# OPEN
SAFE
OREGON

Are Counties effectively containing the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19")?

County trends and risk assessment report for July 16, 2020

While Oregon has fared better than many states, keeping it that way will require quick intervention to avoid spiraling out of control. A test, trace, and isolate strategy is ineffective in a County with a severe outbreak. 3 counties are already out of control, and a further 4 are at risk without immediate action from the state.

This fact sheet uses a color scale (below) to show how Oregon's 36 counties are performing against benchmarks for containment, COVID testing, and contact tracing over the last week. Refer to page 2 to see how we assigned colors to each county for each of the three benchmarks.
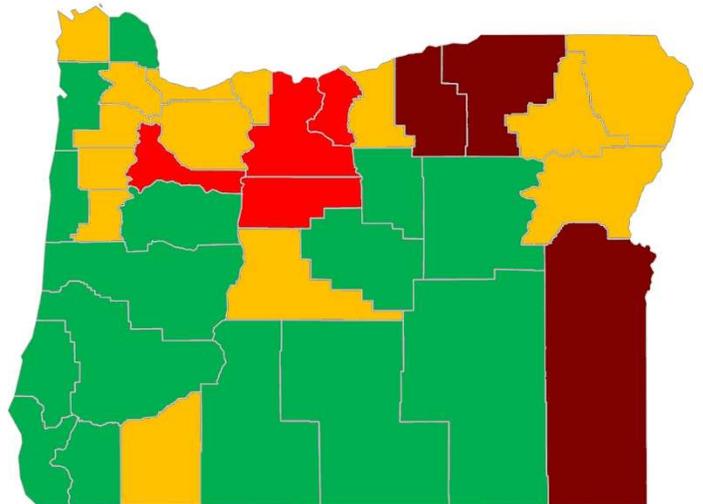
|	
Counties in this category are currently *meeting* containment benchmarks.	**GREEN**
Counties in this category should maintain all current restrictions.	**YELLOW**
Counties in both the "Red" and "Failing" categories are failing critical containment benchmarks, and should be locked down for at least 2 weeks.	**RED**
	FAILING

BENCHMARK 1: Daily COVID+

The first benchmark we are tracking is the 7-day moving average for daily COVID diagnoses per 100,000 population. To contain COVID-19, a community should try to keep this number below 3. Counties are assigned a color for this metric based on the scale below.

Oregon - Daily cases per 100,000 population over 60 days

Last Two Weeks

≤3	3-10	11-24	25+
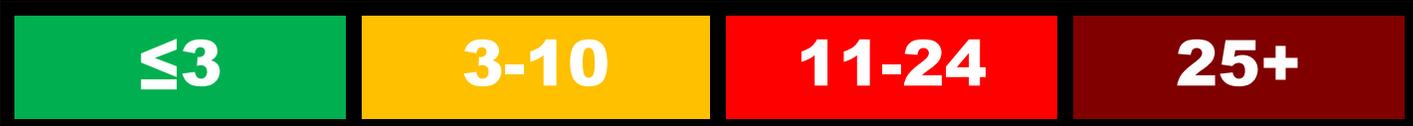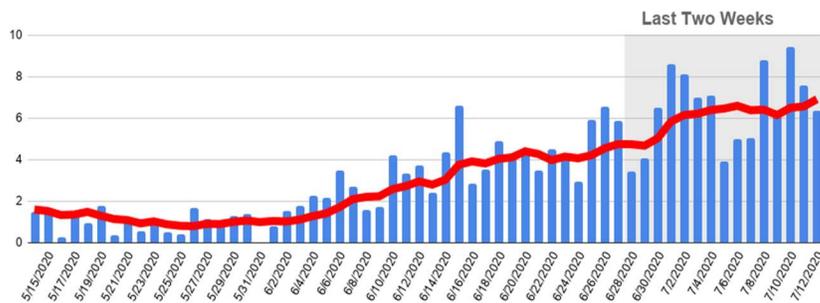
BENCHMARK 2: Testing

The WHO recommends a community test enough such that 5% or less of tests are returned positive. A higher number indicates too many infections are going undiagnosed, making a test & trace strategy impossible to implement.

