



NEWS *from* **Clatsop County**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, March 17, 2020

CLATSOP COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGE IN COVID-19 TESTING

The Clatsop County Public has received many questions from the public regarding the status of testing for local cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus illness.

Currently, test samples from Clatsop County residents are being submitted daily to the Oregon State Public Health Lab, as well as to the private labs Quest and Labcorp. Results are also coming in daily and, as of Tuesday, March 17, all have been negative.

Because labs are only required to report positive results to the Public Health Department, there is not an available means for tracking how many tests are being submitted. Private labs are not required to report how many tests they run in our county. There are, however, very reliable processes for reporting positive results, which are required to be reported to local public health agencies.

At the current time the Public Health Department is NOT conducting COVID-19 tests. But many labs, public and private, are working hard to ramp up their capacity to test more samples and the expectation is that in a very short timeframe there will be a considerable expansion of access to testing.

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Released by:
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