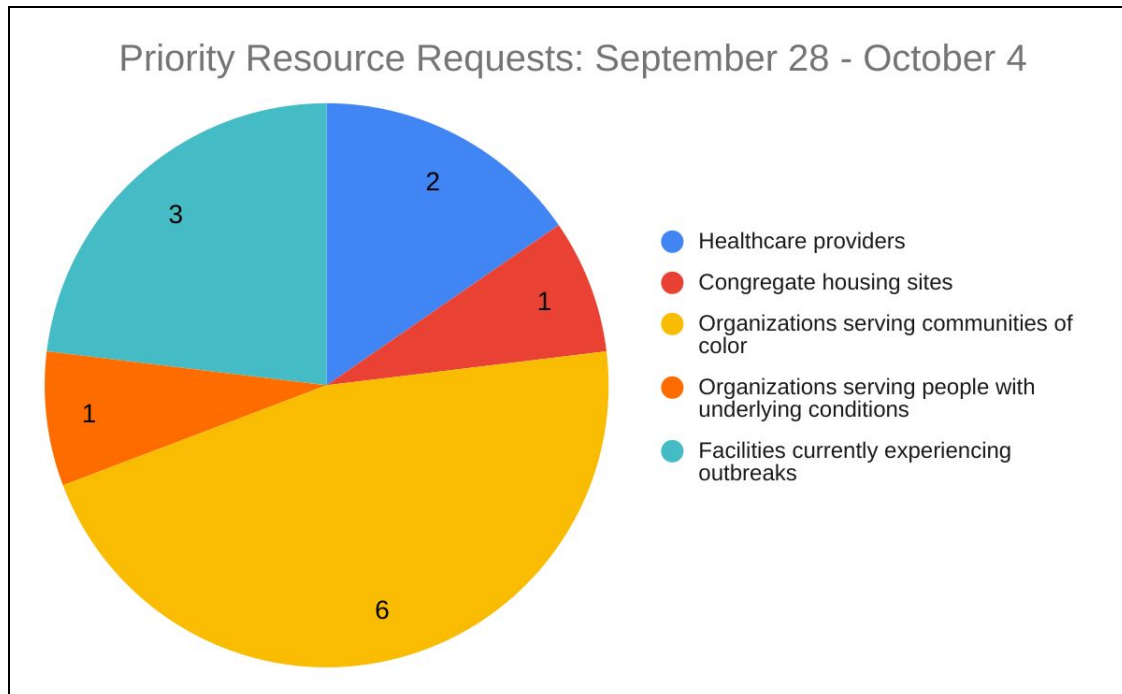
*(chart on next page)*





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

**Weekly Metrics:** During the week of **Monday, September 28** through **Sunday, October 4**, the Resource Request Unit processed **17** requests. Of these, **13** requests met the county's priorities to dedicate resources to the populations most impacted by COVID-19:



*Note: In the above chart, healthcare providers and congregate housing sites include those that may specifically serve communities of color or people ages 65+. In other words, if a healthcare provider organization or congregate housing site specifically serves communities of color or people ages 65+, they are categorized as healthcare providers or congregate housing sites and not counted as an organization serving communities of color or as an organization serving people 65+.*

## Donations Unit

**Cloth Face Covering Donations Project:** Multnomah County's emergency response team at the EOC has developed a re-energized campaign to increase donations of cloth face coverings. With a focus on child-sized face masks which are in the most scarce supply. These face coverings will be distributed to communities that have been the most impacted by COVID-19. The County's aim is to distribute 10,000 child-sized masks to children who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color, immigrants, or refugees, to other children in need, and to childcare providers. **A HUGE THANK YOU to our community!** Who donated over 23,000 face coverings. These were quickly distributed across the County.

