

Providence Seaside Community Update Thursday, Aug. 6

New signs ease the way for hospital visitors; include update to visitor policy

Now that we are several months in the pandemic with mask requirements and visitor restrictions, we have simplified the signage at the hospital entryways and screening stations. We also have an updated visitor policy, including a new limit to one visitor per day for most hospital patients.

Current census tracker for COVID-19

Providence Oregon census as of 8/6/20

- 45 patients tested positive – in hospital
- 20 patients under investigation (PUI)

State of Oregon cumulative totals

Reported by [Oregon Health Authority](#) at 11:00 a.m., Aug. 6:

- 18,936 patients with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19
- 338 deaths

In praise of masks and masking: a message from Dr. Steven Freer, chief medical officer Providence Oregon

“The restraints on men, as well as their liberties, are to be reckoned among their rights.” – Edmund Burke, c. 1790

I was in a grocery store over the weekend, and observed an interaction between a customer – a man about my age – and a young employee, who looked about the age of my 23-year-old son. His task for the day was to make sure that people entering the store were wearing masks, in accordance with the recent executive orders by the governor, and in line with the recommendations of every reputable medical practitioner and public health official almost anywhere in the world.

The older gentleman was resistant, making specious claims about the seriousness of the situation, the violation of his personal rights, and that he could not be compelled to wear a mask. To this, the young man calmly replied, “You seem to know your rights; what about your responsibilities?” Well played! I thought to myself. An unwitting adherent to the principles of self-governance by the 18th-century Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke!

Among the many challenges of SARS-CoV-2 – how infectious it is, the asymptomatic carriage, the wide variety of symptoms, the inconsistency of its clinical course – is the limited arsenal we currently have to combat the spread of infection. Indeed, as we await a vaccine and more definitive therapies, we are left with only our own behavior to modify the course of the pandemic. And that behavior comes down to three very simple things: wash your hands, keep your distance, and wear a mask.

Important links

[Providence Oregon coronavirus site](#)

[Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 updates](#)