

MALHEUR COUNTY **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

OPHA Annual Conference
Plenary Panel: Local Responses to
COVID-19 Pandemic
October 12, 2020

Learning Objectives

My goal is to present the unique challenges and successes of the LPHA response in Malheur County.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will have a better understanding of the following in Malheur County:

- Current COVID-19 status
- High vulnerability to COVID-19
- Geopolitical issues impacting border counties
- Infrastructure needs
- Strategies that have worked

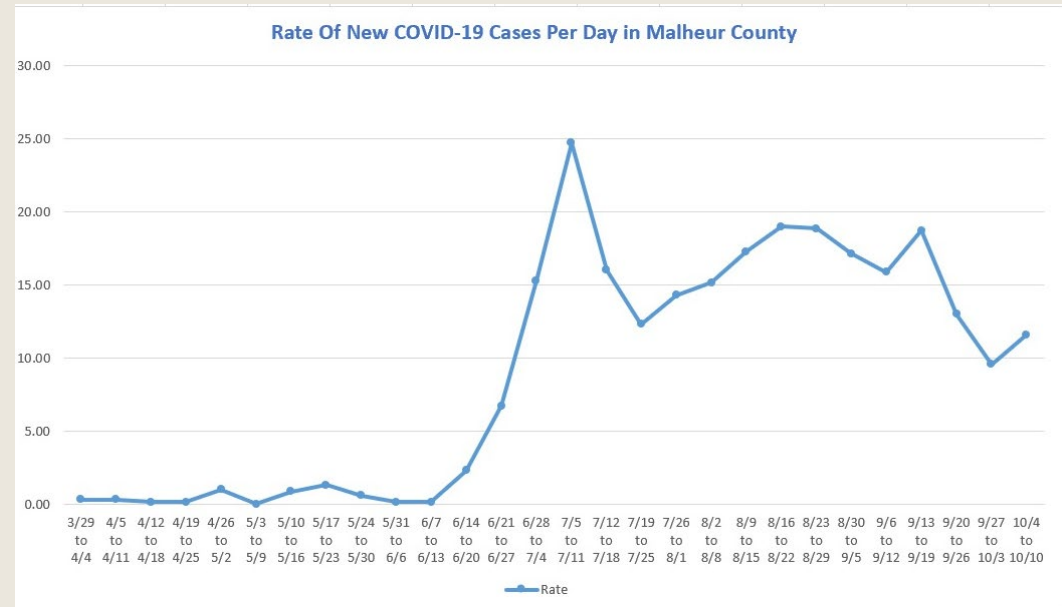


Current COVID-19 Cases

Total Cases: 1,768 (6% of population)
294 Active Cases

33 Deaths
91 Ever Hospitalized

June 1-30 Case Summary			
Positive	Negative	Total	% Positive
92	711	803	11.46%
July 1-31 Case Summary			
Positive	Negative	Total	% Positive
524	1588	2112	24.81%
August 1-31 Case Summary			
Positive	Negative	Total	% Positive
512	1046	1558	32.86%
September 1-30 Case Summary			
Positive	Negative	Total	% Positive
466	1163	1629	28.6%