- Child size face coverings are 6-by-6 inch and 7-by-7 inch.
- Cloth masks in unused and good condition, with two layers of tightly woven fabric (such as cotton or flannel) can be dropped off at:
  - Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (use the loading dock on SE 6th Ave.), 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Mondays and Wednesdays, or 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturdays

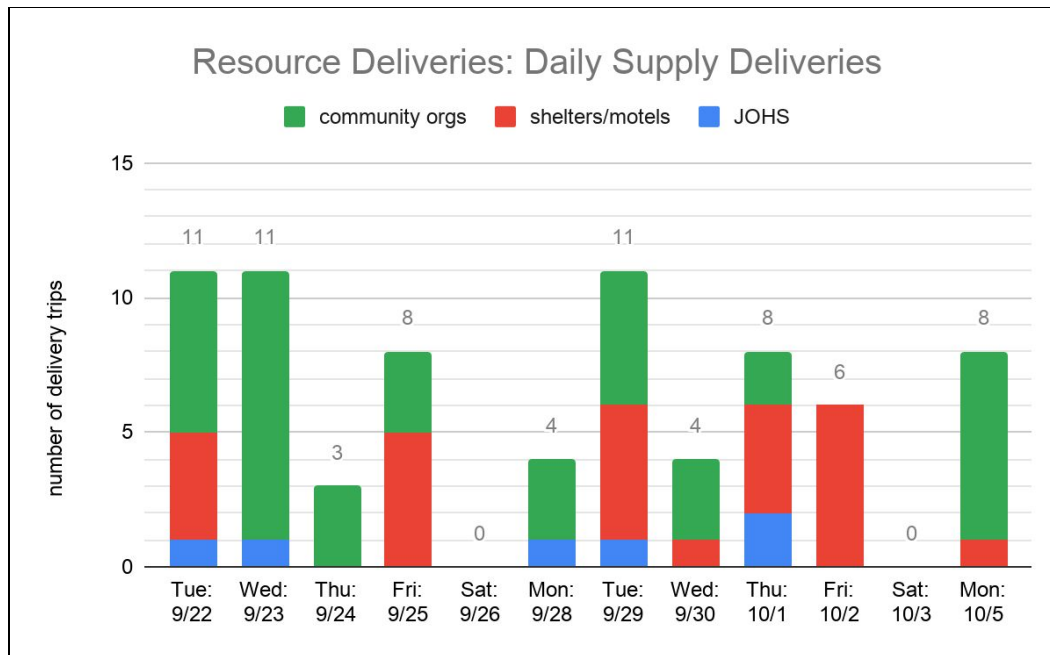
## Shelter Supply Unit

The Shelter Supply Unit works closely with the Mass Care and Shelter section to ensure that shelter guests have what they need for a comfortable stay. With the help of other Logistic Section units, they directly support nearly 250 staff and residents in these facilities with supplies, laundry, snacks, meals, medical assistance, and other services as requested. The Shelter Supply Unit strives to provide for the well-being of shelter residents by providing items such as comfort kits, clothing as needed, and entertainment options.

## 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 (PDS) and Voluntary Isolation Motels (VIMo), 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)*



*Note: Logistics operates Monday-Saturday, with on-call deliveries made on Sundays.*

**Weekly metrics:** Each week, the Logistics Section tracks the number of items that it delivers and picks up. The table below shows these deliveries by week for the current month.

Items delivered	Aug 29-Sept 4	Sept 5-11	Sept 12-18	Sept 19-25	Sept 26- Oct 2
8-24 oz hand sanitizer	512	4,522	945	700	444
Gallon hand sanitizer	22	62	76	69	59
Cloth face coverings	194	114	20	40	650
KN95 masks	18,090	51,371	62,280	7,850	9,710
N95 masks	0	0	0	0	2,031
Gowns/Suits	0	0	50	0	0
Face shields	400	1,222	533	393	102
Procedure masks	0	200	0	0	300
Other (varied items including test kits, goggles, etc.)	784	1,222	1014	0	0