≤5%
5-10%
11-14%
15%+
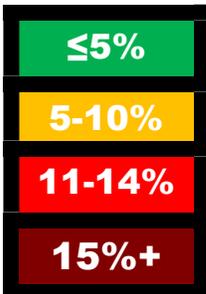
BENCHMARK 3: Tracing

We are tracking the percentage of cases that are tracked back to a known source of infection. A number above 30% indicates high levels of community spread, making a test & trace strategy impossible to implement.

≤20%
20-30%
30-49%
50%+

Benchmark 1: all counties

This map shows the grades of all 36 Oregon Counties on benchmark 1 – containment, measured by daily COVID+ cases reported per 100,000 population, averaged over the last 7 days (7/10-7/16).
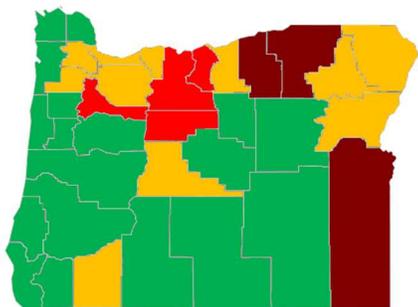

Benchmark 2: all counties

This map shows the grades of all 36 Oregon Counties on benchmark 2 – testing adequacy, measured by the percentage of COVID tests returned positive, averaged over the last week of available OHA data (7/6-7/12).
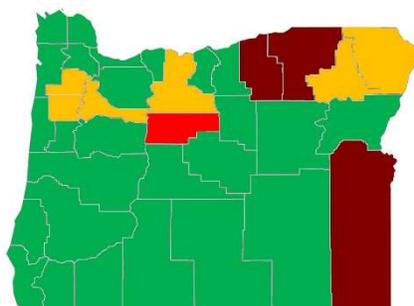
Benchmark 3: all counties

This map shows the grades of all 36 Oregon Counties on benchmark 3 – contact tracing, measured by the percentage of COVID cases that could not be traced back to a known source over the last week of available OHA data (7/6-7/12).
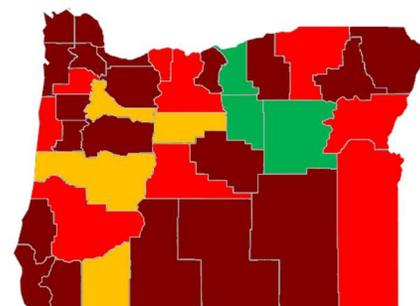
CORRECTIONS – Issued July 21, 2020

We have identified several minor errors and one major error in the original version of this report, released on July 17th, 2020. Accordingly, we are releasing this updated report with corrections. The following changes have been made:

- Due to a data entry error, case counts for Jackson, Jefferson, and Josephine Counties were incorrect. We have corrected the figures.
- Josephine County was moved to "Green" as a result of this change. Accordingly, we are not calling for a lockdown in that community.
- Sherman County was moved to "Red" as a result of this change. This does not change our recommendations related to Sherman County.
- Due to a data entry error, Benton County was incorrectly listed as "Green." We have moved it to "Yellow." Since there are no current plans to lift restrictions further anywhere in Oregon, this does not change any recommendations related to Benton County.
- Clatsop County was placed out of alphabetical order under the "Green" section. This has been corrected.
- Daily case chart for Yamhill County incorrectly showed figures for Umatilla County. The chart has been replaced with the correct figures.
- Several metrics were given the wrong color grade for some counties, despite having correct figures.

OSPIRG takes the integrity of our research extremely seriously, and we aim to be fully transparent when we make mistakes. However, we do stand by our numbers and recommendations – and after a full review, we do not believe there are any further errors in the data. Fortunately, the only recommendations we had to change were connected to Josephine County.

We welcome constructive criticism and feedback, and encourage members of the public to contact us when we make a mistake. As Oregon continues to fight to contain COVID-19, we will continue to track these critical metrics and issue recommendations.

