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- Updated Interim Guidance for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Contact Us

Communicable Disease Reporting at JCPH:
541-774-8045
After Hours:
541-618-4651

Jackson County Public Health Website

Jackson County Health & Human Services
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Updated Interim Guidance for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new guidance for testing persons with suspected COVID-19. Primary changes include expanding travel exposure to include Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea, and provisions for testing persons with unexplained severe lower respiratory illness who have no known source of exposure to COVID-19.

The Oregon Health Authority will be updating the guidance and adding this information to their website soon. Jackson County Public Health will issue another Flash Report with the additional information and guidance as it is released.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
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<th>Epidemiological Risk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>A history of travel from affected geographic areas (see below) within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>No source of exposure has been identified</td>
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Affected Geographic Areas with Widespread or Sustained Community Transmission (last updated on 2/26/20)

- China
- Iran
- Italy
- Japan
- South Korea
The criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. In consultation with public health departments, patients should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for testing. Testing may be considered for deceased persons who would otherwise meet the persons under investigation (PUI) criteria.¹

CDC announced in a press conference that are working to increase testing availability through the modification of the current test kits and that commercial labs will be coming online soon with their own test.²

**Notifying Jackson County Public Health**

Healthcare providers are required to immediately notify Jackson County Public Health of any suspect cases of COVID-19. Please report directly by calling 541-618-4651.

Upon notification, Jackson County Public Health’s Communicable Disease Program will work with OHA for approval to test for COVID-19. Staff will also provide consultation to the provider on the specifics for specimen collection. Testing should be done in a medical setting that meets the infection control standards.

The notification step will also allow Jackson County Public Health to implement disease control measures that will reduce the virus from spreading.

**Specimen collection**

All specimens should be stored at 2–8°F and shipped on an ice pack. Label each specimen container with the patient’s ID number (e.g., medical record number), unique specimen ID (e.g., laboratory requisition number), specimen type (e.g., serum) and the date the sample was collected.

**Persons Under Monitoring (PUM) and Persons Under Investigation (PUI) Cases in Oregon**

OHA is publishing the number of PUM, PUI, and Oregon test result for COVID-19. You can access that data on the healthoregon.org/coronavirus website.

**Resources for Healthcare Providers:**

- CDC Evaluating and Monitoring Persons Under Investigation:

- The Oregon Health Authority provides Oregon-specific information on its website here (healthoregon.org/coronavirus).

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**REFERENCES**