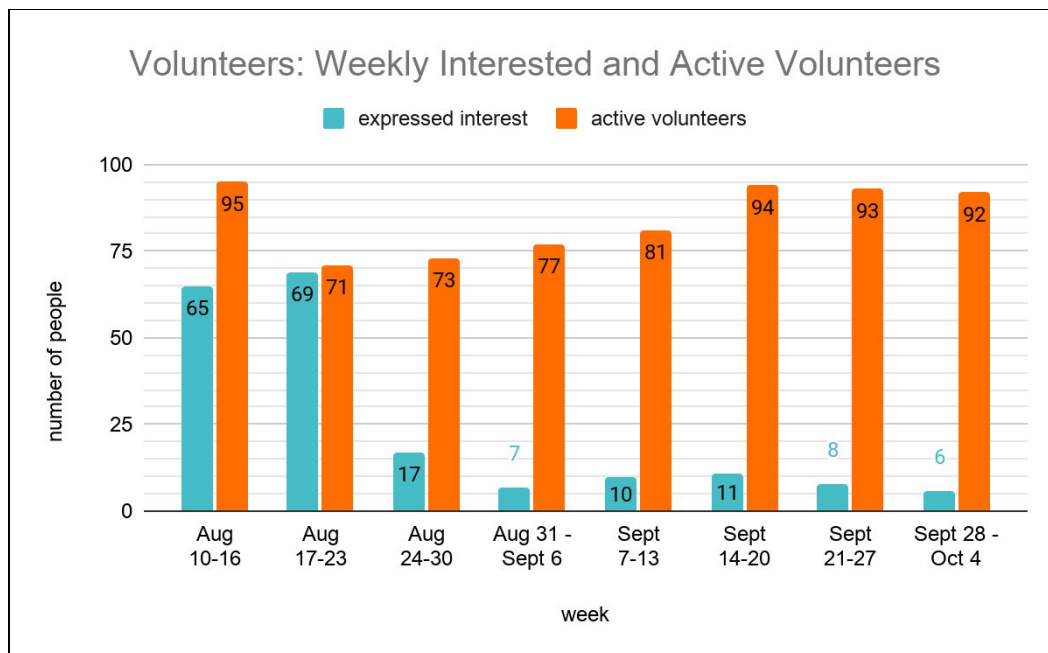
## EOC Section: [Administration](#)

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.