FAILING Counties (alphabetical)

Malheur County

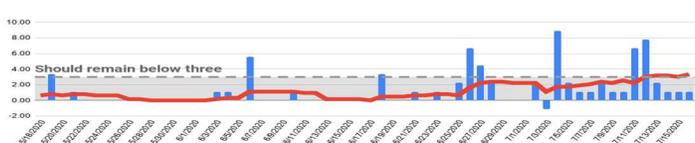Baker County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average
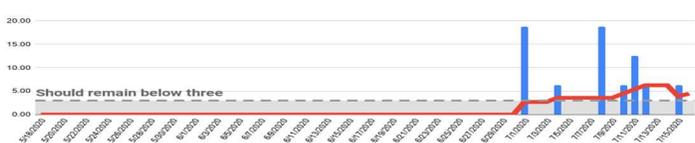
Daily COVID+ 93/100k	Test Positivity 33.2%	Untraced Cases 48%

Morrow County

Benton County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 53/100k	Test Positivity 25.2%	Untraced Cases 81%

Umatilla County

Clackamas County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving avg.

Daily COVID+ 56/100k	Test Positivity 21.4%	Untraced Cases 45%

RED Counties (alphabetical)

Jefferson County

Jefferson County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 20/100k	Test Positivity 11.6%	Untraced Cases 24%

Marion County

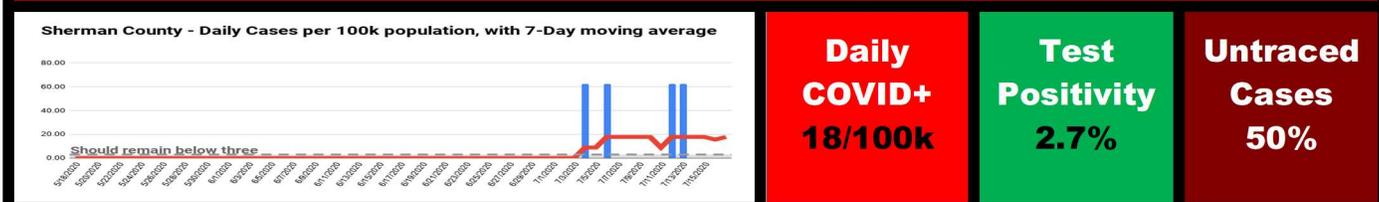Marion County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average
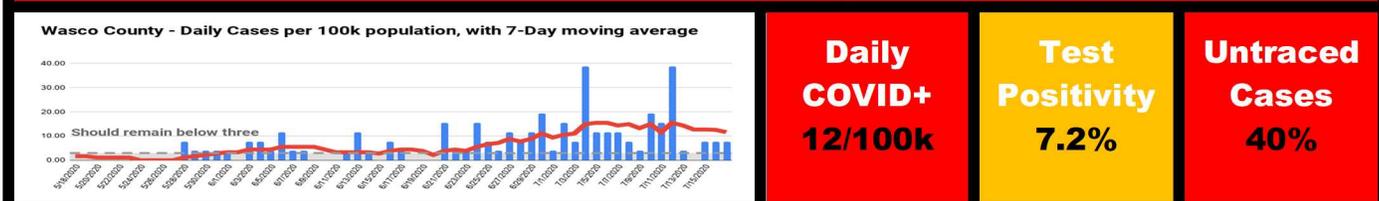
Daily COVID+ 12/100k	Test Positivity 8.2%	Untraced Cases 25%

Sherman County

Sherman County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

	Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
	18/100k	2.7%	50%

Wasco County

Wasco County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

	Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
	12/100k	7.2%	40%

YELLOW Counties (alphabetical)

Baker County

Baker County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

	Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
	4/100k	5.0%	43%

Benton County

Benton County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

	Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
	4/100k	4.2%	57%

Clackamas County

Clackamas County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving avg.

	Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
	6/100k	4.2%	57%
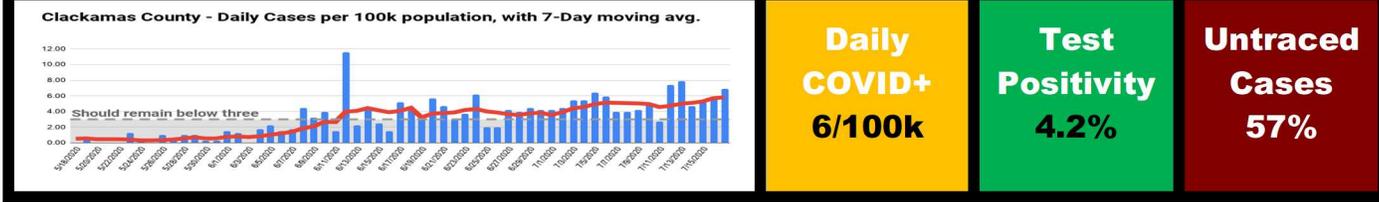
Deschutes County

Deschutes County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 7/100k	Test Positivity 3.5%	Untraced Cases 35%

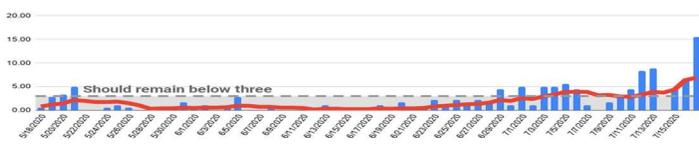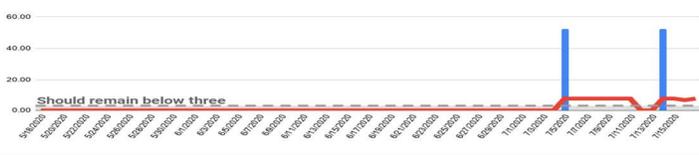# Gilliam County

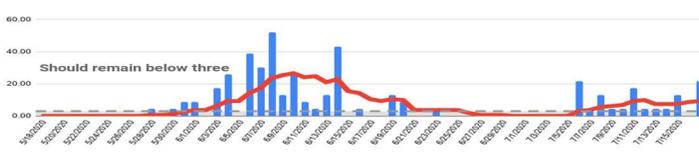**Gilliam County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average**

Daily COVID+ 7/100k	Test Positivity 0%	Untraced Cases 0%

Hood River County

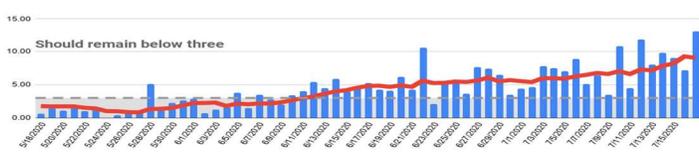**Hood River County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving avg.**

Daily COVID+ 9/100k	Test Positivity 2.6%	Untraced Cases 36%

Multnomah County

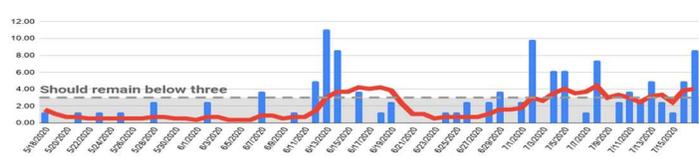**Multnomah County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving avg.**

Daily COVID+ 9/100k	Test Positivity 4.7%	Untraced Cases 54%

Polk County

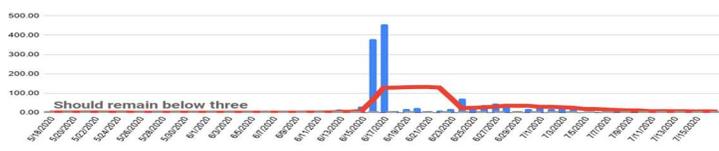**Polk County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average**

