

Good afternoon,

My name is Dr. Diana Burden – I am a Family Nurse Practitioner, and a Clinic Medical Director at a Federally Qualified Health Clinic in Central Oregon.

I am emailing in regards to the request for information about how the COVID19 pandemic is affecting us.

Our primary objectives are to keep our employees safe while we continue to try and care for our patients. Our leadership team has been meeting daily, including Sunday's to try and mitigate the challenges we are facing. While there are many issues we are trying to address, the following are ones that are impacting us to the greatest extent.

1. Oregon Public school closure: many of our hourly employees are impacted by these closures. These employees are still very willing to work, but are struggling with finding adequate child care options. We are actively working on getting as many of our employees to work remotely, however we have limited supplies, and thus are not able to accommodate all request. For those individuals who are not able to work remotely, are bearing a huge financial burden. Many of these individuals are not able to afford loss of income for an extended period of time. **Solution:** having additional funds to purchase equipment (phones, laptops) would help lessen this strain. Enacting an emergency relief bill that helps to provide sick time to who are unable to work due to COVID19.
2. PPE (personal protection equipment) shortage: while we are trying to convert many patient visits to telephone visits with remote providers, we still have many providers and support staff in all of our clinics seeing patients. We have been told that there is already a shortage of PPE, and there is no end in sight of how long we will need to be taking droplet precautions. We need to have access to more PPE. This request is not just related to our organization, this shortage is being seen nationwide. There must be additional resources that we can tap into so health care personal across Oregon, and the nation have access to proper PPE. In addition, items such as thermometers which are critical for our screening (staff and patients) are in very limited supply. Some retail options are available (Amazon) but because of their restricted shipping, we are not able to get these critical items. **Solution:** lift the restrictions on shipping to health care organizations so we can continue to receive valuable equipment and supplies
3. Testing limitations: at this time, we have limited ability to complete testing on individuals. While the treatment for COVID19 does not change based on testing, our inability to test limits our knowledge as to the spread of the disease. **Solution:** release more test kits, find alternative sources of test kits as well as testing laboratories.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Kind regards,

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