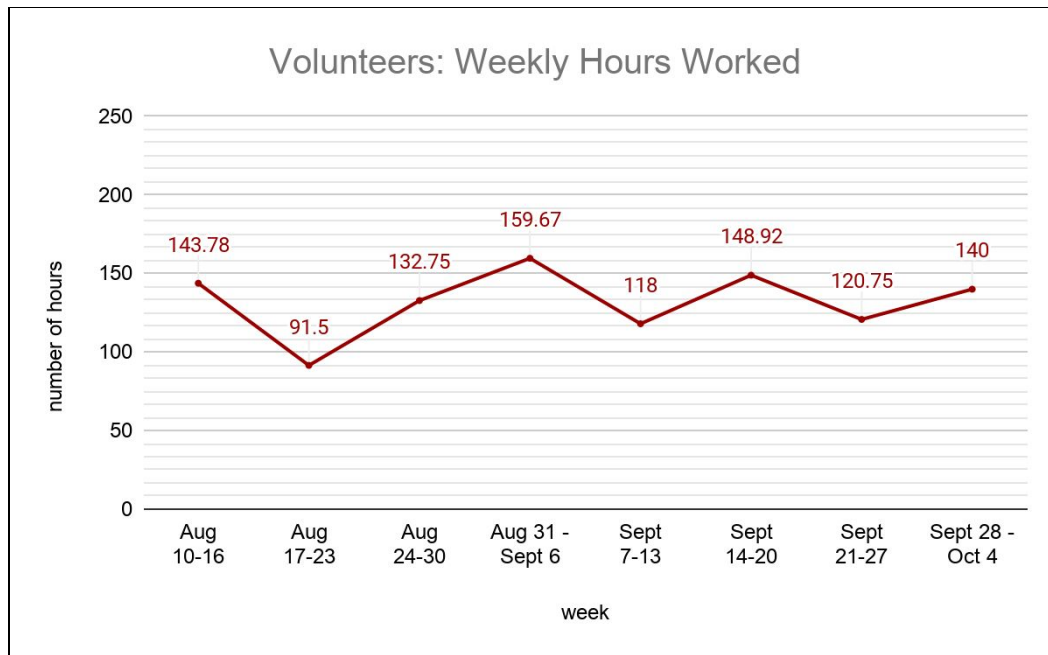
## Volunteers

The Volunteer Program of Multnomah County's COVID-19 emergency response works to recruit, screen, onboard and support volunteers for the Joint Office of Homeless Services' Emergency Physical Distancing Shelters and for other emergency response functions. The Volunteer Program bolsters and sustains the community response to COVID-19 in Multnomah County through promoting, organizing, and supporting safe volunteer activities and works closely with the City of Portland and other County Departments to prioritize support for historically underserved communities.

Weekly Metrics: The Volunteer Program tracks how many individuals complete an interest form to express interest in volunteering, the number of active volunteers, and the number of volunteer hours worked each week. The charts below show these metrics each week for the past several weeks.



(chart on next page)



As of October 4, 2020, a total of **936** individuals have completed the volunteer interest form. A total of **119 people** have volunteered their time with the EOC during the COVID-19 response, and active volunteers have worked a total of **6,163.78 hours**. Using the County's job class compensation guide as a metric, the value represented by this donated labor is **\$149,850.67**.

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

The Liaison Officers support 35 community representatives across 27 sectors. Their work fosters community connection and information sharing, offering spaces to problem solve, share resources, and discuss community experiences. A critical component of this work is the maintenance of a close connection with the County's Communicable Disease team to ensure this outreach is data driven. The Liaison Officers identify and track trends within the sectors and elevate these trends to the County's Emergency Response leadership team. This interconnectivity informs outreach efforts, public messaging, and policy development.

The 27 Community Sector Representatives use their subject-matter expertise to act as a critical link between the County's COVID-19 Emergency Response mission and the County's diverse communities. 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.

### Updates

This week's themes and trending questions in the Liaison Section:

- As colder months arrive and activities and gatherings can no longer be held outdoors, several community businesses and services are seeking indoor ventilation guidance. Multnomah County, WHO and EPA have all addressed indoor ventilation guidance:
  - [World Health Organization and Global Health Intervention Ventilation Guidance](#)
  - [WHO Q&A Ventilation and air conditioning in public spaces](#)
  - [Multnomah County HVAC Systems and the Spread of COVID-19](#)
  - [EPA Ventilation and Coronavirus](#)
- Clarification regarding who is included in guest counts, for example whether infants, staff, and presenters are included.
- Clarification regarding cleaning and sanitation guidelines, including which types of soaps are effective.
- Addressing questions on performances and presentations, including whether presenters and performers are required to use face coverings.
- Fielding inquiries regarding fitness centers in apartment buildings and hotels.
- Community members and neighborhoods are seeking safe trick-or-treating guidance. The County's guidance on [Get Togethers and Gatherings](#), [OHA's Tips for a Safe Halloween](#), and the Centers for Disease Control's tips on [Fall Holiday Celebrations](#) can help.

## Business

- The Portland Bureau of Transportation's (PBOT) [Winter Healthy Businesses program](#) has begun taking applications for permits to allow temporary changes to streets to give people more space to conduct business safely amid our current public health crisis. Winter Healthy Business permits will be applicable November 1 - March 31, 2021.

## Events and Venues

- Events and venues continue to remain a highly active sector. Multnomah County residents and venue operators are exploring a number of creative ways to host events safely, including drive-through and drive-in events. The latest guidance on [Gatherings and Indoor Social Get-togethers](#) was provided by the Oregon Health Authority on September 24.

## Faith Based and Community Organizations

- The Liaison Officers are working with the City of Portland to recruit volunteers already active in faith organizations or community-based organizations to help shape the work and programming of a group called Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD).

## Food Access

- [Multnomah County Schools Uniting Neighborhoods \(SUN\) Community School Food Pantries & Free Food Markets](#) are launching more school food distribution sites, with a goal of bringing the total number of sites to 29.

## Youth

- The Youth team is working to develop youth-to-youth social media messaging around COVID-19 safety guidance for Halloween and other upcoming holidays, using popular memes.