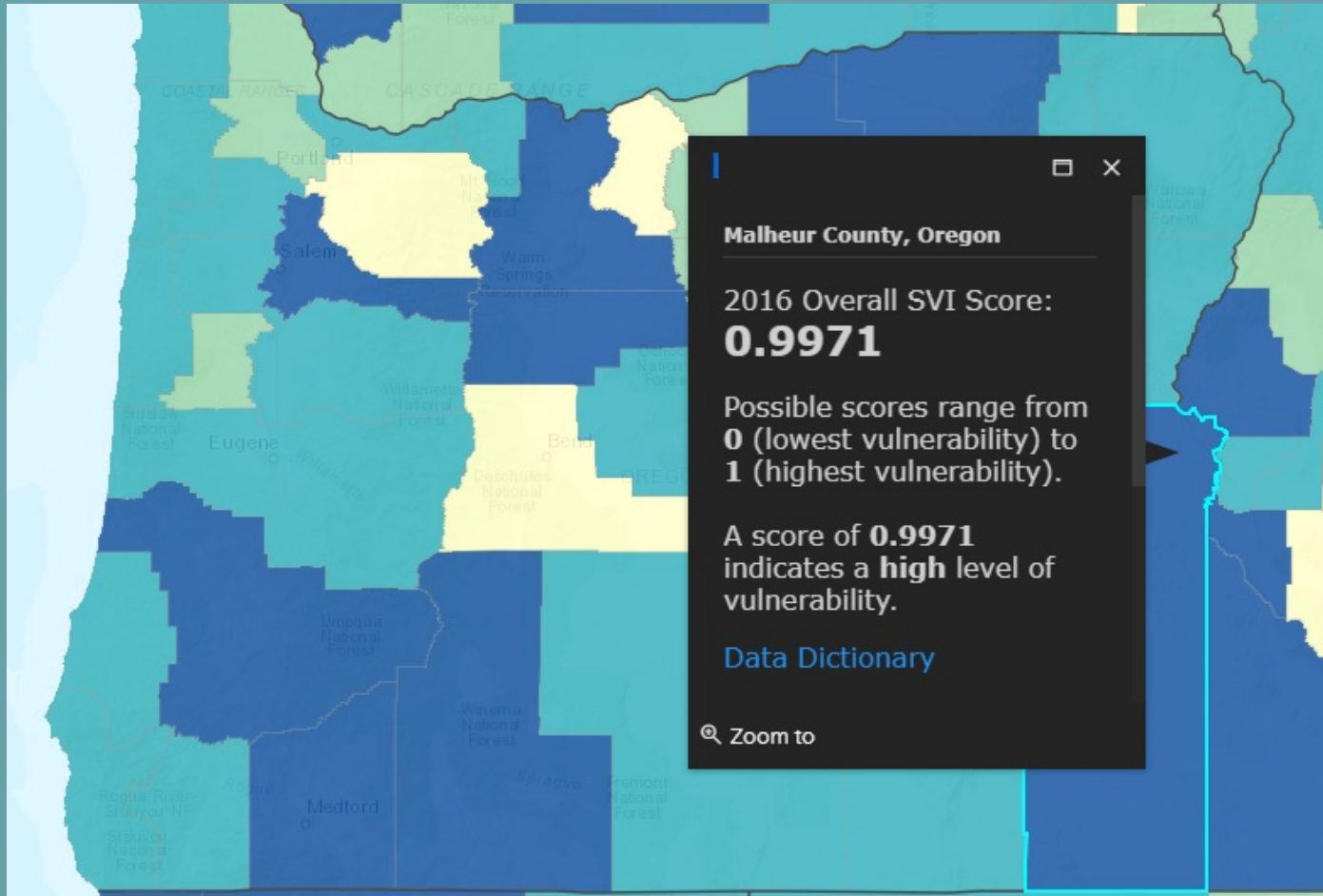
[COVID-19 Cases page updated daily on malheurhealth.org](https://malheurhealth.org)

MALHEUR COUNTY



- *31,724 people (.7% of Oregon) over nearly 10,000 square miles*
- *Large age groups: >65 (16.5%) and <18 (26%)*
- *34% identify as Hispanic*
- *Per capita income \$18,700*
- *13.8% of people over 25 have college degree*

HIGHEST SVI SCORE IN OREGON



▶ [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\): svi.cdc.gov/map.html](https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html)



What Makes Malheur Vulnerable

- 9.2% of population incarcerated – Snake River Correctional Institution
- Poverty rate: 23.0% (highest 10% nation)
- Childhood poverty rate: 30.0%
- Non-white population: 38.6%
- Population with a disability: 16.0%
- Housing units with more people than rooms: 5.5% (highest 10% nation)
- Highest rate cause of death: Diseases of the circulatory system (911.5/100,000) [Oregon Vital Statistics 2018](#)
- 57.2% of adults have one or more chronic disease [Oregon BRFSS, 2014-2017](#)
- Although county population decreased 2.4% over previous decade, ED BH visits have a growth of 27.6% from 2017-2019 [An Analysis of Behavioral Health from CY 2019 Emergency Department Discharge Data in Oregon](#)



IDAHO/OREGON BORDER

- Who are the majority of people in Malheur every day?
- Idaho COVID-19 response vs. Oregon, Washington, and California
- With 40% of the population of Oregon, Idaho has 48,066 cases
- Conflicting messages



