



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Updates

[Medford, Oregon] — Quarter 3 of 2021 (July – September) were the deadliest months since the pandemic, with deaths trending younger. Jackson County Public Health reported 138 COVID-19 related deaths in Quarter 3, with the average age decreasing to 68 years of age compared to 79 years of age in Quarter 1.

“What these past months showed us is that COVID-19 vaccinations are safe and very effective at preventing hospitalizations, severe illness, and death,” states Dr. Jim Shames, Health Officer for Jackson County Public Health. “The Delta variant is much more contagious than previous variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and it can cause more severe illness than previous variants. Our community saw how contagious this variant is with record number of cases and how severely ill people became with record number of unvaccinated people hospitalized, in the ICU, on ventilators and dying from COVID-19.”

The majority of the COVID-19 deaths have occurred among unvaccinated people. “To date, out of the total number of COVID-19 deaths (298), 258 were unvaccinated,” states Tanya Phillips, Health Promotion Manager for Jackson County Public Health.

A recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found that among U.S. adults without immunocompromising conditions, vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 hospitalization during March 11–August 15, 2021, was higher for the Moderna vaccine (93%) than the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (88%) and the Janssen vaccine (71%). Although these real-world data suggest some variation in levels of protection by vaccine, all FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines provide substantial protection against COVID-19 hospitalization.

Where to get COVID-19 vaccination in Jackson County:

Call 211 for information for vaccine locations, visit the Oregon Health Authority Vaccine Finder site <https://govstatus.egov.com/find-covid-19-vaccine> or visit the Jackson County Health and Human Services <https://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/COVID-19/Vaccine-Appointments/where-to-get-vaccinated-in-jackson-county>.

Daily Number of New COVID-19 Cases

As of 12:01 a.m. on October 13, 2021, Jackson County Public Health is reporting 66 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total cases in Jackson County to 22,529.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations for Region 5 (Jackson and Josephine Counties)

As of 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021, the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is 50, and there are 17 patients with COVID-19 in the intensive care unit.

The total number of patients in hospital beds may fluctuate between report times. The numbers do not reflect admissions per day nor the length of hospital stay. Staffing limitations are not captured in this data and may further limit bed capacity.

COVID-19 Related Deaths

Jackson County Public Health reports 2 new COVID-19 deaths, bringing the total to 298 since the beginning of the pandemic.

**Correction, Jackson County's 290th COVID-19 death was a 73-year-old woman who tested positive on April 21 and died on July 20 at their private residence. They had underlying health conditions.*

Jackson County's 297th COVID-19 death is an 86-year-old woman who tested positive on August 11 and died on September 17 at their residence. They had underlying health conditions.

Jackson County's 298th COVID-19 death is a 57-year-old man who tested positive on August 16 and died on September 20 at their private residence. They had underlying health conditions.

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
- 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>

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