## Local Updates

### Media and Announcements

- On October 2, [Willamette Week reported](#) “The Portland Bureau of Transportation has announced it will allow [bars and restaurants] to continue operating their outdoor pop-up patios through March 31.” The article continues, stating, “Some new regulations come with the [Winter Healthy Business Program](#), which authorizes the use of tents in on-street parking spaces as well as extension cords and heaters.” This story was also reported by [KGW](#) and [KOIN](#).
- On October 4, [KGW reported](#) on COVID-19 safety precautions being added for local Halloween and fall traditions.
- On October 6, [Willamette Week reported](#), “A study conducted by the Seattle mayor’s office found Portland has the second-lowest rate of COVID-19 cases per capita of the nation’s 30 largest cities—behind only Seattle. Multnomah County has seen 8.9 infections per 1,000 people. That rate is just above Seattle’s 7.4 cases per 1,000.” The article continues, “. . . Oregon and Washington officials both acted comparatively swiftly to shut their states down when the pandemic began and have reopened only gradually. In Portland, mask wearing has not become a matter of partisan debate—it’s common practice.” This story was also reported by the [Seattle Times](#).

## State of Oregon and Regional Updates

### Media and Announcements

- On October 1, [The Oregonian/OregonLive reported](#) on COVID-19 safety precautions for Halloween.
- On October 2, [OPB reported](#) on the challenges facing Oregon’s undocumented workers who are struggling financially amid the COVID-19 pandemic without federal aid. The article notes, “It would cost around \$124 million to cover all of Oregon’s undocumented workers who have lost jobs or wages during the pandemic, according to estimates by the Oregon Center for Public Policy. Valdez said this need has likely grown because of the wildfires, another event that disproportionately affected Latino people.”
- On October 5, [OPB reported](#) on COVID-19 safety protocols being introduced at the state’s ski resorts. The article notes, “Apart from following the National Ski Areas Association COVID-19 guidelines, ski resorts are also following [Oregon Health Authority’s Outdoor Recreation Guidance](#). As coronavirus cases began to rise in September, and if diagnoses continue climbing into winter, there could be a possibility of ski areas closing back down.”
- On October 5, [OPB’s Think Out Loud program reported](#) on temporary changes to Oregon Department of Education’s school reopening metrics.

# National and International Updates

## Media and Announcements

- On September 30, [Kaiser Health News reported](#) on “post-COVID-19 clinics” treating patients with long-term lingering symptoms.
  - On October 2, the [Associated Press reported](#) that President Trump had tested positive for COVID-19. The [Associated Press continued to report](#) on Trump’s progress on October 3.
  - On October 3, [CNN reported](#) on the upward trend nationwide in COVID-19 cases. The article notes, “Twenty-four states saw their number of new cases rise at least 10% this week from the week before, according to a CNN analysis of data from Johns Hopkins University, and 19 states were holding steady.
  - On October 5, the [Associated Press reported](#), “The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization said Monday the agency’s “best estimates” indicate roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the coronavirus — more than 20 times the number of confirmed cases — and warned of a difficult period ahead.”
- 

# 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 regional and national COVID-19 information.

## 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://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.

Document Development Information	
Prepared By (Name & Position)	Lacey Legel and Melissa Walker, Situation Unit
Approved By (Name & Position)	Alice Busch, Deputy Unified Command
Date; Time Approved	10/06/20; 23:25 hours
Date of Next Situation Report	Wednesday, 10/14/20

## Articles & Reports Cited

### Announcements and Featured Media

- “Brief Report: COVID-19 Epidemic Trends and Projections in Oregon,” Oregon Health Authority, 1 October 2020 [Report dated,] 2 October 2020 [Report released,]  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/Oregon-COVID-19-Projections-2020-10-01.pdf>

