STD Awareness Week

STD Awareness Week is observed the second full week in April, and it provides an opportunity to raise awareness about STDs and how they impact our lives; reduce STD-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge to prevent, test for, and treat STDs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that about 20 percent of the U.S. population – approximately one in five people in the U.S. – had an STI on any given day in 2018, and STIs acquired that year cost the American health care system nearly $16 billion in health care costs alone. Preliminary 2020 data indicate reported STDs in the U.S. dropped as clinics and healthcare offices closed due to COVID-19, then resurged when they reopened.

While the idea of Talk. Test. Treat. is simple; STD prevention and treatment are not one-size-fits-all. Jackson County Public Health encourages healthcare providers to revisit the many ways that you can empower your patients to take charge of their sexual health.

Make sure your patients are aware of the different ways they may be able to access critical STD care during STD Awareness Week and beyond. In addition to traditional, in-person visits, other options include:

- **Express visits** allow walk-in STD testing and treatment appointments without a full clinical exam.
- **Partnerships with pharmacies and retail health clinics** can provide new access points for STD services, such as on-site testing and treatment.
- **Telehealth/telemedicine** can close gaps in STD testing and treatment, ensure access to healthcare providers, and support self-testing. This is especially critical in rural areas.
- **At-home specimen collection** allows patients to collect their own sample and take or mail it to a lab for testing. There is also an FDA-approved HIV self-test. These options could be useful when in-person services are not available or feasible.

**TALK:** providing the best medical care possible means talking to your patients about sexual health.

Taking a sexual history should be a part of routine care. Talking about sexual health can be challenging, but studies show that patients want to be asked about sex.

**TEST:** test your patients for STDs as recommended.

Use the sexual history to determine which STDs you should test for and the anatomical sites to test. STD screening recommendations for different patient
Please print the Reporting Guidelines

Look for the May edition in the first week of the month!

TREAT: follow CDC's STI Treatment Guidelines to ensure appropriate treatment and care.
The 2021 STI Treatment Guidelines are the most current recommendations for treating patients who have, or who are at risk for STDs. Important treatment topics to be aware of include Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). This may be an option in cases where a patient’s partner is unwilling or unable to access care.

Jackson County Public Health has staff available to discuss and provide recommendations on testing and treatment for STIs; call 541-774-8209, and ask to speak to a Disease Intervention Specialist.

For more information on the Talk.Test.Treat campaign for medical providers, visit the Centers for Disease Control website https://www.cdc.gov/std/saw/talktesttreat/providers.htm.

Increase of Norovirus Cases in Jackson County

Jackson County Public Health is seeing an increase in norovirus cases and outbreaks among daycare and elementary school-aged children. Each year, there are about 2,500 reported norovirus outbreaks in the United States. Norovirus outbreaks occur throughout the year but are most common from November to April. In years when there is a new strain of the virus, there can be 50% more norovirus illness.

Each year, on average in the United States, norovirus causes:
- 900 deaths, mostly among adults aged 65 and older
- 109,000 hospitalizations
- 465,000 emergency department visits, mostly in young children
- 2,270,000 outpatient clinic visits annually, mostly in young children
- 19 to 21 million cases of vomiting and diarrhea illnesses

Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea. People with norovirus illness shed billions of virus particles in their stool and vomit and can easily infect others. It only takes a minimal amount of norovirus particles (fewer than 100) to become infected.

Norovirus infection causes gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines), causing diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain. Norovirus illness is often called by other names, such as food poisoning and stomach flu. Noroviruses can cause food poisoning, as can other germs and chemicals. Norovirus illness is not related to the flu (influenza). Though they share some of the same symptoms, the flu is a respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus.

Healthcare providers should report all outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis, including suspected outbreaks of norovirus, to Jackson County Public Health. Healthcare providers are encouraged to test for norovirus when possible.
How to Report Communicable Disease Cases or Outbreaks to Jackson County Public Health:

1. **Electronic** – This is a web-based confidential reporting system through the Oregon Health Authority. These reports will be automatically routed to Jackson County Public Health. Click on the hyperlink to access this option, Web-based Confidential Oregon Morbidity Report.

