



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tanya Phillips, Jackson County Public Health, 541-770-7708

DATE OF RELEASE: November 23, 2021, 11:40 a.m.

COVID-19 Updates

[Medford, Oregon] — Jackson County Public Health wants to remind the community that the COVID-19 vaccination and testing site located at the Jackson County Expo will be closed this week starting November 25-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Safer Ways to Celebrate the Holidays

This holiday season offers many people hope that things will return to normal due to the COVID-19 vaccine being available this year. Vaccinated people are less likely to get COVID-19, and it protects them from getting severely ill, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19. In September, unvaccinated persons were 5.8 times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and 14 times more likely to die from COVID-19 compared to those who were vaccinated.¹

“We are all ready for the pandemic to be over, but we are seeing cases begin to increase across the United States. So we need to remain cautious as we travel and gather with family and friends this holiday season,” says Dr. Jim Shames, Health Officer for Jackson County Public Health. “Wearing a mask and not traveling or gathering with family and friends if you are sick will be important actions to take this season.”

Holiday traditions are important for families and children. There are several ways to enjoy holiday traditions and protect your health. Because many generations tend to gather to celebrate holidays, the best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safer is to get vaccinated if you're eligible.

Here are safer ways to celebrate the holidays:

- Protect those not yet eligible for vaccination, such as young children, by getting yourself, and other eligible people around them vaccinated.
- Wear well-fitting masks over your nose and mouth if you are in public indoor settings if you are not fully vaccinated.
 - Even fully vaccinated people should wear a mask in public indoor settings in communities with substantial to high transmission.
 - Outdoors is safer than indoors.
 - Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.
 - If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host or attend a gathering.

- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have a close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

If you are considering traveling for a holiday or event, visit CDC's [Travel](#) page to help you decide what is best for you and your family. CDC still recommends delaying travel until you are [fully vaccinated](#).

Special considerations:

- People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated and have received an [additional dose](#). They should continue to take all [precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask](#), until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- You might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission if a member of your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.
- If you are gathering with a group of people from multiple households and potentially from different parts of the country, you could consider additional precautions (e.g., avoiding crowded indoor spaces before travel, taking a test) in advance of gathering to further reduce risk.
- Do NOT put a mask on children younger than 2 years old.

By working together, we can enjoy safer holidays, travel, and protect our own health as well as the health of our family and friends.

Where to get vaccinated 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 November 23, 2021, Jackson County Public Health is reporting 50 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total cases in Jackson County to 24,608.

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

As of 9:00 a.m. on November 23, 2021, the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is 37, and there are 13 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 348 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Jackson County's 347th COVID-19 death is a 91-year-old woman who tested positive on October 30 and died on November 10 at their residence. They had underlying health conditions.

Jackson County's 348th COVID-19 death is a 71-year-old man who tested positive on November 12 and died on November 19 at Rogue Regional Medical Center. 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>

References

Rates of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status. CDC website
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#rates-by-vaccine-status>. Accessed November 23, 2021.

###