

Dear Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response Members:

I want to applaud the Governor's efforts to increase social distancing by closing schools, bars, and restaurants, along with asking all members of the public to stay from home. These measures will reduce the spread while we begin testing and quarantining individuals who are affected.

Without testing and quarantining individuals who test positive, we will continue to see this in multiple "waves," as outlined in the Imperial College Report: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/sph/ide/gida-fellowships/Imperial-College-COVID19-NPI-modelling-16-03-2020.pdf> Testing and quarantining is the **only way** for us to move away from such severe suppression and mitigation measures, which will not only impact Oregonian's health, but also economically, mentally and socially as well.

In order for us to stem this crisis, we must begin testing and quarantining afflicted individuals. To this end, I want to recommend the following:

1. Begin creating Mobile Testing Clinics using RV's. Oregon must reduce the number of people going to their Primary Care Provider's (PCP's) and Emergency Rooms (ER's) in order to get tested. PCP's and ER's are not set up for handling tests, which often requires a negative pressure room and staff donned in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Mobile Testing clinics can be located in parking lots, for drive-in testing, and adjacent to institutional and civic buildings.
2. Start a collaboration with University of Washington's (UW) Virology lab to share their extremely reliable COVID-19 test with OHSU. Ask for local area universities, hospitals, and bio-research labs to coordinate with OHSU to supply PCR machines, RNA reagents, and volunteers to enable scaling-up of the COVID-19 test.
3. Begin identifying hospitals, and motels to offer a safe place for people to sit-tight until they have received their test results. We must avoid having these "unknown" populations from infecting their families and other individuals. We must also get the process of swabs to obtaining test results to under 24 hours.
4. Start requiring temperature testing at all public buildings, hospitals, and workplaces. Any individual with a fever should be put on sick-leave and be sent to a Mobile Testing Clinic. Their information should be sent to the OHA to track whether they actually show up to a Mobile Testing Clinic.
5. Begin identifying school gyms, civic buildings, and vacant buildings as Community Health Centers to offer COVID-positive individuals a place to wait out their symptoms and prevent infecting their families and other individuals. We should staff these with nurses and volunteers who are in full PPE, and provide all the toys, Netflix, and video games patients want to engage with. We must make these Community Health Centers a delightful place so people aren't afraid to come to these centers once they test positive.

The Governor and yourselves should be educating the public that testing and quarantining is the only way out of this crisis, and to ensure all workplaces and businesses begin temperature screening as a first step. We must start shifting to offense in this crisis, not just defense.

Sincerely,
RJ Sheperd
North Portland Resident