

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 6, 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 MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 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 35,049 Covid cases, 572 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 6.3%, which has not changed from the previous week.

Polk County has a total of 562 COVID-19 cases, 15 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 4.2% which is a decrease from the previous week. There is 1 hospitalization in Polk County. There were 670.3 positive cases per 100,000 people tested and 21 individuals who are currently isolating.

Marion County has a total of 4,976, 99 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 10.7%. There is 1 hospitalization in Marion County and there were 1,431 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

Capital Manor has 2 positive cases. Salem Health has a total of 48 positive staff as of the 9/30 OHA weekly report. That number represents a total number of positive cases since reporting began.

The contact tracers from WOU continue to be a big help. There are 12 contact tracers, 2 coordinators, and 2 professors providing oversight. Willamette Workforce will forward any applications to us if there are any that meet the qualifications for a case investigator. The Public Health department's temporary worker is now working full time and working her own cases. They plan to hire one more temporary public health worker for weekend support.

Ms. Umstead stated that she has sent out all of the MOU's to the Community Based Organizations (CBO) and have received 10 back so far. She is meeting with the CBO's today who are engaging in outreach and education.

There is an Alluvium pop up testing event in Polk Count proposed for the end of October. BinaxNOW which is a 15 minute portable test that is being distributed by OHA to current testing sites and OHA is going to be releasing new testing guidelines sometime this week. This should expand testing to asymptomatic and close contacts.

For the most recent reporting period, September 13<sup>th</sup> through September 26<sup>th</sup>, Polk County was under the 1.5% target for percent of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness at .5%. There was a downtrend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days and we are at 3.7%. In Polk County there were 511 tests performed during this review period and 19 of those were positive. There was a 33% increase in the number of new cases in the last 7 days and

32% of cases were not traced to a known source. There is no trend for hospitalizations in Polk County and 96% of positive cases were followed up on within 24 hours.

Marion County is also at .5% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness. They are currently on a downtrend at 11.1% of tests that are positive within the last 7 days. They tested 2,176 people and 242 were positive. They had a 17% increase in new cases in the last 7 days. 24% of cases were not traced to a known source. There is no trend for Marion County's hospitalizations and 100% of cases were followed up on within 24 hours.

John Golly, Dallas Resident, asked if the death numbers in Polk County include people that die from things other than COVID-19 but are still carriers. Ms. Umstead stated that they would not test somebody after the fact. If somebody was in the hospital for surgery and was tested positive for COVID-19 and something happened and they then died, they would be counted as a COVID-19 death. Mr. Golly wants to know if there is a way to track those separately. The state does not do that and Ms. Umstead stated that she can say that Polk County numbers are of people who were sick with COVID-19.

Commissioner Ainsworth asked that Ms. Umstead bring in some of her team in Public Health to an update so they can be recognized for all of the hard work they are doing.

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

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: October 13, 2020