Today the Governor and health officials conducted a press conference to describe further actions for protection from the corona virus. The Governor will issue an Executive Order on March 17 that will extend for 4 weeks. The goals are to decrease the transmission rate of the corona virus and, conserve hospital capacity for those who need it most and mitigate economic impact, particularly for our most vulnerable families.

The new order will include
- All public gatherings of more than 25 persons are effectively canceled.
- The Governor urges no gatherings of 10 people or more.
- Restaurants and bars may only provide carry out and delivery; no onsite consumption. There is a specific exemption for grocery stores and some retail facilities.
- Other businesses are urged to accommodate systems similar to carry out and delivery or carry out a temporary shutdown.
- Infractions will constitute a Class C misdemeanor.

The Governor has convened a “corona virus economic council” that will begin meeting on March 17. It is similar to the economic council process based on the shooting at the community college in Douglas County and the Eagle Creek fire. The council will report back in a few days. Workers' comp, unemployment insurance and other programs are being considered as tools. The state wants to assure people can maintain rent and mortgages, buy food and medicines. A special session will probably occur in the next few weeks to assure more tools and resources. The Attorney General's office is looking a price gouging on toilet tissue and hand sanitizers.

The state is continuing to work with the federal government. Only about 10% of the federal funds have been received. About 15% more will come in the next week. This also includes necessary supplies.

A health system joint task force has formed including all the hospitals in the Metro area: Kaiser, Providence, OHSU and others, so that the services will be provided through one large center for assigning hospital beds, supplies, etc. Testing procedures will be developed that will be used regionwide and statewide.

The state unified command incident structure has been activated. This is the same coordinated structure that dealt with the Umatilla flooding, the Eagle Creek fire and will deal with the Cascadia subduction earthquake when it occurs. The structure has been around for decades. The all hazards command structure coordinates state and federal resources to provide coordinated support to local counties, communities and tribal groups. The state is now in what is defined by the emergency management structure as “an all hazard crisis.”

Numbers: The chief medical officer of the Oregon Health Authority stated that 75,000 may be infected by May without intervention and those numbers will continue to expand without actions. The guidelines in the Governor's executive order are modeled on needs through April 11. The future forecast will be based on what happens up to that date. Modeling shows that the infection will double every 6.2 days. A total or 20% of those infected will require hospital beds based on
results in other cities while 80% can recover at home. OHSU, for example has 80 ICU beds. Those are already almost entirely filled, but the modeling shows that another 80 ICU beds at that facility would be required to meet the need by April 11. The modeling predicts there will be 1,000 regular hospital beds and 400 ICU beds needed by April 11. We need to flatten the curve with all population adhering to the rules of social distancing. In other countries it has been shown that younger, healthier members of the population have the virus and may not even know it, so to keep the virus from spreading all of the population needs to adhere to the rules, not just the older vulnerable population.