One New Confirmed COVID-19 Case in Jackson County

On March 24, 2020, Jackson County Public Health reported one new COVID-19 case, bringing the total to three in Jackson County. There is no known travel-related exposure or contact with a known case. Therefore, this is believed to be community-acquired. Jackson County Public Health is working to identify and isolate/quarantine any individuals who may have been in close contact with the person in the last 14 days.

With the latest test results in Oregon and across the United States, there is more evidence of active community spread of COVID-19, but this is something we have expected to see in Oregon and in Jackson County. Governor Kate Brown released new executive orders that take additional steps to ensure that Oregonians stay home in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives.

Under the new executive orders are directives for individuals. These directives state during the ongoing state of emergency that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals are to stay home or at their place of residence. Here are what individuals should and shouldn’t do:

Do
- Stay home as much as possible; this includes kids
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others any time you are out
- Go out only for essentials (groceries and medical care)
- Exercise outside (hiking, biking) only if you can be 6 feet apart from others
- Have video and phone chats
- Drop food off to neighbors who can’t go out

Don’t
- Gather in groups
- Get together with friends (no drinks or dinners)
- Have playdates for kids
- Make unnecessary trips

Social distancing is the most critical action Jackson County residents need to take right now in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of the community. By slowing the spread of COVID-19, we are flattening the curve. The curve is the number of people projected to contract COVID-19. The faster the infection curve rises, the quicker the local healthcare system gets overloaded beyond its capacity to treat people. By slowing the infection rate, the infection curve flattens, allowing our healthcare system to operate and care for those who need it. Stay home and save a
Jackson County Health and Human Services Updates

Our leadership and Incident Management Team have put together a plan for addressing the risks that the COVID-19 outbreak poses to both staff and clients. This includes reducing the opportunities for exposure to and transmission of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) while continuing to serve as the safety net service provider for the county.

Jackson County Health and Human Services takes the health and well-being of both clients and our staff very seriously. Out of an abundance of caution, we are doing all we can to help create service environments and to deliver programming that will be safe for those providing the care as well as receiving it.

The Health and Human Services Building is attempting to reduce the number of individuals coming into the building and providing the majority of our mission-critical services via telephone and video conferencing. Some key points to note:

- All public meetings and conferences in the HHS building on 140 South Holly have been canceled at this point.
- WIC Services are all phone-based at this point in time with no face-to-face appointments.
- Maternal and Child Health/Family Nurse Partnership are no longer doing home visits; appointments are now all phone-based.
- At this time, Public Health is offering immunizations, HIV, and hepatitis C testing by appointment only.
- Environmental Health is limiting the number of inspections that they are doing at this time and are doing much of their work mobile rather than face-to-face.
- Veterans Service Office is limiting face-to-face appointments at this time. Providing application completions and supports over the telephone.
- Mental Health and Developmental Disability Services will be primarily done via telephone and teleconferencing, again limiting the number of individuals in the HHS building.
- 24/7 crisis will continue as usual, with minimizing the number of face-to-face as much as is clinically possible in these situations and will be working to offer a triage crisis response area in the HHS building for those needing a face-to-face response.
- Any individuals receiving services through Jackson County Mental Health and are on an injectable medication will continue to receive those injections in the clinic by appointment.
- Syringe Exchange continues to be open as it is considered a critical and essential service. Syringe Exchange services will be moved outside, allowing clients to practice social distancing while receiving services. Notification of any further changes to that service will be sent out should that happen.

HHS is working diligently to implement recommendations provided by the CDC and the Oregon Health Authority to continue to take proactive steps to mitigate health risks and prevent further spread of COVID-19. Please refer to the Jackson County website for continued updates and information.
Resources:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Jackson County Health and Human Services: http://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/COVID-19

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.