
Oregon Health Authority and the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Presented to
House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
May 27, 2020

Akiko Saito
Director of Emergency Operations

The logo for the Oregon Health Authority. It features the word "Oregon" in a smaller, orange, serif font positioned above the word "Health". "Health" is written in a large, dark blue, serif font. Below "Health", the word "Authority" is written in a smaller, orange, serif font. A thin blue horizontal line is positioned just below the "Health" text, extending from the left side of the "H" to the right side of the "y".

Oregon
Health
Authority

The Public Health Response

- Strategy shifting from containment to mitigation to suppression
- Test, trace, isolate
- Public communications
- Community resources
- Data and modeling
- Guidance and support for health care
- Guidance for reopening

Lesson Learned #1

We must ensure that health equity is front and center in our response

- OHA's 10 year goal is to close health equity gaps
- Our first phase did not do that
- We are committed to correcting that for the next phase

Lesson Learned #2

We need to work through the balance of centralized and decentralized public health response to ensure clear actions and accountability

Lesson Learned #3

We need to be more self-reliant as a state for PPE and other medical stockpiles than we originally thought and planned for

Lesson Learned #4

We must be better prepared to address the secondary effects of the crisis

- Non-COVID-19 immunization rates
- Institutional bias
- Adversity, trauma, and toxic stress
- Economic drivers of health
- Access to equitable preventative health care
- Behavioral health

Lesson Learned #5

We should sustain and strengthen successful innovations

- Telemedicine: We had mostly only talked about it before, but now we know it works in this state

Lesson Learned #6

We should continue to strengthen collaboration and problem solving with other agencies

- DHS: Response to outbreaks in long term care facilities
- Agriculture: Shared playbook for food processing facilities
- Corrections: pre and post release

Lesson Learned #7

We are in the middle of the short-term emergency response, but we will also need a mid-term non-emergency COVID-19 response effort

OHA's Focus for the Next 30-90 Days

- Watch for and guard against a rebound of the virus
- Prepare for a second wave in the fall
- Address school issues
- Manage budget cuts
- Plan for the long-term

Thank You

The logo for the Oregon Health Authority is centered within a light blue, rounded rectangular background. The word "Oregon" is written in a smaller, orange, serif font above the "Health" portion of the logo. The word "Health" is written in a large, dark blue, serif font. Below "Health", the word "Authority" is written in a smaller, orange, serif font. A thin orange horizontal line is positioned at the bottom of the light blue background.

Oregon
Health
Authority