September is National Suicide Awareness Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month: a moment in time to enhance the awareness of this leading cause of death and inspire more people to learn how they can play a role in their communities in helping save lives.

Suicide prevention is important every day of the year and is a major public health concern. More than 45,900 people die by suicide each year in the United States; it is the 12th leading cause of death overall.

National Suicide Prevention Month allows us to shine a special and encouraging light on the topic and send a message that help is available and suicide can be prevented.

Information on 988

988 was established in July 2022 to improve access to crisis services to meet our country's growing suicide and mental health-related crisis care needs. 988 provides easier access to behavioral health crisis services, which are distinct from the public safety purposes of 911 (where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire, and police as needed).

911 continues to operate as it does across Oregon. For serious and life-threatening situations, 988 call centers work with local mental health providers to support appropriate interventions.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon's 988 call centers are collaborating with 911 Public Safety Answering Points to develop a roadmap on how 911 and 988 can coordinate with each other in the future.

988 crisis counselors are trained to use the least invasive interventions. Oftentimes, responding to a call, text, or chat is all that is needed to help someone in crisis. In fact, more than 95 percent of current calls are resolved over the phone. A mobile crisis team or first responder may be dispatched if a 988 call cannot be resolved over the phone.

Other Important Facts to Know About 988

- 988 is available through every landline, cell phone, and voice-over-internet device in the United States, as well as text and chat.

- The current technology for 988 routes callers by area code, not geolocation.

- 988 is not currently available when phones are locked or do not have prepaid minutes.
• The transition to 988 does not impact the availability of crisis services for veterans and military service members. They can call 988 and press 1 to connect with the Veterans Crisis Line.

• For support in Spanish, callers can press 2 to connect with the Red Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline has an infographic with more information on what happens when people call, text or chat.

Be the lifeline.

---

**Monkeypox (hMPXV) Updates**

**Testing**
Medical providers no longer need to request permission from the Oregon Health Authority to test or report that they are testing for hMPXV in a patient. Testing is available through the Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL), LabCorp, Quest, Mayo, Aegis, Sonic, Providence and Asante. The OSPHL should only be used if a commercial lab is not available.

Anyone with high-risk exposure, typically prolonged skin-to-skin contact, can be affected by hMPXV. If a patient presents with new skin lesions and there is no clear etiology, Jackson County Public Health encourages medical providers to test for hMPXV. Because hMPXV can mimic other skin lesions, and many individuals have coinfections such as herpes, syphilis, and varicella, it is recommended that providers simultaneously test for those other infections. Anyone being tested for hMPXV should also be considered for full STI screening.

Jackson County Public Health is not performing hMPXV testing.

**Vaccination**
Vaccination is an important tool in preventing the spread of hMPXV. Jackson County Public Health continues to encourage people to get vaccinated and use other prevention practices to help prevent the spread of hMPXV.

Jackson County Public Health does have a supply of the Jynneos vaccine. Recently, the Oregon Health Authority updated and expanded the eligibility criteria. To avoid stigma and to reach a broader population of people who could benefit from the
Jynneos vaccine, OHA will no longer use gender identities and sexual behaviors as part of the eligibility criteria.

Please refer any patients that may qualify to Jackson County Public Health. They can call the Jackson County Public Health Immunization Clinic at 541-774-8209 or email HHS@jacksoncounty.org to discuss the eligibility criteria with staff and schedule a vaccination appointment if they qualify for the vaccine.

Providers may request the Jynneos vaccine directly from the Oregon Health Authority by filling out the Smart Sheet request form. This will allow providers to vaccinate their patients that meet the eligibility criteria.

Reporting Requirements
Healthcare providers and laboratories are required to report probable and confirmed cases of hMPXV to Jackson County Public Health immediately.

Healthcare providers and laboratories should:

1. Collect and report information about the ill person’s clinic presentation and epidemiological risk factors.
2. Provide additional information to public health as requested during the case investigation.

How to Report Probable and Confirmed Cases to Jackson County Public Health
1. Call Jackson County Public Health Communicable Disease – Clinicians can call and make a report 24 hours a day. For immediate reporting requirements or after-hours, call 541-526-9251. During business hours or for non-immediate reporting requirements, call 541-774-8045.
2. 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 the Web-based Confidential Oregon Morbidity Report.
3. Fax – Clinicians can fax (541-774-7954) a report to Jackson County Public Health using the Oregon Confidential Morbidity Form (please click on the hyperlink to access this form).

Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for Patients
Please also share with suspect hMPXV patients the following guidance on home isolation:

- OHA: Isolation Guidance (English)
- OHA: Isolation Guidance (other languages)

Resources
- Jackson County Public Health: Information on Monkeypox (hMPXV)
- OHA: Orthopoxviruses (Monkeypox)
- CDC: Information for Healthcare Professionals
- Sign up for CDC Health Alert Network emails
Clinicians Should Be On Alert for Two Types of Enteroviruses: Polio and Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68)

New York is currently experiencing an outbreak of polio caused by vaccine-derived Type 2, which causes paralysis in 1 of every 2,000 infections. The oral vaccine (OPV) that is used in some international countries occasionally escapes and has the chance to mutate back to a form that can cause neurological damage, including paralysis. OPV prevents the spread of the virus, but the inactivated injected vaccine (IPV) that we use in the United States does not prevent spread because the virus can still replicate in the gut and exit in the feces. However, the full IPV series is 99-100% protective against paralysis. Where there are pockets of lower vaccine uptake in communities, the combination of these factors can allow the polio virus to spread and cause paralysis.

This is an opportune time to talk with caretakers of unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children about getting caught up on vaccines. By using respect, sympathy, alignment, and other motivational interviewing techniques, families may be willing to have these conversations again—or for the first time.

Polio is spread via the fecal-oral route. Of those infected with poliovirus, 70% will be asymptomatic, and 25% will have flu-like symptoms. This means that most cases are never recognized as polio. Depending on the type of polio (Type 1, 2 or 3), paralysis occurs in 1 out of every 200 or 2,000 people with the infection.

Enterovirus D68 is also an enterovirus but spreads via the respiratory route. It was first identified in 1987, but national surveillance only began after a rapid increase in cases in 2014. A pattern of cases in spring and fall has been seen every two years. This is likely due to fluctuations in immunity, as immunity wanes and then increases. We would have expected an increase in 2020, but perhaps due to other factors of the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not. It is possible that we will see a larger increase this year.

EV-D68 is more commonly seen in children. Most are asymptomatic or have mild respiratory symptoms. Occasionally it can cause acute, severe respiratory illness or acute flaccid myelitis (AFM). This looks like sudden arm or leg weakness, loss of tone, and/or loss of reflexes but can also present with difficulty swallowing or talking, weakness of the face, or drooping eyelids. When seeing a child with severe respiratory illness or AFM, please consider testing for enteroviruses and, if positive, take the next step to test specifically for EV-D68.

Given some of the overlap of potential symptoms of severe polio or severe EV-D68, both should be included in the differential. Treatment for both is supportive. Prevention for both includes washing hands frequently. Polio can also be prevented through vaccination. EV-D68 can be prevented through respiratory etiquette. And if sick, do not attend school or work.

Resources

- Centers for Disease Control: Enterovirus D68
- Centers for Disease Control: Polio
1. **Oregon Health Authority Immunization Regional Meeting**: The Oregon Immunization Program is hosting a regional meeting to begin the conversation on how to end health disparities in immunization practices and policies.
   Only Open To: Immunization providers (clinics/practices/pharmacies, FQHCs, LPHA, and school nurses).
   Registration: Registration is required. Click here to register

2. **Congenital Syphilis Update**: Join the Oregon AETC and Jackson County Public Health as we explore local epidemiology and the most recent state and federal recommendations while reviewing syphilis test options and interpretation, staging, and appropriate treatment.
   Date: October 4, 2022
   Time: 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
   Location: DANCIN Vineyards, 4477 S Stage Rd. Medford, OR 97501
   Cost: FREE, CME available at no cost to attendees
   Registration: tinyurl.com/medfordCS

3. **Online QPR Basic Suicide Prevention Tickets**: Interested in learning how to help someone with thoughts of suicide? Join the Jackson County Health and Human Services free Question, Persuade, Refer course.
   Date: October 5, 2022
   Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
   Registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-qpr-basic-suicide-prevention-tickets-424759987557

"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."