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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **COVID-19 Updates**

**[Medford, Oregon]** —Last week, Jackson County saw the highest number of new cases reported since the beginning of the pandemic. Jackson County Public Health is continuing to see a sharp increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases, COVID-19 outbreaks, and people hospitalized for COVID-19 at an alarming rate. Jackson County has a high level of transmission per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 data tracker.

During June 19–July 23, 2021, COVID-19 cases increased approximately 300% nationally, followed by increases in hospitalizations and deaths, driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant. Available data indicate that the vaccines authorized in the United States (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson offer high levels of protection against severe illness and death from infection with the Delta variant and other currently circulating variants of the virus. The CDC published data demonstrating that Delta infection resulted in high viral loads in both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. High viral loads suggest an increased risk of transmission. Unlike with other variants, this raises the concern that vaccinated people who become infected with the Delta virus can transmit the virus.

It is highly recommended that everyone 12 years of age and older get a free COVID-19 vaccination. The best way to stop the spread of Delta is to **get vaccinated against COVID-19**. Vaccines are preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death and are effective against the Delta variant. High vaccination coverage will reduce the spread of the virus in Jackson County and elsewhere - and help prevent new variants from emerging.

Because of the increase in cases, low vaccination rate, and the spread of the Delta variant in the United States, Jackson County Public Health strongly recommends that everyone 5 years and older (2 and older if tolerated) wear masks in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Although increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage remains the most effective means to achieve control of the pandemic, additional layered prevention strategies will be needed in the short term to minimize preventable morbidity and mortality.

Masks are required in all healthcare settings and must be worn by healthcare personnel, patients and visitors. [Mask, Face Covering, and Face Shield Requirements for Healthcare Offices](#).

### **Daily New COVID-19 Cases**

Today Jackson County Public Health is reporting 132 new cases of COVID-19 over the past three days as of 12:01 a.m. today, bringing the total cases in Jackson County to 12,840.

### **COVID-19 Hospitalizations**

The number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 in Region 5 (Jackson and Josephine Counties) continues to increase. As of 8:00 a.m. on August 2, 2021, there are 83 hospitalized patients with COVID-19, and 23 of those patients are in the intensive care unit.

### **COVID-19 Related Deaths**

Jackson County Public Health reports 1 new COVID-19 death, bringing the total to 157 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Jackson County's 157<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 death is an 81-year-old woman who tested positive on July 21 and died on July 29 at their residence. They had underlying health conditions.

### **COVID-19 Weekly Cases**

For the week of July 25, 2021, Jackson County Public Health reported a total of 626 new COVID-19 cases. This is the most cases reported in one week since the beginning of the pandemic.

For weeks 29 and 30 (7/18-7/31), there was a total of 876 new COVID-19 cases; this is a case rate of 392.4 cases per 100,000 population.

### **For more information:**

- The public can call 211-information with general questions
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- CDC COVID-19 page: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- OHA COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-vaccine>
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- Jackson County HHS Vaccine: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/COVID-19/COVID-19-News/covid-19-vaccine>
- 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>
- Review the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#) for detailed information

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