



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 1, 2020

**Saint Alphonsus Baker City and St. Luke's Eastern Oregon Medical Associates Open Joint Curbside COVID-19 Assessment Site
Drive-Up Assessments Available from Noon to 4:00 pm**

Baker City, OR – Administrative and clinical leadership from St. Luke's EOMA and Saint Alphonsus Baker City have established a curbside evaluation site for patients who are concerned they may have COVID-19.

Patients need to be aware that testing supplies remain limited, and due to overwhelming volume of tests being processed, patients may need to wait at least 7-10 days or more for testing results. Patients will be tested according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. Due to these factors, not everyone who is evaluated will be tested for COVID-19. Leadership from both facilities are staying updated on all upcoming testing options, including point of care testing and this will be implemented as soon as it becomes available.

The goals of the curbside assessment site are:

- Provide assessment of respiratory symptoms
- Testing for COVID-19 if indicated
- Triage to higher level of care if necessary
- Prevent further spread of respiratory illness by keeping sick patients out of clinics and the ER

The curbside assessment is located at Saint Alphonsus Baker City Valley Medical Building, 3820 17th St, Baker City, OR 97814. It will be operational from noon to 4:00 pm, now until April 10. Hours will vary from week to week. For an update on the curbside assessment site schedule, visit the Baker County COVID-19 website: www.bakercountycovid19.com.

Qualifications for COVID-19 testing, based on most recent CDC guidelines:

- Fever (greater than 100.4°) AND new cough or shortness of breath
- High risk individuals:
 - Over age 65, immunosuppressed, chronic illnesses such as diabetes, lung disease, cancer or kidney failure on dialysis.
 - Pregnant patients
 - People who live in assisted living or are incarcerated or are living in another long term residential facility
 - Healthcare workers or first responders
 - Known COVID-19 exposure

If a patient is evaluated using this resource but does NOT qualify for testing, they will be given guidance for self-quarantine at home, and documentation can be provided for employers who are requesting testing.

For the safety of the colleagues conducting the curbside assessments they request no animals in vehicles that use the service.

###