

# Innovator Agent Update for IHN Regional Community Advisory Council (November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

- On October 27<sup>th</sup> Oregon Governor Kate Brown used her authority to extend Oregon’s COVID-19 Emergency for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. Oregon’s COVID-19 Emergency now expires on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. See the Governor’s order here: [https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive\\_orders/eo\\_20-59.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-59.pdf)
- In a press conference on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Governor Brown ordered a 2 week “pause” and limited activities and gatherings in 5 counties to slow the spread of COVID-19. The 5 counties are Multnomah, Marion, Jackson, Malheur, and Umatilla counties. In addition, based on data to be reviewed this week, an additional 5 counties have been identified as potential places to be added to the “pause” list. These include Washington, Clark, Linn, Baker, and Union counties. The criteria for the “pause” list include counties with 200 cases/100,000 persons over 2 weeks. For small counties of < 30,000 persons, the threshold is 60 or more cases over 2 weeks.
- Governor Brown said during her press conference, “This is meant to be a wake-up call and if we don’t see a trend downwards, other closure measures are imminent”.
- Oregon has seen their highest numbers of the pandemic during the past week:

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>: 805 cases  
 Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>: 770 cases  
 Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>: 874 cases  
 Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>: 988 cases

	United States	Oregon	Benton	Lincoln	Linn
Total cases	9,808,411	48,608	501	526	969
Deaths	236,547	730	6	13	17

\*Data in this chart may not be an exact match to real-time data due to delays in public reporting and posting.

- COVID-19 vaccines continue in clinical trials but are also being simultaneously produced and distributed to states in anticipation of FDA approval. Each state has submitted a COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the federal government; Oregon’s plan includes a phased approach of initial administration to priority populations until supplies are available for the entire population. See Oregon’s plan here: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/covid19/Documents/COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan-Oregon.pdf>
- Oregon Health Authority has developed the Safe and Strong Campaign to communicate COVID-19 messages and resources in 14 languages and culturally appropriate ways. More information about Safe and Strong is here: <https://www.safestrongoregon.org/>

- Oregon Health Authority’s Behavioral Health System has worked to develop a state-wide resource for rapid access to behavioral health resources. The Safe and Strong Help Line at **1-800-923-HELP(4357)** is available to all Oregonian’s at no cost for crisis support, connection to resources and referrals to locally available assistance. The phone line was developed in partnership with Lines for Life and is staffed with qualified mental health professionals. Read more at <https://www.linesforlife.org/obhsl/>
- Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen has announced the appointment of Rachel Banks as the new OHA Public Health Director. She began her state service on November 1<sup>st</sup> and participated in the Governor’s Press Conference on November 6<sup>th</sup> Director Allen said this about the appointment:

*“Her (Rachel’s) most recent leadership position—as public health director at the Multnomah County Health Department, and the department’s deputy director, since 2017—caps a career at the county advocating for the needs of those most impacted by health inequities. Almost every position she’s held in her 18 years at the county has involved guiding disparity-reduction programs through community partnerships and outreach: using evidence-based disease tracking to fight sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and drug overdose; implementing a car seat safety program through long-term relationships with families; implementing and enforcing Oregon’s Indoor Clean Air Act and developing a tobacco retail license policy; using community assessments and strategic planning to identify needs of populations disproportionately affected by chronic diseases; and partnering with CCOs, health systems and insurers to improve clients’ transition from clinical to community-based care. As the county’s Public Health Division deputy director, she helped develop its first-ever disparity-focused Community Health Improvement Plan, and led a unit that enacted five culturally specific strategies in the African American/Black, Latinx/Hispanic, Native American/American Indian, Pacific Islander and immigrant/refugee communities. She’s also well known for her work as principal investigator for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH), a culturally specific chronic disease prevention program reaching 75% of the Black population”.*

- Governor Kate Brown held a Press Briefing on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> in which she changed the standards for resuming in-person school attendance. Under the new standards, many of Oregon’s counties and school district may consider changing their current practices. See the Ready Schools Safe Learners Guidance update here: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Ready%20Schools%20Safe%20Learners%202020-21%20Guidance.pdf>
- Oregon Health Plan enrollment has now increased by over 12% from pre-COVID levels of enrollment. OHA continues to work closely with CCOs to monitor network capacity and the increases in enrollment at the local and CCO level to assure that OHP members can access the services that come with their benefits.