



OREGON STATE HOSPITAL
Office of the CHANGE ME

Kate Brown, Governor



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MEMORANDUM

To: Partners of Oregon State Hospital (OSH)
From: Dolly Matteucci, OSH Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Emergency, Temporary Restriction of Oregon State Hospital
Admissions related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

To protect the health and safety of patients and staff at Oregon State Hospital (OSH), the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has ordered OSH to temporarily restrict admissions, effective Tuesday December 1, 2020.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Oregon State Hospital has been working with state epidemiologists to take comprehensive precautions to protect the health of both patients and staff. This includes requiring all staff to wear surgical masks, screening everyone who comes into the hospital, encouraging patients to wear masks, testing all new patients before they move from Admission Monitoring Units into the general population, and screening all patients for symptoms twice a day.

Two patients have recently tested positive for COVID-19 at the Oregon State Hospital. These two patients were admitted during the third week of November into one of three Admission Monitoring Units. As soon as the test results came back positive, both patients were transferred to a quarantine unit for COVID-19 positive patients and patients under investigation for COVID-19. The source of the infection is not yet known at this time.

OSH is now testing all staff members and all patients on the admissions monitoring unit where the infection was first discovered. Testing and contact tracing should identify the source of the infections.

With the existing quarantine unit now almost full, OSH must use one of its three Admission Monitoring Units



as a temporary quarantine unit to safely manage any additional COVID-19 positive patient cases. This necessary change reduces the hospital's capacity for new admissions by 19 beds. To accommodate this reduction, OSH will implement an emergency, temporary restriction on admissions to both Salem and Junction City campuses.

Under the emergency temporary restrictions, admissions will be limited to patients under Guilty Except for Insanity (GEI) revocations and those who OSH determines meet the criteria for expedited Aid and Assist admissions under ORS 161.365 and 161.370. OSH's expedited admission protocol has been shared with jails and public defenders throughout the state, and it has been in use since 2018.

We recognize the hardship this temporary admission restriction presents to our community partners. OSH will continue to work closely with the state's Behavioral Health Director, the Epidemiologist and State Health Officer, and the OHA Public Health Division to ensure the health and safety of its patients. OSH will continually assess its capacity to accept admissions on a weekly basis and communicate with stakeholders when admissions are able to resume.