

I do have a concern regarding testing of probable COVID-19 cases. Currently, Interpath Labs in Pendleton has stated they will not be providing testing kits or services to our local Deschutes Rim Clinic and that any testing would have to be done through the emergency room at MCMC in The Dalles.

This seems to be contrary to "Flattening the Curve" of this virus. Currently, our clinic has an isolation room and isolated entry for anyone complaining of symptoms. The doctor can determine whether someone has symptoms which warrant testing or if they are more likely suffering from something else such as the flu, allergies, etc.

In addition, the doctor at our clinic, Cheryl LaPlante, makes daily housecalls to the Canyon Rim Senior Living facility next door to the clinic. This is an especially vulnerable population and they have been following directives from OHA since before they were made regarding isolating that population.

To require these people to be transported 40 miles to The Dalles for testing and then return home to await results could guarantee wider spreading of the virus. We also have an already overburdened volunteer ambulance service. Transporting additional patients could cause other calls to be missed.

Any help you can provide will be appreciated.

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