### Local Updates

- “Restaurants and Bars Can Continue to Serve Customers on Pop-Up Patios This Winter,” by Andi Prewitt, *Willamette Week*, 2 October 2020,  
<https://www.wweek.com/restaurants/2020/10/02/restaurants-and-bars-can-continue-to-serve-customers-on-pop-up-patios-this-winter/>
- “PBOT OKs outdoor business permits through March 2021,” KOIN, 2 October 2020,  
<https://www.koin.com/news/health/coronavirus/pbot-oks-outdoor-business-permits-through-march-2021/>
- “Portland extends outdoor business program through winter,” by Morgan Romero, KGW, 5 October 2020,  
<https://www.kgw.com/article/money/business/portland-extends-outdoor-business-program-through-winter/283-01c74873-0e4f-4dec-8c29-0ae73322a45a>
- “Farms, pumpkin patches adjust to make Halloween traditions safer due to COVID-19,” by Tim Gordon, KGW, 4 October 2020,  
<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/halloween-traditions-changed-to-make-it-safer-due-to-covid-19/283-63561924-c794-4cf8-90e8-0bda5708ade6>
- “Portland Has the Nation’s Second-Lowest Rate of COVID-19 Infection Among Major Cities, Study Says,” by Aaron Mesh, *Willamette Week*, 6 October 2020,  
<https://www.wweek.com/news/2020/10/06/portland-has-the-nations-second-lowest-rate-of-covid-19-infection-study-says/>
- “Seattle may have lowest rate of COVID-19 cases among major U.S. cities,” by Gene Balk, *Seattle Times*, 5 October 2020,  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/seattle-may-have-lowest-rate-of-covid-19-cases-among-major-u-s-cities/>

### State of Oregon and Regional Updates

- “Oregon Health Authority says don’t trick or treat this year; here are 5 ways to celebrate Halloween during the coronavirus pandemic instead,” by Lizzy Acker, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive, 1 October 2020,  
<https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2020/10/oregon-health-authority-says-dont-trick-or-treat-this-year-here-are-5-ways-to-celebrate-halloween-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic-instead.html>
- “Oregon’s undocumented workers, left out of federal aid, struggle to make ends meet” by Tiffany Camhi, Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), 2 October 2020,  
<https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/02/oregons-undocumented-workers-left-out-of-federal-aid-struggle-to-make-ends-meet/>
- “Popular Oregon ski resorts implement new COVID-19 guidelines for upcoming winter season,” by Monica Samayoa, OPB, 5 October 2020,  
<https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/05/popular-oregon-ski-resorts-implement-new-covid-19-guidelines-for-upcoming-winter-season/>
- “Oregon Department of Education makes temporary change to COVID-19 school reopening standards,” by Tess Novotny, *Think Out Loud*, OPB, 5 October 2020,

<https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/05/oregon-department-of-education-makes-temporary-change-to-covid-19-school-reopening-standards/>

#### National and International Updates

- “Post-COVID Clinics Get Jump-Start From Patients With Lingering Illness,” by Julie Appleby, Kaiser Health News, 30 September 2020, <https://khn.org/news/post-covid-clinics-help-patients-recover-from-long-term-physical-mental-effects-of-coronavirus/amp/>
- “At least 24 states are now reporting more new COVID-19 cases than they did a week ago,” by Christina Maxouris and Jason Hanna, CNN, 3 October 2020, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/03/health/us-coronavirus-saturday/index.html>
- “Identify the Different Symptoms of the Flu and COVID-19,” by Donald G. McNeil Jr., *The New York Times*, 3 October 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/03/at-home/coronavirus-flu-symptoms.html>
- “Trump, first lady positive for virus; he has ‘mild symptoms’,” by Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller, Associated Press, 2 October 2020, <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-donald-trump-elections-melania-trump-michael-pence-f6ba3a16ab9b74b161a3a7211248e97e>
- “Trump said to be improving but next 48 hours ‘critical’,” by Jonathan Lemire, Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller, Associated Press, 3 October 2020, <https://apnews.com/article/election-2020-virus-outbreak-donald-trump-elections-campaigns-08fcfd3778ca3bbabd011307cf23dc8d>
- “WHO: 10% of world’s people may have been infected with virus,” by Jamey Keaten, Associated Press, 5 October 2020, <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-archive-united-nations-54a3a5869c9ae4ee623497691e796083>