1. **What is changing?**
Since 1994, the Oregon MPH Program has been a three-way collaborative among OHSU, OSU, and PSU. For the past few years Oregon State University had been preparing to establish an accredited college of public health independent of the OMPH Program. All partners in the OMPH have been working closely together during this time to assure a seamless transition for students. Beginning in July 2014, they will separate from the Oregon MPH Program and operate as an independently accredited college of public health. The Oregon MPH Program will continue as an accredited two-university collaborative program with OHSU and PSU.

2. **If OSU is planning to be independent, why wait until 2014?**
To make these transitions as smooth as possible for students, so there are no disruptions to students’ progress in our graduate programs, OSU will remain a full partner in the OMPH until 2014. By closely coordinating our planning, OSU maintains continuous accreditation under the OMPH until Summer 2014, at which time they become accredited independently.

3. **Is the OMPH Program accreditation affected or at risk with these changes?**
The advance planning over the past two years, combined with the close consultation with CEPH, has laid the groundwork for a smooth and successful transition for OSU and the OMPH Program. PSU and OHSU have the necessary governance, faculty, and expertise to continue the OMPH as a two-university collaborative program.

4. **What do entering students need to know about the changes?**
The changes will have a negligible effect for most students who are already enrolled in the program or who are beginning Fall 2012. If OSU is successful in receiving accreditation, this would occur in July 2014. At that time, OSU will no longer operate under the Oregon MPH Program accreditation. This change means that only PSU and OHSU students would be able to take classes at these campuses under the collaborative partnership. OSU students who have not graduated by June 2014 will continue their course of study at OSU, under the OSU accredited degree program. Effective fall quarter 2014 the OMPH and OSU would operate separately. Given the collaborative culture in Oregon and different areas of academic expertise and specialization at OHSU, OSU, and PSU, we expect there will continue to be opportunities for collaboration in research, teaching, and public health workforce development. However, the formal collaborative agreement that includes sharing of classes, tuition agreement, and exemptions to transfer of credit limits will only apply to OHSU and PSU.

5. **What is changing right away?**
The Oregon MPH Program and OSU faculty leaders have been working closely together over the past two years to anticipate the changes ahead. During the next two years the OMPH Program will continue to operate as a single accredited program and you may experience very little change.
6. What is not changing?
The Oregon MPH Program will continue to operate as a single collaborative program until the separation occurs. The MPH degree at OSU will continue to be accredited under the Oregon MPH Program. Therefore, the Program Learning Competencies for the Oregon MPH Program will remain the same until 2014, the five core classes will remain interchangeable at all three campuses until 2014, students will continue to be able to take classes through the intercampus registration process until 2014, and the annual Student Symposium will continue to be a collaborative activity with all three universities.

The Coordinating Council, made of up of faculty leaders from the three universities and the OMPH staff, will continue to be the body for program policy and planning. This group will be responsible for assuring the ongoing communications and coordination of all program activities that impact or involve students and faculty. The OMPH Program Office staff will continue to be accountable to all three universities for maintaining the quality of education for students and the cooperative administration of the OMPH Program. The Deans Oversight Council, made up of a Dean or Dean’s representative from each campus, continues to have the ultimate decision making authority and oversight for the OMPH Program.

7. Can a student still take classes at all three campuses?
Yes, this collaborative function will remain in place until Summer 2014. We will continue use of the intercampus course enrollment process. Oregon MPH students are encouraged to take the majority of their coursework at their home institution. Also, keep in mind that some courses do fill quickly, so be prepared to have several options in mind for class selection each quarter. The biggest change here will be for OSU students who took classes at OHSU and PSU, or OHSU and PSU students who likewise took classes at OSU; this part of the collaborative agreement will end.

8. Why is OSU doing this? Is there a need for more public health education in Oregon?
“Establishing a CPHHS at OSU is part of a larger effort by a diverse group of stakeholders to build a strong public health system for Oregon. An accredited CPHHS will increase capacity for public health research and service and is anticipated to bring national reputation, peer recognition and new resources to the participating universities and the State.” ---communication from OSU leadership. There is an expansion of public health education in many areas of the country. The expertise gained with an MPH degree is increasingly in demand, as a result of healthcare reform at all government levels, the greater recognition of public health training for health education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and the globalization of health and wellness initiatives.

9. Does establishing a CPHHS in Corvallis preclude starting a second school in Portland?
No. In fact many states have more than one graduate program in public health. We expect that the Oregon MPH in Portland will continue to grow and may expand its specialty areas into urban health, sustainability, global health, and environmental health. OHSU and PSU already have a strong strategic partnership and discussions are occurring on the possibility of establishing a School of Public Health in Portland. We expect both the OMPH and the CPHHS to thrive in the future and continue to serve Oregon students as well as out of state and international scholars.

10. What if I have more questions?
For further information on Oregon MPH Program, contact Greg Lee, PhD, Director, greglee@oregonmph.org, 503-725-5106.