COVID-19 Local Update

Jackson County Public Health is reporting 14 new COVID-19 cases as of 12:01 am, on August 12, 2020. This update brings the total reported COVID-19 cases in Jackson County to 499.

There have been two COVID-19 related deaths in Jackson County. The first was reported on July 29, 2020. The patient was a 65-year-old male who tested positive on June 29 and died July 25 at Providence Portland Medical Center. The patient had underlying medical conditions.

The second COVID-19 related death was reported on August 7, 2020. The patient was an 80-year-old male who tested positive on July 15 and died August 6 at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford. The patient had underlying medical conditions.

To access additional data on the total COVID-19 cases, visit the Situation in Jackson County, Oregon webpage.

Additional data can be found on the Oregon Health Authorities COVID-19 Data Dashboards.

Oregon Health Authority: COVID-19 Reporting Requirements

In the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic, it is extremely important that health care facilities and health care providers comply with their COVID-19 reporting requirements. The Oregon Health Authority has observed a decrease in COVID-19 hospitalization reporting. This is a concerning trend, as we cannot take appropriate action to respond to this epidemic without your assistance and cooperation. Please review the COVID-19 reporting requirements below. Thank you, in advance, for your collaboration.

Health care facilities and health care providers are required, by law, to report the following within 24 hours (including weekends and holidays):

- All human cases of COVID-19 to the local public health administrator. When local public health administrators cannot be reached within the specified time limit, reports shall be made directly to the Oregon Health Authority.
- All human cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).
- Hospitalization of any individual with COVID-19, on or after March 9, 2020, whether or not the case was previously reported.
- Deaths of any individual due to COVID-19, on or after March 9, 2020, whether or
not the case was previously reported.

In addition, licensed laboratories are required to report:

- All test results indicative of and specific for COVID-19 within 24 hours (including weekends and holidays).
- All negative test results for COVID-19 within one local public health authority working day.

Health care providers must report this information in one of two ways, in order of preference:

Submission of an Electronic Initial Case Report (eICR) in accordance with the Authority's Electronic Case Reporting (ECR) Manual, which can be found at: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGCOMMUNICABLEDISEASE/Documents/OR%20eCR%20Manual.pdf. or

Through the Online Morbidity Report System, which can be found at: www.healthoregon.org/howtoreport. Failure to report or report timely could subject you to civil penalties or licensing action by your regulatory board. OAR 333-018-0900. OAR 333-026-0030.

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**August is Immunization Awareness Month**

Public health officials at Jackson County Public Health and the Oregon Health Authority are urging parents to remain up-to-date on their children's vaccinations and well visit appointments.

Parents are understandably nervous about taking their children and teens to their doctors' offices right now. As a result, children in Oregon are falling behind on their childhood vaccinations.

Parents consider their child’s healthcare professionals to be their most trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines. This is true even for parents who are vaccine-hesitant or who have considered delaying one or more vaccines. Therefore, you have a critical role in helping parents choose vaccines for their child. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created materials to help healthcare professionals assess parents' needs, identify the role they want to play in making decisions for their child’s health, and then communicate in ways that meet their needs. These resources are collectively called Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents.

With so many people out of work and without health insurance, it's important to know you can still keep your child safe. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program offers free vaccines to families who cannot afford to pay for their children's vaccines. Call 211 to find out more about VFC.

If you have a patient that needs health insurance, they may be eligible for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). It is open to all children and teens younger than 19, regardless
of immigration status, who meet income and other criteria. Trained community partners across the state can help you fill out an application. It's free. Visit http://www.OHP.Oregon.gov to find community partners in your area.

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Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Red Onions

Jackson County Public Health has been collaborating with the Oregon Health Authority on an outbreak of Salmonella linked to red onions.

Epidemiologists at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division say the Oregon cases are part of an outbreak that has sickened more than 400 people in about 40 states as well as consumers in Canada. As of July 31, 2020, there were 76 cases reported in Oregon in 13 different counties, including Jackson County.

U.S. and Canadian public health officials implicated consumption of red onions, and the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) traced the onions to Thomson International, Inc. Although red onions are the likely source, Thomson has recalled all varieties of onions that could have been cross-contaminated.

For information about the national Salmonella outbreak, visit https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/newport-07-20/index.html.


"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."