2. **Call Jackson County Public Health Communicable Disease** – Clinicians can call and make a report 24 hours a day. During business hours call 541-774-8045, and after-hours call 541-618-4651.

3. **Fax** – Clinicians can fax a report to Jackson County Public Health using the Oregon Confidential Morbidity Form (please click on the hyperlink to access this form). The form should be faxed 541-774-7954.

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**COVID-19 Resources**

- **CDC Quarantine and Isolation Calculator Tool**: A tool to help determine how long you need to isolate, quarantine, or take other steps to prevent spreading COVID-19. This information is intended for a general audience. Healthcare professionals should see Ending Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19.

- **Let's Talk COVID-19 Vaccines**: This is a tool to help people have healthy and safe conversations about the COVID-19 vaccines.

- **Find COVID-19 Guidance for Your Community, Covid.gov**: This is a website through the Department of Health & Human Services that provides an easy way to look up the current status of a community and provides resources to keep yourself and others safe.

- **RECOVER**: a research initiative from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), seeks to understand, prevent, and treat PASC, including Long COVID. Providers can refer their patients to participate in the study by having them sign-up at https://recovercovid.org/.

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**COVID-19 Treatment Updates**

The incidence of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.2 variant is increasing in Oregon. The monoclonal antibody Sotrovimab appears to have limited effectiveness against this variant and is being removed as a treatment for COVID-19. Clinicians should consider other treatments for patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who are at high risk for severe illness.

**Available COVID-19 Treatments**

- Evusheld
- Paxlovid
- Molnupiravir
- Bebtelovimab
- Remdesivir

Additionally, the federal government has released the **Test to Treat Locator** to make it easier to find Test to Treat (T2T) locations. This locator allows you to:

- Enter the appropriate address, city or zip code
- Select the desired distance from the location entered (in miles)
• Search locations that include testing, medical assessment by a provider, and dispensing of COVID-19 antivirals (T2T)
• Search locations to fill a prescription (Federal Retail Pharmacy Therapeutic Program sites included)

The federal T2T model quickly connects eligible individuals who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 to appropriate treatments and aims to increase access to lifesaving COVID-19 treatments that must be given quickly to be effective. These locations will provide access for people to get tested, receive a prescription from a health care provider, and fill that prescription, all at one location. OHA is working on adding additional sites that fit federal criteria to be a T2T site.

OHA is allocating a portion of oral COVID-19 treatment Molnupiravir to two FRPTP organizations, Rite Aid and Walgreens. These pharmacies were selected based on OHA’s assessment of strategic geographical distribution. The federally registered pharmacies have received their allocations and have distributed them across their stores. Please call to verify the supply before sending a prescription to Rite Aid or Walgreens. OHA is working on broadening access to therapeutics in rural communities by exploring additional pharmacies.

Accessing Evusheld In Jackson County for High-Risk Patients in Jackson County
The Asante Infusion Center has Evusheld available. Providers can send a generic order (there is no special order) by fax to 541-789-5678. The infusion center will then schedule the patient.
  • FDA’s FAQ sheet on Evusheld
  • OHA’s monoclonal antibody therapy website

Training & Conferences

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

• Grand Rounds about long-COVID: Providence has a long-COVID clinic in Portland: Here is an opportunity to hear from Dr. Carm Kendall on long-COVID.
  When: May 31, 8:00 am to 9:00 am
  Registration: Email linda.reel@providence.org

• STI & PrEP Guidelines Update for Jackson County: Join fellow providers, share cases, and get up to date on guidelines changes that impact emergency and primary care. Dinner will be provided, and CME is available at no cost to the attendees.
  When: Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
  Where: 175 Jacksonville Inn. 175 East California St. Jacksonville, OR. 97530
  Registration: Registration is required; click HERE to register.

"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."