Daily COVID+ 4/100k	Test Positivity 6.7%	Untraced Cases 67%

Union County

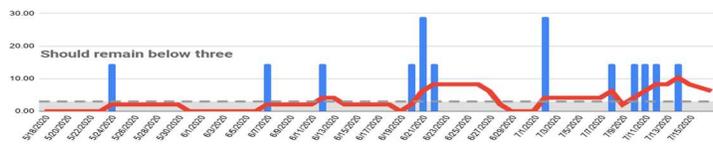Union County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
5/100k	5.5%	71%

Wallowa County

Wallowa County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
6/100k	8.5%	100%

Washington County

Washington County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving avg.
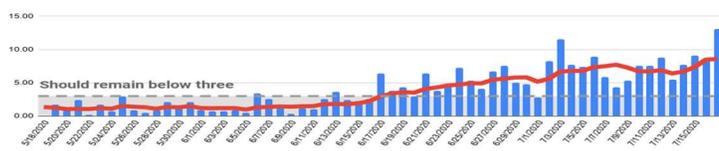
Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
9/100k	5.0%	51%

Yamhill County

Yamhill County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+	Test Positivity	Untraced Cases
7/100k	6.2%	34%

Green Counties (alphabetical)

Clatsop County

Clatsop County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 1/100k	Test Positivity 1.2%	Untraced Cases 75%

Columbia County

Columbia County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 3/100k	Test Positivity 2.3%	Untraced Cases 78%

Coos County

Coos County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average
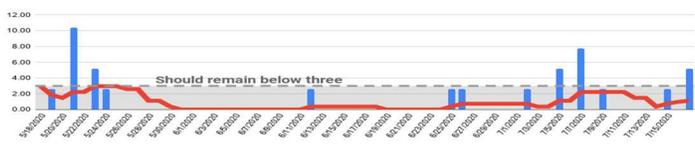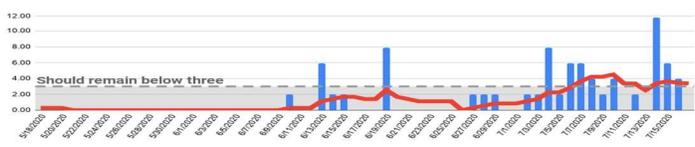
Should remain below three
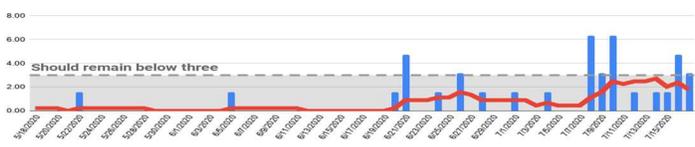
Daily COVID+ 2/100k	Test Positivity 3.1%	Untraced Cases 70%

Crook County

Crook County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three
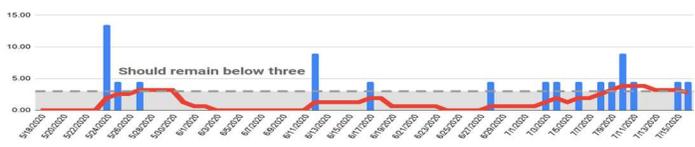
Daily COVID+ 2/100k	Test Positivity 4.7%	Untraced Cases 60%

Curry County

Curry County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 0/100k	Test Positivity 0.0%	Untraced Cases 100%

Douglas County

Douglas County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 2/100k	Test Positivity 1.7%	Untraced Cases 36%

Grant County

Grant County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 0/100k	Test Positivity 0.0%	Untraced Cases 0%

Harney County

Harney County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 0/100k	Test Positivity 2.8%	Untraced Cases 100%

Jackson County

Jackson County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 3/100k	Test Positivity 1.6%	Untraced Cases 27%

Josephine County

Josephine County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 2/100k	Test Positivity 2.8%	Untraced Cases 50%

Klamath County

Klamath County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Daily COVID+ 3/100k	Test Positivity 1.9%	Untraced Cases 71%

Lake County

Lake County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 0/100k	Test Positivity 2%	Untraced Cases 100%

Lane County

Lane County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 3/100k	Test Positivity 1.9%	Untraced Cases 24%

