Oregon Disease Reporting: How do Clinicians Report to Jackson County Public Health?

By law, Oregon clinicians **MUST** report diagnosis of the specified infections, diseases and conditions to local public health departments. Both lab-confirmed and clinically suspect cases are reportable. **Jackson County Public Health depends on clinicians to report within the required time frames of immediately or within 24 hours (OAR 333-018-0015).** Importantly, please contact Jackson County Public Health immediately if you have a suspect case of measles or Neisseria meningitidis.

The importance of disease reporting enables appropriate public health follow-up for your patients, helps identify outbreaks, provides a better understanding of morbidity patterns, and may even save lives. **HIPAA does not prohibit you from reporting protected health information to public health authorities for the purpose of preventing or controlling diseases, including public health surveillance and investigation.**

Ways clinicians can report to Jackson County Public Health

Clinicians should make their report to Jackson County Public Health. The report should, at a minimum, include the patient’s name, home address, phone number, date of birth, sex, diagnosis and date of symptom onset. **Most reporting should be made within one working day of the diagnosis, but there are several important expectations, please print and review the Oregon Disease Reporting Posters for clinicians, laboratories, healthcare-associated infections, and CRE.** There are three ways to report communicable disease to Jackson County Public health:

1. **Electronic** – This is a web-based confidential reporting system through the Oregon Health Authority. These reports will be automatically routed to Jackson County Public Health. Click on the hyperlink to access this option, **Web-based Confidential Oregon Morbidity Report.**
2. **Call Jackson County Public Health Communicable Disease** – Clinicians can call and make a report 24 hours a day. During business hours call 541-774-8045, and after-hours call 541-618-4651.
3. **Fax** – Clinicians can fax a report to Jackson County Public Health using the **Oregon Confidential Morbidity Form** (please click on the hyperlink to access this form). The form should be faxed 541-774-7954.
Acute Flaccid Myelitis

Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is a rare but serious condition. It affects a person’s nervous system, specifically the spinal cord causing weakness in one or more limbs. AFM can result from a variety of causes, including viral infections and environmental toxins.

Beginning in August 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received an increase in reports of people across the United States with AFM for which no cause could be found. Since then, CDC has been actively investigating this illness. CDC continues to receive reports of sporadic cases of AFM. So far in 2018, there have been 80 confirmed cases of AFM. Cases have occurred in 25 states across the U.S.

What CDC knows at this point is that most patients are children and the patients’ symptoms have been most similar to complications of infection with certain viruses, including poliovirus, non-polio enteroviruses, adenoviruses, and West Nile virus. The CDC knows that some patients diagnosed with AFM have recovered quickly, and some continue to have paralysis and require ongoing care.

The CDC does not know among the people who were diagnosed with AFM since August 2014 what the cause is for most of the AFM cases or what caused the increase since 2014. CDC has not determined who is at higher risk for developing AFM, or the reason why they may be at higher risk. They also do not know the long-term effects of AFM.

Symptoms
Most patients will have sudden onset of limb weakness and loss of muscle tone and reflexes. Some patients, in addition to the limb weakness, will experience:

- facial droop/weakness,
- difficulty moving the eyes,
- drooping eyelids, or
- difficulty with swallowing or slurred speech.

Numbness or tingling is rare in patients with AFM, though some patients have pain in their arms or legs. Some patients with AFM may be unable to pass urine. The most severe symptom of AFM is respiratory failure that can happen when the muscles involved with breathing become weak. This can require urgent ventilator support (breathing machines).

For more information visit the CDC About Acute Flaccid Myelitis.
http://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/about-afm.html

Seasonal Influenza

For week 44, October 28 – November 4, the weekly percentage of ILI being seen in the EDs in Jackson County was at 1.4%, and the state was at 1.0%. Overall, ILI activity in Oregon at this time is minimal, with local activity.
During week 44 there were 232 specimens sent for flu testing in Southern Oregon (Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Klamath, & Lake Counties) and 1.29% tested positive. There were three specimens positive for influenza A.

For questions, please contact Jackson County Public Health at 541-774-8045.

There are three ways to report a flu outbreak or influenza (laboratory-confirmed) death of a person <18 years of age to Jackson County Public health:

1. **Electronic** – This is a web-based confidential reporting system through the Oregon Health Authority. These reports will be automatically routed to Jackson County Public Health. Click on the hyperlink to access this option, Web-based Confidential Oregon Morbidity Report.

2. **Call Jackson County Public Health Communicable Disease** – Clinicians can call and make a report 24 hours a day. During business hours call 541-774-8045, and after-hours call 541-618-4651.

3. **Fax** – Clinicians can fax a report to Jackson County Public Health using the Oregon Confidential Morbidity Form (please click on the hyperlink to access this form). The form should be faxed 541-774-7954.

**RESOURCES**

- ILI outbreak guidance for long-term care facilities in Oregon (see Step 5): [http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/Outbreaks/Pages/respdisease.aspx](http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/Outbreaks/Pages/respdisease.aspx)
- CDC Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm)
- CDC Information for Health Care Professionals on Antiviral Drugs: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm)
- CDC Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Resources for Health Care Professionals: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/index.htm)
- You can receive monthly flu reports from the Oregon Health Authority Acute and Communicable Disease, by signing up to receive Flu Bites.

"The mission of Jackson County Health and Human Services is to plan, coordinate and provide public services that protect and promote the health and well-being of county residents."