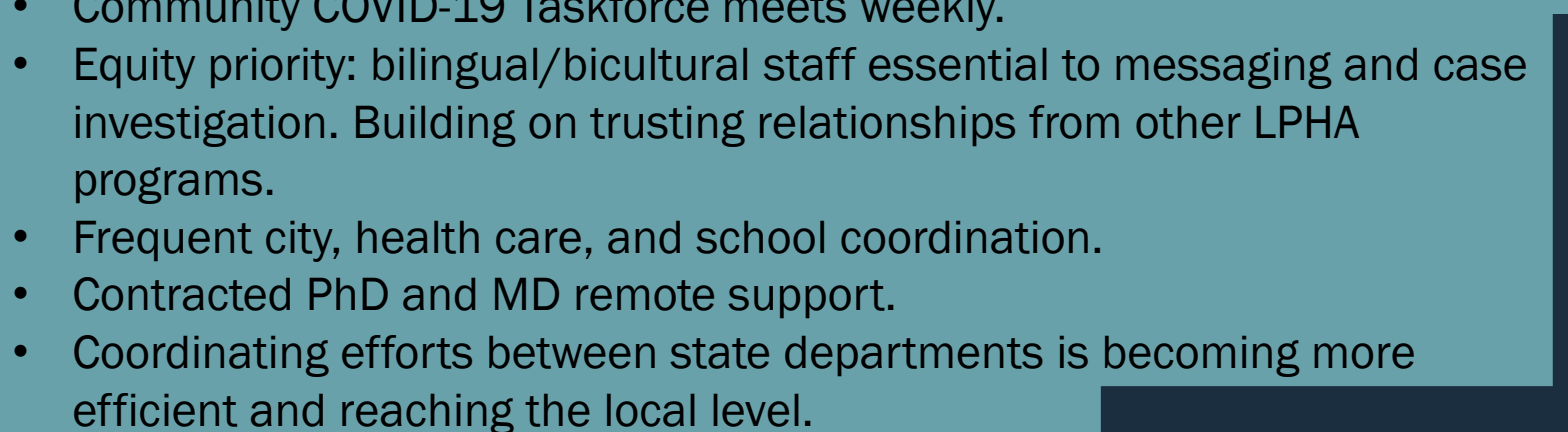



Infrastructure Needs

- Educated, Available Workforce
- Epidemiologist
- Primary and Intensive Care Liaison
- Public Information Officer
- >2 School Nurses to 10 Public Districts
- Testing Capacity
- Childcare & Distance Learning Capacity



RESPONSE

- Received funding, tests, test support, technical assistance, and significant relief from the Oregon Health Authority.
 - Although we haven't been able to hire nurses needed, we are filling several other roles: case investigators, PIO, office assistant.
 - Contracted with FQHC Mobile Clinic to provide expanded testing.
 - County gathering limits from August till the end of year: 10 indoor/25 outdoor
 - Providing rapid testing to uninsured and first responders at LPHA clinic by appointment 4 days/week.
 - ICS support from state and other county Emergency Management.
 - Community COVID-19 Taskforce meets weekly.
 - Equity priority: bilingual/bicultural staff essential to messaging and case investigation. Building on trusting relationships from other LPHA programs.
 - Frequent city, health care, and school coordination.
 - Contracted PhD and MD remote support.
 - Coordinating efforts between state departments is becoming more efficient and reaching the local level.
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Juntos,
podemos mantener
ABIERTO
el condado de Malheur

POR FAVOR USE UNA MÁSCARA

- ✓ Distanciamiento físico
- ✓ Protegiendo a los demás
- ✓ Manténgase limpio



Fourteen Drive-Up Testing Sites

- Free COVID-19 Testing in Ontario, Nyssa, and/or Vale from May-October
- Tests provided by OHA
- Multiple county departments volunteer staff and resources
- OHA assisting in testing event this Wednesday with 500 tests and State staff
- Provided focus for ICS team, each section has clear role



Stronger Together

- We are a community of strong values and social cohesion. We practice our values by encouraging people to follow COVID-19 precautions.
- We revitalize the connections in our community in a safe way, following guidance and orders to keep our neighbors healthy.
- We invite everyone to the table. Everyone is welcome. We belong to each other.

Contact

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