Updated EPT Guidelines and Resources

The Oregon STD Prevention Program has updated the state’s expedited partner therapy (EPT) guidelines. In addition to these guidelines and a document summarizing the changes between the 2015 and 2022 guidelines, new educational materials for providers, pharmacists, and partners are also available. The materials listed below are attached and posted on the Oregon Health Authority’s EPT webpage:

- Expedited Partner Therapy for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea: Guidance for Health Care Professionals in Oregon, 2022
- Summary of Changes to EPT Recommendations, 2022
- EPT Fact Sheet for Providers
- EPT Fact Sheet for Pharmacists
- Partner Treatment for Chlamydia (English/Spanish)
- Partner Treatment for Gonorrhea (English/Spanish)

March is National Nutrition Month

Each March, we celebrate National Nutrition Month to honor and highlight the work of nutrition professionals and promote the importance of developing healthy habits at a young age. Jackson County WIC staff serve over 4,000 families each year, offering quality, participant-centered nutrition education and providing prescriptive, nutrient-dense foods designed to support critical times of growth and development. In addition, WIC Registered Dietitian staff provide individualized nutrition counseling and professional nutrition expertise to high-risk WIC participants. Thank you to our qualified WIC staff for their work to support the lifelong health of Jackson County families. For more information on WIC, Jackson County’s premier public health nutrition program, visit www.jacksoncounty.org/wic

Join us all March long by posting a photo or video sharing your favorite meals using food from the WIC Food Package. Tell us in the caption why WIC’s nutrition education is critical for establishing healthy eating habits for young families.
Infant Powdered Formula Recall Information & Update

On February 17, 2022, the formula manufacturer of Similac brand formulas, Abbott, initiated a proactive, voluntary recall of their powder formulas, including Similac Advance, Similac Sensitive, Similac Spit Up, Similac Total Comfort, Alimentum, EleCare Infant and EleCare Jr. Similac PM 60/40 was added to the recall list February 28, 2022. The recalls are limited to specific lot numbers manufactured in one facility.

Abbott is voluntarily recalling these products after four consumer complaints related to Cronobacter sakazakii or Salmonella in infants who had consumed powder infant formula manufactured in the Sturgis, Michigan facility.

Although Oregon WIC is contractually obligated to offer only Similac products, waivers have been granted by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service to allow WIC agencies to temporarily issue non-contract formulas, including store brands to replace affected formulas and Oregon WIC vendors have been instructed to treat WIC shoppers the same as any shopped returning recalled formula.

Families with infants who consumed the recalled formula are being advised to contact their health care provider if they have any concerns about their baby’s health. We are reassuring families that there is formula available and providing assistance as appropriate. We are advising families to not make or feed home-made infant formula and to not dilute infant formula.

To learn more about the instructions being provided to Jackson County WIC participants or more about the infant powdered formula recall, please visit the Oregon WIC website:
https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYPEOPLEFAMILIES/WIC/Pages/index.aspx

For questions regarding WIC-eligible formulas, medical documentation or prescribing formulas for WIC clients, call the Jackson County WIC office at 541-774-8203.

Jackson County Syringe Exchange Services

The Jackson County Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) is part of a comprehensive public health approach that is evidence-based to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and other bloodborne pathogens among people who use injection drugs, their families, and the larger community.

The core vision, principles, and practices of the Jackson County Syringe Exchange Program are to reduce the harms of drug use, treat people with dignity and respect,
create a non-judgmental and safe environment for participants, and meet people where they are at.

