



## **Question 1: I was near someone in the store who sneezed/coughed, do I need to self-isolate or get tested for COVID-19?**



**Answer:** No, you do not need to request COVID-19 testing unless you yourself develop COVID-19 symptoms. If you have symptoms, contact your provider or our COVID-19 information line (503-842-3940) for further assistance. There are many other illnesses such as allergies and colds that can cause you to sneeze and cough that are not COVID-19 related. In relation to being incidentally exposed to COVID-19, the CDC defines a “close contact” as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. This information is obtained through contact tracing and all individuals identified as “close contacts” will be notified by phone. Please respond if you are called by a contact tracer.



## **Question 2: What happens when a Contact Tracer calls me? Will they leave a message?**



**Answer:** A Contact Tracer will contact you if you yourself tested positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as a close contact to someone else who has. The Contact Tracer will ask you questions such as: What county you live in, your date of birth, your contact information, including phone number, email address, and mailing address, your occupation, whether you have symptoms of COVID-19 and race, ethnicity, language and disability information. All of this information is kept confidential. If you are a close contact, you will not be provided the name of the individual who tested positive to maintain confidentiality and to protect their private medical information (under HIPAA). Contact tracers will NEVER ask for your social security number, credit card, or immigration status. If the contact tracer is unable to reach you, they will leave a voicemail clearly identifying themselves and will request that you call back. The voicemail will not contain any health information.



### Question 3: Why are all contacts of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 **not** able to be tested?

**Answer:** With limited tests available, local public health agencies are following OHA guidelines for clinical testing. Clinical testing includes testing those who are symptomatic and those who are considered “close contacts” of a positive case by CDC definition (see above). Only “close contacts” with symptoms will be tested. For all others, COVID-19 testing may or may not be recommended for you. Contact your provider or our COVID-19 information line (503-842-3940) to determine which type of care or testing is best for you based on your individual presentation. Patients and providers should be aware that COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic individuals may not be covered by insurance (e.g., when there is no known contact or high-risk exposure to COVID-19).



### Question 4: What about false negative COVID-19 tests?

**Answer:** From the Oregon Health Authority, Viral tests are falsely negative in about 30% of patients with symptoms. If you test negative, assume that you may have COVID-19 and protect your community by isolating until symptoms resolve.





### **Question 5: Why do some counties seem to have more availability to conduct testing even for asymptomatic people?**

**Answer:** Although the State of Oregon and Oregon Health Authority want to increase testing for COVID-19, the state of Oregon currently has limited testing resources. Oregon counties with larger populations, greater prevalence of positive cases, workplace outbreaks, and/or significant populations that are high risk groups, have received more testing resources. This is to ensure the most efficient use of limited resources.



### **Question 6: When will antibody testing be available?**

**Answer:** Research on the efficacy of antibody testing is still being determined and there is still a high percent of test results that may be falsely positive. False positive rate depends on the specificity of the test used and the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. Even if you do have antibodies, it is not yet known whether they provide protection against reinfection. Until further research is done, antibody testing will not be available at your local health department.



## Question 7: Are there any workplace outbreaks in facilities/workplaces in Tillamook County?



**Answer:** Consistent with Oregon Health Authority rules, there have been no workplace outbreaks declared in Tillamook County. OHA tracks outbreaks of five or more employees at workplaces where there are at least 30 workers. Health officials say an outbreak remains active if there has been a case within the past 28 days. The case count for each workplace includes everyone who is linked to the outbreak, whether they are workers or a close contact.



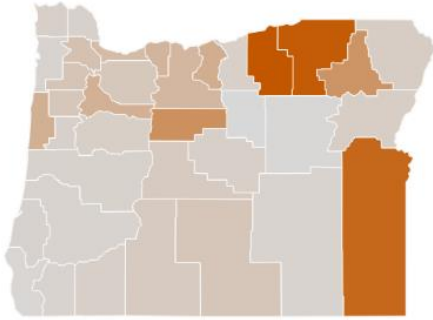
## Question 8: What if I do not have symptoms but want to get a test anyway?



**Answer:** Currently, due to limited testing and related supplies, medical providers in Tillamook County are not testing asymptomatic people. There are some resources available in our nearby counties, for example, Washington County. This link provides a number of sites where you can receive testing: <https://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/COVID-19/testing-sites.cfm>

Rite Aid is also opened testing sites as of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Here is a [katu.com](https://katu.com/news/local/rite-aid-expected-to-open-161-new-coronavirus-testing-sites) article that you might like:

<https://katu.com/news/local/rite-aid-expected-to-open-161-new-coronavirus-testing-sites>



**Question 9: How can I find more information on how many people have been tested for COVID-19, hospitalized, COVID-19 outcomes, etc.?**

**Answer:** The Oregon Health Authority is responsible for reporting all information regarding COVID-19 tracking. See their site for more information: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>



**Question 10: Where can I find additional answers to questions I might have about COVID-19?**

**Answer:** The Oregon Health Authority has a comprehensive *Frequently Asked Questions* page that can be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASES/Pages/COVID19-FAQ.aspx>

For community members with health concerns, please contact our COVID-19 nurse information line- 503.842.3940. If you are having an emergency please call 911.