



October 15, 2020

## 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)

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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, October 19, 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 has been able to safely admit 426 patients between April 13 and October 14, 2020.

However, on October 14, 2020, a patient at the OSH Salem Campus tested positive for COVID-19, the first patient case since the pandemic spread to Oregon in March 2020. Through contact tracing, we've discovered this case is epidemiologically linked to three staff who have recently reported testing positive for COVID-19. These three staff work on the same unit where the patient was receiving treatment.

As a result of these linked positive cases, the hospital has transferred 18 patients to the OSH COVID-19 quarantine unit to prevent the potential spread of the virus to other patients and staff.



With the existing quarantine unit now 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.