

Clackamas County Commissioners' Listening Session April 7, 2020 Summary Q&A

Topic: Clackamas County's response to COVID-19

Commissioners: Chair Jim Bernard

County staff: County Administrator Gary Schmidt
Emergency Operations Center Incident Commander Nancy Bush
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During the coronavirus pandemic, Clackamas County Commissioners are hosting digital listening sessions with the public in order to hear about community concerns with coronavirus impacts, centered on a given topic. The following is a summary of questions raised during the April 7, 2020 session, with answers (as of April 12).

Q: Who can community organizations reach out to for assistance such as food, emergency shelter and when in need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

- Community organizations may reach out to our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for these resources. Please email EOCcommand@clackamas.us with your requests.

Q: Is the county looking at ways on how to help nonprofits in the future?

- The County values its nonprofit partners and their efforts to support our community. We understand the growing need for additional resources and will be looking for creative ways to support their needs in the future.

Q: Can a group of friends get together to allow their dogs to play and socialize?

- Clackamas County continues to support the Governor's executive order requiring social distancing. Outdoor recreation is encouraged. A small group may gather if they can maintain the 6-foot distance requirement and observe safety precautions like wearing a facemask and washing hands frequently.

Q: Why did the BCC decide to do an eviction moratorium?

- Commissioners established a moratorium on evicting tenants for inability to pay on March 19 as an [addendum](#) to a previous emergency order. A video explaining the order can be found [here](#). However, on April 9, [the county recognized that the Governor's subsequent order superseded the Board's order](#).

Q: How else is the county reaching out to other vulnerable populations such as non-English speaking?

- The EOC has a liaison team working specifically to address the needs of our vulnerable populations including those who speak other languages and/or have behavioral health needs. If you have questions or requests please send them to EOCLiaison@clackamas.us

Q: Why did the county shut the public buildings and work via telecommute?

- County buildings have been closed to the public to support the Governor's *Stay Home, Save Lives* directive to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of the public and county employees. The county is open for business and most of our employees are working from home.

Q: Looking ahead, how are we going to come out of the crisis? Can the county share info on timeline for testing? Whose guidance does the county follow?

- We look to the Oregon Health Authority and CDC for guidance. Planning to resume normal activities is underway with local, state, federal public health and other governmental agencies. This will likely be decided state-by-state due to the varying health situations in locations across the United States. We know this is of utmost concern, and will communicate as we know more. Our first priority is to ensure that our hospitals are able to maintain capacity.

Testing capacity has been increasing, most people should be able to access testing if they need it. It is still important that individuals showing symptoms stay home in order to not risk exposing others. People should stay home until 72 hours after the resolution of cough and fever. Rapid point of care testing is being rolled out, and the CDC and FDA are working on antibody testing.

Q: In regards to the low positives in Clackamas County: Considering we don't have a facility for testing, or drive through testing, how does this alter the perception on what we are doing?

- Most major health systems and the Clackamas County Health Center in Oregon City have procedures in place for drive-through testing of people who are symptomatic. Most providers are not approving testing for individuals without underlying conditions. Testing is also focused in longterm care facilities and other congregate settings.

Q: Will landlords be able to charge late fees?

- Landlords are specifically forbidden from charging late fees under the [Executive Order 20-11](#) signed by Governor Brown on May 28. The order forbids law enforcement officers from acting on any eviction order for inability to pay rent and prohibits the assessment of late fees. On April 1, Governor Brown expanded the restriction to cover commercial properties which has the same provision. That order can be found [here](#).

Q: As the school district provides chrome books for their students, the need is for Wi-Fi hotspots. Are there any resources they can direct folks to?

- Indeed the issue of availability to Wi-Fi hot spots is particularly acute since the onset of COVID 19. Local school districts are competing for locations and it has been a challenge to meet the needs. Please contact your local internet service provider to get the most updated hotspot availability and for any other information related to internet availability.

Q: Are apartment management companies allowed to request tenants disclose when they have received new money, be it from the federal or state government, in order to consider their eligibility for payment?

- Landlords are prohibited from discriminating against a tenant because of any type of government assistance. We encourage landlords to consult with their own legal counsel if they have further questions regarding what actions may or may not be prohibited.