



OREGON STATE HOSPITAL
Office of the Superintendent

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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) and
influx of Aid and Assist admissions

To protect the health and safety of patients and staff at Oregon State Hospital (OSH), the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) was granted approval from Federal Court to temporarily restrict admissions between Tuesday, May 25, 2021, and Monday, May 31, 2021, due to a lack of hospital beds available for a new cohort of patients at that time. We are restricting admissions because the number of people needing services at OSH is outpacing efforts to discharge people who no longer need hospital-level care.

As the current imbalance of discharges will most likely continue to impact hospital capacity, the Federal Court has granted OHA's request to provide regular status updates to the Court on the hospital's ongoing ability to admit cohorts. We endeavor to keep our partners updated on our admissions status as well.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, OSH has worked with state epidemiologists to take comprehensive precautions to protect the health of both patients and staff. This includes accepting new patients each week in cohorts of 19-23. Cohorts remain quarantined together on an admission monitoring unit until they test negative for COVID-19. Then the new patients transfer to other



units within the hospital, and the admission monitoring unit is cleaned and prepared for the next cohort. In this way, OSH has safely admitted 377 patients since the beginning of 2021. We continue to exceptionally high numbers of Aid and Assist Orders, and the influx of new patients has now outpaced OSH's ability to discharge patients either to community placements or back to jail to stand trial.

As a result, hospital beds are not opening up at the pace needed for OSH to continue admitting new patients, and OSH has reached its limits. OSH is and has been actively working to find placements for every patient who can be discharged, but over the last few months, there are too many patients currently in the hospital for OSH to keep up with admission demand.

OHA has approached the Legislature seeking funding for additional beds and resources – both in this biennium (ending June 30, 2021) and in the upcoming 2021-23 biennium. Some of the proposals the Legislative Assembly is considering would provide more funding for community restoration services and beds. These proposals should assist with placement possibilities in the future, but they will not result in a short-term solution.

We recognize the hardship temporary admission restrictions present to our community partners. OSH will continue all efforts to create space for new admissions, but weekly admissions may sometimes not be possible. Going forward, the hospital will admit cohorts each week that we are able to discharge enough patients to have room. OSH will continually assess its capacity to accept admissions on a weekly basis and communicate with stakeholders when admissions are not possible.