



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 Monday, December 28, 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.

OSH is currently experiencing an outbreak on the Salem campus that involves two staff members and three patients from the same psychiatric unit, that have been linked through contact tracing and testing. On December 17, an OSH staff member began experiencing symptoms congruent with coronavirus. This staff member subsequently tested positive for the virus. On December 19, a patient residing on the same unit began exhibiting symptoms and was transferred to the OSH COVID-19 quarantine unit and tested. Test results for this patient were positive for the virus. Another staff member from the same unit tested positive for the virus on December 22. Contact tracing required two additional patients to transfer from the same unit to the quarantine unit for testing and observation and both patients also tested positive for the virus. OSH is now completing additional contact tracing and testing to contain the outbreak.



Due to the current outbreak, OSH must now temporarily convert one of three Admission Monitoring Units to serve Patients Under Investigation (PUI) of the virus due to symptoms or through contact tracing. The PUI unit is required to provide physical separation between COVID-19 positive patients that reside on the quarantine unit (unit LH3), and patients that are being monitored due to symptoms or through contact tracing (unit AN3). 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.