There are five primary theories and strategies used to inform the principles and practices of the Jackson County Syringe Exchange Program. Each recognizes the humanity and lived experiences of people who use drugs to foster their engagement in services. Together they are intersectional and complementary to each other. The five theories and strategies include:

- Harm Reduction Philosophy
- The Stages of Behavior Change
- Motivational Interviewing/Counseling
- Trauma-Informed Care
- People-First Language Principle

**Location and Hours of Services:**
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Jackson County Health & Human Services, 140 South Holly Street, Medford
- Services are located on the first level of the parking garage

**Services are anonymous and include:**
- **Safe disposal of used syringes:** syringe disposal at exchange sites is intended for syringe exchange clients. The public can visit the Rouge Disposal website for information on how to dispose of medical waste.
- **Safer use supplies:** includes sterile syringes, drug preparation equipment, alternative use supplies, fentanyl test strips, and sharps containers
- **Wound care supplies**
- **Safer sex supplies**
- **Naloxone Kits:** HIV Alliance provides naloxone kits every Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- **HIV Testing:** Jackson County Public Health provides free rapid HIV test
- **Risk reduction counseling:** includes education on reducing the risk of contracting and spreading infectious diseases, reducing the risk of bacterial infections, proper disposal, overdose prevention, and accessing medical care, social services, and drug treatment options.
- **Referrals:** to medical care, HIV and STD testing and treatment, naloxone, mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, medication-assisted treatment, peer support services, naloxone, maternal and child health services, reproductive health, PrEP, health insurance, and much more...
- **Naloxone Kits:** HIV Alliance provides naloxone kits every Wednesday
- **HIV Testing:** Jackson County Public Health provides free rapid HIV tests. HCV test will be available soon.

**Update on COVID-19 Therapeutic Agents**

Recently, several new COVID-19 therapeutic agents have become available. The supplies of these medications are limited. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is committed to making these medications available to cultural communities that have been hit hardest by severe COVID-19 illness and that have had limited access to effective treatment. To do this, OHA wants to establish partnerships with the clinics that provide care to these communities to better meet the needs of those we mutually serve.
A number of federally qualified health clinics and Tribal clinics have already signed up to receive these medications and are using them to protect their patients with COVID-19 who are at high risk for severe illness. We greatly appreciate this. We are reaching out to you again because of several developments that might remove key barriers that have prevented other FQHCs from offering these medications in the past.

Based on recent discussions with the Oregon Medical Board and Oregon Board of Pharmacy, dispensing of the oral COVID-19 antivirals Paxlovid and Molnupiravir can be done by physicians or physician assistants who have been authorized by the Medical Board to dispense prescription medications. Physicians and physician assistants can delegate non-judgmental tasks such as making and placing a label on the medication and delivering the product to the patient, as long as they have assessed the patient, confirmed that treatment is indicated, counseled the patient, and confirmed that the information on the medication label is correct. The Oregon Medical Board has provided useful guidance on how to do this at omb.oregon.gov/dispensing.

Clinicians prescribing Paxlovid can use an online tool to check for any of several drug interactions that are contraindications to Paxlovid use. https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/

If you have any questions, please email us at OHA.therapeutics@dhs.state.or.us.

Training & Conferences

- **Clinical STD Update (mini-series):** this is a two, one-half-day didactic series which provides registered participants with training in the most recent advancements in epidemiology, diagnosis, and management of viral and bacterial STDs. CME/CNE is offered for this class.
  
  - **When:** March 23 & 24, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
  - **Cost:** $75
  - **Platform:** Live online via Zoom
  - **Registration:** Pre-enrollment by March 18 is required. Courses.nnptc.org

- **Mountain West Transforming Care Conference:** A Conference on gender-affirming care, sexual health, and HIV Prevention in Primary Care
  - **When:** March 31 –April 22, 2022
  - **Platform:** Virtual
  - **Registration:** https://whova.com/web/gacsh_202203/

- **Parkinson’s Disease Peer Connection:** Navigating life with PD while working in the healthcare field can be difficult. Meet and connect with other professionals in your field. This is a confidential group held monthly online.
  - **For more information:** Contact Nia Jones at nia@parkinsonresources.org or at 971-727-3532

- **Save the Date! Recovery Summit for Jackson County**
  - **Registration:** https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jackson-county-recovery-strategy-summit-tickets-291375681507

“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.