



JACKSON COUNTY

Health & Human Services

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Public Health Division

140 S. Holly St.
Medford, OR 97501

COVID-19 Update October 29, 2020

	CASES	FATALITIES
WORLD (10/29/20, per Johns Hopkins)	44,627,664	1,176,101
USA (10/29/20, per Johns Hopkins)	8,865,697	227,774
OREGON (10/28/20, Per OHA)	43,228	671
JACKSON COUNTY(10/29/20, per JC HHS)	1,796	7
TOTAL ACTIVE/INFECTIOUS CASES – JACKSON COUNTY (10/29/20, per JC HHS) - 254		

(Note: The above numbers are current at the time of release but continue to change constantly.)

PRESS RELEASE ON BEHALF OF JACKSON COUNTY

If you have any questions, please reach out to the contact listed below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 29, 2020

For media interview requests, please contact Tanya Phillips by 12:15 pm. Interviews will be scheduled with Dr. Jim Shames, Jackson County Medical Director. Dr. Shames is available between 1:00 pm and 1:45 pm.

Tanya Phillips Health Promotion Program Manager
Jackson County Public Health
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New COVID-19 Cases Reported in Jackson County

[Medford, Oregon] —Jackson County Public Health reports 54 new COVID-19 cases as of 12:01 am on October 29, 2020. This update brings the total reported COVID-19 cases in Jackson County to 1,796. To access additional data on the total COVID-19 cases, visit the [Situation in Jackson County, Oregon](#) webpage, or the [Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) website.

Today marks the highest reported number of daily COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic in Jackson County. For week 43 (October 18 –October 24), Jackson County reported 177 new COVID-19 cases (80 cases per 100,000 population). This is a 31% increase in cases from week 42 and the highest number of new cases reported in a week. Jackson County had a test positivity rate of 8.1%, a 24.6% increase from the previous week.

Jackson County continues to see spread occur from indoor social gatherings and within a household or multiple households. The colder weather and holidays bring people indoors, which increases the risk of COVID-19 spreading. If you are holding a family/friend gathering, consider implementing the following steps to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19:

- **Gatherings are for well people:** people who are sick, have COVID-19, are a close contact to a confirmed case, have a pending COVID-19 test should not attend the gathering
- **Increase indoor ventilation:** ensuring proper ventilation can reduce airborne contaminants, including viruses, indoors. Open window, use HVAC system, consider upgrading filters, turn bathroom fans on and run them continuously, or use a portable air cleaner or purifier. Indoor

gathers with poor ventilation pose more risk than those with good ventilation. For more information, visit the [EPA Indoor Air in Homes and Coronavirus](#).

- **Wear a mask**- despite being with family and friends, wearing a mask continues to be an effective way of reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- **Limit the number of guests**- it is best to limit the number of people indoors; the Governor of Oregon has an indoor gathering limit of 10 or fewer people with physical distancing.
- **Practice physical distancing**- space out chairs at the table and consider not staying with family and friends in their home.

Halloween

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

It is best to engage in lower-risk activities and limit or avoid activities that carry a higher risk of spreading and contracting COVID-19. During the fall celebrations, it remains critical that everyone **wear a mask, maintain a physical distancing and limit close contact, wash your hands frequently, and get your flu vaccination.**

Low-risk activities include:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house, admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

Moderate risk activities:

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6ft apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used, and people remain more than 6 ft apart (costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask).
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 ft apart
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain physical distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with family and friends that are local and can maintain physical distancing

High-risk activities include:

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming

- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Traveling to a rural fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19
- Going to hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Using alcohol and trust, which can cloud judgment and increase risky behaviors

For more information on how to celebrate Halloween safely, visit the [CDC COVID-19 Holiday Celebrations](#) webpage.

For more information:

- The public can call 211-information with general questions
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- CDC COVID-19 page: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- CDC Travel within the U.S.: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>
- Jackson County Health and Human Services: <http://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/COVID-19>
- Oregon COVID-19 Testing Location Finder: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing>
- For more information on how to celebrate Halloween safely, visit the [CDC COVID-19 Holiday Celebrations](#) webpage.
- Review the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#) for detailed information

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