Lincoln County

Lincoln County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 1/100k	Test Positivity 4.6%	Untraced Cases 30%

Linn County

Linn County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 3/100k	Test Positivity 2.6%	Untraced Cases 72%

Tillamook County

Tillamook County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 3/100k	Test Positivity 1.4%	Untraced Cases 100%

Wheeler County

Wheeler County - Daily Cases per 100k population, with 7-Day moving average

Should remain below three

Daily COVID+ 0/100k	Test Positivity 0.0%	Untraced Cases 0%

Policy Recommendations

FAILING Counties	Counties in both of these categories are badly failing benchmarks for either testing capacity or case growth. Counties in the "Failing" category are not even close to meeting benchmarks, and will have to make significant progress before reopening. Insufficient testing and high rates of infection indicate a level of community spread that probably cannot be contained through a test & trace strategy alone.
RED Counties	This means a stay-at-home order is probably necessary to bring infections to a manageable level. OSPIRG recommends implementation of a full lockdown in these counties for at least 2 weeks – including closures of all non-essential businesses, stay-at-home guidance, and deployment of additional state resources to assist with physical distancing and face covering requirements in essential businesses.
YELLOW Counties	Counties in the "Yellow" category are not meeting either the containment or testing benchmark, but are close– meaning it may be possible to bring the outbreaks in these communities under control through a test & trace strategy. OSPIRG recommends that these Counties maintain all current public health interventions, and be prepared to take additional steps if daily cases rise any further. *Note: many of these counties are failing our contact tracing benchmark, which is not factored into our overall grade.*
GREEN Counties	Counties in the "Green" category are currently meeting both containment and testing benchmarks. If infections remain at current levels in these communities, they should be able to effectively respond to COVID-19 through a test & trace strategy. *Note: many of these counties are failing our contact tracing benchmark, which is not factored into our overall grade.*

Statewide Policy Recommendations

- Inconsistent application of the principles in Governor Brown's "Building a Safe & Strong Oregon" plan have left county governments, businesses, and consumers guessing as to what comes next. The state should define clear benchmarks for placing additional containment measures on poorly performing counties, and apply them consistently across the state.
- Other states, including California, New York, Texas, and Florida, have recognized that some types of business, especially bars and indoor dining rooms, cannot be operated safely with current levels of community spread for COVID-19. Without an interstate travel ban or robust quarantine procedures at Oregon's borders, bars and indoor dining rooms should be shuttered throughout the state until the virus is brought under control nationwide.
- The virus doesn't care whether an indoor gathering is a book club, a fraternity party, or a church service. Restrictions on the size of gatherings should be applied uniformly across all types of indoor activity.

Oregon has fared better than most states during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that's only because we acted quickly to lock down the state in March, when the virus was not prevalent. The Oregon Health Authority's most recent modeling already shows the pandemic has the potential to spiral out of control in Oregon – as we've seen in other states over the last two months. Governor Brown should act now, proactively, to prevent outbreaks, rather than scrambling to get things back under control once it's already too late.

For more information, contact:

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NOTES AND CITATIONS

- Cover photo Credit: Skeeze, from www.Pixabay.com.
- Color ratings for case positivity & testing capacity adapted from COVID Exit Strategy, www.covidexitstrategy.org.
- Map graphic from Free Vector Maps, www.freevectormaps.com.
- Data for daily COVID+ by county from USA Facts, at https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/.
- Per capita case counts calculated using 2019 US census projections for Oregon counties. www.census.gov.
- Policy recommendations are derived from *Key Metrics for COVID Suppression*, released by Harvard Global Health Institute. URL: https://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/key_metrics_and_indicators_v4.pdf
- County level testing data and sporadic case rate from Oregon Health Authority: https://public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19#!/vizhome/OregonCOVID-19PublicHealthIndicators/COVID-19Burden.
- A county's overall grade is assigned based on the worse of a county's results for containment and testing. Contact tracing is not factored into the overall grade, due to volatility.