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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## COVID-19 Updates

**[Medford, Oregon]** — The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has established a goal of an 80% vaccination rate to close the equity gap. Vaccination rates for Hispanic/Latino/a/x, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Black/African American/African Immigrant communities are still hovering in the [mid-40% range](#). To close the equity gap for communities of color, OHA is implementing a vaccination equity strategy to vaccinate 80% of adults of color by the end of this summer.

Jackson County has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases over the past week. Regionally, there has also been an increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations. Jackson County currently has the 17<sup>th</sup> lowest vaccination rate for people 18 years and older, at 54%. Also, Jackson County has the highest number of residents yet to be vaccinated to reach the 80% vaccination goal.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective and a critical tool to bring the pandemic under control. However, no vaccines are 100% effective at preventing illness in vaccinated people. There will be a small percentage of fully vaccinated people who still get sick, are hospitalized, or die from COVID-19. [Vaccine effectiveness studies](#) provide a growing body of evidence that mRNA; COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of COVID-19, including severe illness and hospitalizations, among people who are fully vaccinated by 90% or more.

More than 2.1 million people in Oregon have completed their vaccine series as of June 30, 2021. Of these, there are 1,790 total documented breakthrough cases, 191 breakthrough cases that have been hospitalized, and 31 breakthrough case deaths. This means that among vaccinated persons in Oregon, approximately 0.09% have tested positive for COVID-19 after completing their vaccine series, 0.009% have been hospitalized with COVID-19, and 0.001% have died. The Oregon Health Authority does report summary information on breakthrough cases in Oregon on a monthly basis. The most recent report can be found here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/covid19/Documents/DataReports/Breakthrough-Report-07-2021.pdf>

“It remains important for people to understand that the pandemic is not over,” states Dr. Jim Shames, Jackson County Health Officer. “More than three-quarters of the U.S. states and territories are experiencing increasing COVID-19 cases, and this includes Jackson County. Even though Oregon has reopened, utilizing tools to prevent COVID-19 infections, such as hand

washing, staying home when you are sick, getting tested, wearing a mask when needed, and getting vaccinated, are critical tools to slowing and stopping the pandemic.”

Jackson County Public Health is providing the Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccinations at 140 South Holly Street in Medford, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and closed during the lunch hour from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Anyone can access the vaccine at Jackson County Public Health; the vaccine is free; insurance information and identification are not required, and Spanish interpreters are available. Appointments are not required but can be made by calling 541-774-8209.

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

As of 12:01 a.m. on July 16, 2021, Jackson County Public Health reports 28 new COVID-19 cases. This brings the total COVID-19 cases in Jackson County to 11,905.

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

Jackson County Public Health reports 1 new COVID-19 death, bringing the total to 149 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Jackson County’s 149<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 death is a 75-year-old man who tested positive on Jul 11 and died on July 13 at Providence Medford Medical Center. They had underlying health conditions.

### **COVID-19 Workplace Outbreak**

The Oregon Health Authority reports workplace outbreaks that have a minimum of 30 workers with at least 5 associated cases of COVID-19. This includes workers and their close contacts (e.g., household members, family, and friends). Workplace outbreaks can be found in the Oregon Health Authority’s Weekly Outbreak Report. Please reference this report for updated information on workplace outbreaks.

Jackson County Public Health is investigating a COVID-19 outbreak associated with Harry & David. Jackson County Public Health began investigating this as a potential outbreak on June 17, 2021. At this time, there are 5 cases linked to this outbreak. This is an ongoing investigation.

### **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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