

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 29, 2020**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a review of the most recent data regarding Covid in Oregon, Polk, and Marion County. Oregon Currently has a total of 32,994 Covid cases, 547 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 6.3%.

Polk County has a total of 532 COVID-19 cases, 15 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 4.4% which is a decrease from the previous week. There is 1 hospitalization in Polk County and 371 have recovered. There were 641.4 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

Marion County has a total of 4,695, 94 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 10.6%. There is 1 hospitalization in Marion County and 557 have recovered. There were 1,350 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

The outbreak at Dallas Retirement Village ends today.

Ms. Umstead reported that staffing for the WOU contact tracers is consistent and that there are new contact tracers currently in training. Willamette Workforce is continually screening candidates and will let us know if they come across one that is qualified to be a case investigator.

There has been 1 temporary Public Health Worker who is now working full time and working her own cases. Public Health plans to hire one more Public Health Worker for weekend support. Douglas County is still willing to provided assistance but it has not been needed.

Ms. Umstead informed the Board that they are still in the process of establishing MOU's with all of the CBO's. All of the MOU's have been sent to the CBO's and they have received 8 back so far out of the 17. They will be meeting with the various CBO's in group based on what services they plan to provide to Polk County.

The Public Health Indicators were reviewed and Marion and Polk County combined saw an uptrend at 10.7% in percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days. Marion County alone had an uptrend at 11.7% and Polk County also had an uptrend at 5.9%.

Marion and Polk county combine saw -.8% decrease in the percent of new cases in the last 7 days. Marion County had had a -.3% in this metric and Polk County had a -.38%. In Polk County there were 322 tests performed and 19 of those were positive.

Polk County had 25% of cases not traced to a known source, which tell Public Health that it is community spread. Marion County had 26% of cases not traced to a known source. Both

counties are meeting the metric regarding following up with new cases within 24 hours. Marion County is at 99% and Polk is at 100%.

Ms. Umstead also provided the Board with an updated printout showing the criteria for in person instruction and current data for Polk and Marion County. Commissioner Pope asked if the 15 minute rapid test will have any effect on getting kids back to school. Ms. Umstead responded that the rapid test machine is already at West Valley Hospital and that the long term care facilities will be getting them soon as well. With more of these available there will be more testing which will affect the numbers but it is not possible to predict how. If there are more negative tests then it will be good but if there are a lot more positive then it will make it harder for counties to meet the metrics requirements that are currently in place for in-person instruction.

Ms. Umstead said that the state has been talking about rolling out a regional testing plan but that she has not received any information on what that will look like. OHA is preparing to hire regional coordinators to lead this effort. Commissioner Pope wants to let the state know that they want more tests available in Polk County. Commissioner Pope stated that if more people are being tested they will know who needs to be self-quarantining and that is what we need to get our kids back in school and get people back to work.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that the last week they only had 2 orders and they were both internal. Mr. Bender will not be giving weekly updates to the Board because the PPE stock is well under control and they will be updated if something changes.

Mr. Bender updated the Board on the situation at the Fairgrounds. There are still 48 animals there but people are being moved out and back to Marion County. The Halls Ridge Tower burnt down and he has sent an invoice to Marion County for the lost equipment. Oregon Health Authority offered masks when the smoke was thick and the air quality was hazardous. The masks were received this week but the smoke has since cleared so he will be distributing those to our local fire departments to help them restock their supplies that were depleted during that time.

**4. NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

a. **COMMUNITY SUPPORT** –

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, asked the Board if they would like to reach out to the businesses that stepped up and volunteered services, food, or time during the wildfire crisis. The Board agreed they would like to send a letter to all of them thanking them for their generosity and willingness to lend a helping hand anyway they could.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.