

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 22, 2020**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Pope were present.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2020**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, review the COVID-19 case data from the most recent review period for Oregon overall as well as Polk and Marion County. Oregon currently has a total of 103,755 COVID-19 cases and 1,347 deaths. Oregon overall has a test positivity rate is 6.8%, Marion County is 12%, and Polk County is at 7.1% for the December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Polk County currently has 1,766 COVID-19 cases, 5 people in the hospital and a total of 24 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 135. Marion County currently has 12,609 cases, 53 hospitalizations and 195 deaths. Ms. Umstead also included the region 2 hospital capacity, which includes Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties). There are 41 adult ICU beds available in our region and the total occupied is 86. There are 154 non-ICU adult beds available and 633 are occupied. The occupied beds are not all COVID cases it is overall how many are occupied and available.

Long term care facility, Windsong at Eola Hills still has a total of 11 cases, Capital Manor still has a total of 8 cases, Jefferson Lodge has 49 positive cases, Dallas Retirement Village has 39 cases, Marquis Spa Corp. has 12 positive cases, and Truitt Bros. has 8 positive cases. Salem Health has a total of 112 positive staff as of the 12/16 OHA weekly report. This number represents the total number of positive cases since they started reporting.

Staffing levels in Public Health remain consistent with WOU continuing to do all of Polk County's contact tracing. They are currently monitoring 260 people for symptoms. There is still an open recruitment for a few Public Health worker positions for additional support the COVID-19 response, as well as an RN who will do some communicable disease work as well as some other programs within Public Health. OHA provided 3 weeks of investigative support which ended on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

There is a testing event scheduled for December 29<sup>th</sup> at the Polk County Fairgrounds where they will be doing COVID testing and giving flu shots for those who want it. OHA did update their guidelines so be more in line with the CDC recommendation. A total of 4,475 people have received the COVID-19 vaccine, these are hospital workers and long term care facilities have also begun getting vaccinated. Within phase 1A there are 4 groups who can get the vaccine based on occupation or where they live. They have now included first responders in the first phase. There is also a Vaccine Advisory Committee being developed who will help make sure the final distribution plan centers on equity. West Valley Hospital will be receiving the Moderna vaccine this week and will begin vaccinating their staff. Polk County Public Health met with West Valley Hospital at the end of last week in the bi-weekly meeting and developing a communication plan. There will also be weekly meetings with OHA to specifically discuss the COVID-19 vaccine. Polk County will meet with the medical community partners to further discuss the plan OHA has laid out and to find where there may be gaps within the county for vaccine distribution. Right now the most common source of outbreaks are long term care facilities.

During the weeks of November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup> Oregon overall had 467.2 positive cases per 100,000 residents, with a positivity rate of 7.8%. For Polk County during that time had 33 cases with a case rate 401.5 cases per 100,000 residents and an 8.4% positivity rate. 4% of emergency department visits in Oregon were for COVID-like symptoms. During the week of December 6<sup>th</sup> there were a total of 203 cases admitted to hospitals around Oregon and 5 of those were from Polk County. 96% of the time cases in Polk County were followed up on within 24 hours and 57% of cases in Polk County were traced to a known source.

For Marion County during that same range, November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>, they had a total of 2,196 cases with a case rate of 631.5 cases per 100,000 residents and a positivity rate of 12.7%. During the Week of December 6<sup>th</sup> there were 20 Marion County cases admitted to the hospital. 45% of Marion County cases were followed up on within 24 hours and 33% of their cases were traced to a known source.

When looking at the school metrics for the period of December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup> the positivity rate in Polk County was 7.1% with 373.8 positive cases per 100,000 residents, which is trending in the right direction but still not low enough to return to in person instruction. Marion County had a 12% positivity rate with 641.8 cases per 100,000.

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

- a. Commissioner Mordhorst presented a press release from the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce and would like the Board to support the decision to send a similar letter in an effort to get businesses open in the state of Oregon. The Chambers has asked all of the counties to support this and many already have. Commissioner Pope stated that he supports this effort. Commissioner Ainsworth asked if the local Chambers have been involved in this effort as well. Commissioner Mordhorst will get in touch with them to see how they feel about this and want to make sure they are on the same page. The Board agreed that with the support of local chambers they agree to support this press release from Polk County as well with some minor amendments for clarity.
- b. Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, gave the Board a review of the Business COVID Relief grant. Mr. Hansen provided a handout showing the parameters for assessing the applications and also the grant selection process review. There were approximately 206 applications and will be funding 171 of them. All of the money that was received was allocated. The grants ranged from \$500 to \$20,000 and there were approximately 60-70 that were granted the full amount that was requested and most others were granted at least 50% of what was requested. Mr. Hansen continues to plan to get the checks mailed out to these businesses before the end of the year.
- c. Marilyn Morton, Polk County resident, asked to be provided a list of the businesses that were granted these funds. Mr. Hansen stated that we will need to contact the recipients and amounts before we make that information public.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m.