



**From the office of Mayor Hank Williams  
Regarding COVID-19**

**April 14, 2020**

As we move several weeks into the global pandemic of COVID-19, each of us is wondering how long this infectious virus might impact our daily lives, jobs, education, and social activities. The circumstances and full effect of what is happening will not be known for some time, and the unknown is a worrisome thought. However, there are things we do know, and those are the things that should continue to receive our focus.

As of yesterday, there were 47 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Jackson County. Jackson County has done a fantastic job collaborating with local healthcare partners to give us one of the highest testing rates per capita in the United States. Although aggressive testing equates to a higher number of positive results, it remains the single-most effective way to detect and control the rate of COVID-19 infection in our community. We are fortunate to have a County and local health providers that have reacted quickly and are doing a thorough job of limiting those impacted in our community.

The past week has shown some encouraging news both nationally and locally, with the rate of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths slowing (curve is beginning to flatten). These positive trends are a direct result of the excellent work each of you has been doing to keep our neighbors, friends, and families safe. However, until new infections are reduced to a level that allows health experts to begin advising differently, the recommendations of Governor Brown and the Jackson Public Health Department should be followed so we may each do our part to “stop the spread.” Although challenging, continuing to follow social distancing recommendations will allow our local business community to return sooner rather than later.

**Stay home, save lives.** The best way to stay healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home. You must also limit things you do outside your home to what you must do. Examples of things you must do are shopping for food or picking up medicines. The Governor’s order does not allow gatherings where people cannot keep 6 feet apart. Also, the order does not allow social events and non-essential business where people come into close contact.

If you must leave your home for essential activities, you should:

1. Maintain 6 feet between you and all other people. Wash or sanitize your hands after contact with any surface. Do not touch your face, except after washing or sanitizing your hands.
2. Avoid groups and contact with other people.
3. Wear a cloth covering for your nose and mouth to protect others if you can’t keep 6 feet apart. Do so, even if you feel well and do not show symptoms of illness.
4. Do not place a cloth covering for the nose and mouth on children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or who cannot remove the covering themselves.
5. Stay home if you are sick. Stay home and consult with your doctor or a clinic if you are ill with any of these symptoms:
  - Fever of 100° or higher
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath

If you need help to find a clinic, call 211.

**Keep your distance. Slow the spread.** For more information on physical distancing and Oregon's novel coronavirus response, visit [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus). Many essential Central Point businesses are still operating with reduced hours. Many restaurants are offering drive-thru, pickup, and delivery options – please continue to support these community establishments. The Central Point Chamber of Commerce is keeping an updated list of “take out” options on their website and Facebook page:

<https://centralpointchamber.org>

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/CentralPointChamber/notes/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CentralPointChamber/notes/?ref=page_internal)

Additionally, the Central Point Chamber of Commerce and City of Central Point are partnering to support our local business community during these difficult times. Specifically, the amount of information being distributed regarding business assistance programs and financial resources is overwhelming. In an effort to provide the most critical business resources, both the Central Point Chamber and City of Central Point have organized business assistance resources on our respective websites.

<https://centralpointchamber.org/covid-resources>

<https://www.oregon4biz.com/Coronavirus-Information>

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

We are a community of capable, talented, and full-hearted individuals who fill roles in health care, education, public safety, public works, first response, business, and civic organizations. I am proud of everyone who continues to do their very best every day to keep our City going, especially during trying times such as these.

Earlier today, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington announced a partnership (<https://www.oregon.gov/newsroom/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=36352>) to begin evaluating the process for reopening our states and economies. This partnership is welcome news, but as we begin to plan for the future, we should remain diligent in continuing our efforts to keep our community healthy. How can you do your part? Adhere to the health guidelines spelled out earlier, have patience, enjoy the unexpected slower pace of life, find a way to help your fellow man, and provide encouragement to your family and friends.

Working together, we will overcome these challenges and come out a stronger Central Point community!

Healthy Regards,

Central Point Mayor

*Hank Williams*