Update on COVID-19 Cases in Jackson County

To date, Jackson County Public Health has reported a total of 48 confirmed COVID-19 cases. The last confirmed case was reported on April 16, 2020. At this time, there are no fatalities from COVID-19 reported in Jackson County.

The Oregon Health Authority and Jackson County Public Health began assessing the recovery of COVID-19 cases by calling each case to determine if they have recovered and the date of recovery. A person is considered to be recovered once they are free of fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications), cough, and shortness of breath for 72 hours. COVID-19 cases without symptoms (asymptomatic people) are considered recovered seven days after the last positive test. Of the 48 cases in Jackson County, 33 (69%) have recovered, and 15 (31%) cases continue to be monitored by Jackson County Public Health staff.

For demographic data on the total cases, please access the Jackson County HHS COVID-19 webpage. This data is located under the Jackson County Daily Situational Update tab.

STD Management During COVID-19: Letter from Oregon Health Authority

The Oregon Health Authority STD Program would like to share interim guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on STD management during the coronavirus pandemic and remind medical providers of strategies for patient and partner care that is especially beneficial during this challenging time. The CDC interim guidance provides recommendations for STD management when in-person examination, laboratory confirmation, or injection treatment are not feasible due to coronavirus-related changes in clinical services. The alternative treatments reviewed in this guidance are only appropriate if the preferred treatments are impracticable due to coronavirus-related changes. Please note that the 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines should be followed where routine STD clinical services are available during the pandemic, and once services are fully restored if they are currently limited.

Now, more than ever, it is also critical to utilize the following strategies for managing STDs and reducing transmission:

1. Presumptive treatment for patients reporting symptoms and/or exposure (see attached guidance for preferred and alternative treatments based on syndrome)
2. Self-collection of urine and extragenital specimens (vaginal, rectal, pharyngeal) to minimize close contact with the patient
3. **Expedited partner therapy** to treat partners of patients with confirmed/suspected chlamydia or gonorrhea

Please contact the Oregon Health Authority or Jackson County Public Health with any questions regarding STD testing, treatment, or reporting. Visit Oregon’s [STD prevention website](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/Health) for additional information and resources.

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**Help People Quit Smoking and Protect Them from the Added Risk of Smoking During COVID-19**

We are learning more every day about COVID-19 and why it may affect some people more than others. People who smoke or vape may be more likely to develop serious complications from COVID-19 than people who do not smoke.

For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted children, communities of color, and people who are stressed and struggling. This can lead to addiction and lifelong health conditions that make people more susceptible to a long list of illnesses, including COVID-19.


For free help to quit, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit [www.quitnow.net/oregon](https://www.quitnow.net/oregon).

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**Updated State Guidance and Resources**

The Oregon Health Authority revised the guidelines for COVID-19 testing to prioritize populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and all frontline workers. The guidelines continue to allow healthcare providers to make clinical decisions about their patients. In addition, if supplies allow, asymptomatic people within the congregate care or group living systems can be considered for testing.

The newly revised guidelines urge clinicians to potentially increase testing for Oregonians who may be at particular risk for contracting COVID-19. These groups include:

- Those living or working in congregate care or group living facilities;
- Communities that have been most impacted by health disparities and health inequities, including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities;
- Essential frontline workers, including those providing healthcare services and those serving the public, such as grocery store workers.

**OHA Guidance for Health Systems Regarding COVID-19 Testing Updated 4/20/20**

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.