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March 31, 2021

The Honorable Representative Maxine Dexter, Chair
The Honorable Representative Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health Care Subcommittee on COVID-19
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

SUBJECT: Marion County vaccine allocations, variant sequencing

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the House Committee on Health Care Subcommittee on COVID-19 on March 24, 2021.

Representative Moore-Green asked about COVID-19 vaccine allocations to Marion County. Marion County has received the second largest allocation of vaccines as of March 26th with 218,295 total doses. Marion County has received the fourth largest allocation of vaccines per 100,000 population of age 20+ as of March 26th. The Salem Hospital vaccine clinic at the Salem Fairgrounds receives about two-thirds of the allocations for Marion County, and this clinic has been administering vaccines for residents of neighboring counties as well as Marion County residents.

Representative Dexter asked about COVID-19 variant testing and tracing in Oregon. On February 24th, Dr. Dean Sidelinger presented to the committee about COVID-19 genetic variant testing and genotyping. [Here](#) are the slides, and [here](#) is the link to the recording of the presentation. More than 3,800 specimens have been sequenced in Oregon to date. Sequencing launched at the Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL) on March 29th and currently has capacity to sequence 100 specimens per week. The OSPHL has also been participating in the CDC's National SARS-CoV-2 Strain Surveillance (NS3) program since it began in November 2020. OSPHL sends 21 specimens for sequencing to the CDC for the NS3 program every other week and will send more specimen as the CDC increases sequencing capacity. The Oregon Health and Sciences University, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, and Providence are also sequencing specimens. Most sequencing data occurring in Oregon is submitted to GISAID: <https://www.gisaid.org/phylogenetics/oregon-usa/>.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Allen
Director