



August 2021

# FLASH REPORT

A Brief Report of Public Health Activity Within Jackson County

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## Universal Masking Recommendations

Jackson County Public Health strongly recommends that everyone 5 years and older (2 and older if tolerated) wear masks in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status. The Centers for Disease Control and the Oregon Health Authority have advised universal mask use for all indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status. The Centers for Disease Control has also advised universal masking for teachers, staff members, and students in schools, regardless of vaccination status.

This recommendation is being issued due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in Jackson County, the low vaccination rate, and the continued increase of the Delta variant in Oregon. Since June 27, 2021, Jackson County Public Health has seen a significant increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The majority of the new cases have been among people who are not vaccinated against COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control has listed Jackson County as having a high level of community spread. Jackson County has a 54.7% vaccination rate for those 18 years and older; this is the 17<sup>th</sup> lowest vaccination rate in the state.

Local Public Health Professionals are concerned about the Delta variant and low vaccination rates in Jackson County. The Delta variant is more contagious than other COVID-19 variants that have been circulating. The Delta variant has mutations on the spike protein that make it easier to infect human cells. That means people may be more contagious if they contract the virus and easily spread the virus to others. A recent study has shown the Delta variant viral load is 1,000 times higher than the original version of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. With the viral load being 1,000 times higher, this means that an infected person is shedding more of the virus, increasing the probability that a close contact will be exposed to more virus, become contagious quickly after being exposed, and infect more people.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective and a critical tool to bring the pandemic under control. However, no vaccines are 100% effective at preventing illness in vaccinated people. There will be a small percentage of fully vaccinated people who still get sick, are hospitalized, or die from COVID-19. [Vaccine effectiveness studies](#) provide a growing body of evidence that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of COVID-19, including severe illness and hospitalizations, among people who are fully vaccinated by 90% or more.

"It will continue to take a multilayered approach to stop the spread of COVID-19; there is no one strategy, that when used alone, will stop the pandemic," states Dr. Jim Shames, Jackson County Health Officer. Vaccines are the most critical tool we have to stop this pandemic. Wearing masks and using other prevention tools will remain necessary until more people are vaccinated, and herd immunity can be reached. A

Please print the  
Reporting  
Guidelines



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

multilayered approach will consist of getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you are sick, staying away from others who are ill, good hygiene practices, and physical distancing."

## Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021

The CDC has just released [Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021](#). This document provides current evidence-based diagnostic, management, and treatment recommendations and serves as a source of clinical guidance for managing sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

### Main STI Diagnostic, Treatment, and Management Updates for Providers

The new guidelines include notable updates from the previous 2015 guidance, including:

- Updated treatment recommendations for chlamydia, trichomoniasis, and pelvic inflammatory disease.
- Updated treatment recommendations for uncomplicated gonorrhea in neonates, children, and other specific clinical situations (e.g., proctitis, epididymitis, sexual assault), which builds on broader treatment changes published in [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).
- Information on FDA-cleared diagnostic tests for *Mycoplasma genitalium* and rectal and pharyngeal chlamydia and gonorrhea.
- Expanded risk factors for syphilis testing among pregnant patients.
- Recommended two-step serologic testing for diagnosing genital herpes simplex virus.
- Harmonized recommendations for human papillomavirus vaccination with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
- Recommended universal hepatitis C testing in alignment with [CDC's 2020 hepatitis C testing recommendations](#).

[STIs are common and costly](#). With 26 million new STIs occurring each year, totaling nearly \$16 billion in medical costs, evidence-based prevention, diagnostic, and treatment recommendations are critical to STI control efforts now more than ever.

### Provider Resources for STIs

You can stay informed on the latest STI recommendations and clinical guidance with CDC and partner resources which include:

- **High-quality printable copies of the wall chart, pocket guide, and MMWR**, which are available for download now on the [STD website](#). A limited number of free copies will be available for order through [CDC-INFO On Demand](#) in the coming weeks.
- **Training and technical assistance**, which are available through the [National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers](#).
- **STD clinical consultation services**, which are available through the [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#).
- **Free continuing education credits (CME and CNE)**, which are available through the [National STD Curriculum](#).
- **Recommendations for Providing Quality STD Clinical Services (or STD QCS)**, which complement the STI treatment guidelines, focusing on managing clinical operations.
- **An updated STI Treatment Guidelines mobile app**, which is in development and is expected to launch in the coming months. **NOTE:** The 2015 STD



<http://jacksoncounty.org/hhs/Public-Health>

Treatment Guidelines app will be retired at the end of July 2021. CDC is finalizing an interim, mobile-friendly solution – please visit [STI Treatment Guidelines \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/sti/treatment-guidelines/) for information as it becomes available.

You can also find additional information, resources and trainings through the University of Washington STD Prevention Training Center website <https://www.uwptc.org>.

For questions about the updated 2021 STI Treatment Guidelines, you can email or call:

- Clinical Team in CDC's Division of STD Prevention at [stixguidelines@cdc.gov](mailto:stixguidelines@cdc.gov).
- Jackson County Public Health by calling 541-774-8209.
- You can also contact the University of Washington STD Prevention Training Center at [UWPTC@uw.edu](mailto:UWPTC@uw.edu), or 206-685-9850.

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## Overdose Alert Remains in Place for Jackson County

Jackson County Public Health issued an Overdose Alert the week of February 28, 2021. Jackson County Public Health has not lifted the current overdose alert and will keep this in place until further notice. Emergency response personnel have continued to respond to accidental overdoses, and there has been an increase in suspect fatal overdoses related to illicit opioids such as heroin and fentanyl.

Pharmaceutical fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, typically advanced cancer pain. It is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. It is prescribed in the form of transdermal patches or lozenges and can be diverted for misuse and abuse in the United States.

Cases of fentanyl-related harm, overdose, and death in the U.S. are linked to illegally made fentanyl. It is sold through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect. It is often mixed with heroin, other drugs or sold as a counterfeit prescription opioid pill —with or without the user's knowledge. Street fentanyl can be in the form of white, gray, or tan powder, dropped on blotter paper, eyedropper, or nasal sprays.

We are encouraging the medical community, other community partners, family and friends, and people who suffer from opioid addiction to be aware of the increase in overdoses.

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## Jackson County Launches County-Wide Evacuation Alert Keyword

Jackson County Emergency Management launched a layer to the existing Everbridge mass notification system that allows individuals to receive all Citizen Alert Level 1, 2, and 3 evacuation alerts issued in Jackson County by Emergency Management and City jurisdictions.

This new keyword adds an option for those who prefer to be notified of any evacuation notification in Jackson County. Residents are still encouraged to sign up through Citizen Alert first to receive emergency information specific to their address. These

additional alerts will also help to lower the use of critical emergency touchpoints like our 911 system.

**Individuals may sign up for this additional notification by:**

- **Text JACKSONEVACS to 888777**
- Once opted in, individuals will receive any messages for all level 1, 2 and 3 evacuation notifications sent by Jackson County Emergency Management and Cities.
- A Citizen Alert account is not needed to receive messages sent through the keyword.
- A [Citizen Alert account](#) is needed to receive emergency alerts that are specific to your personal address(es)

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## Available Trainings and Conferences

- **Region 10 Opioid Summit: Future Directions in the Opioid Crisis: Improving Systems to Better Serve Individuals and Families**  
**When:** August 3 –5, 2021  
**Where:** Virtual Conference  
**Registration:** <http://region10opioidsummit.org/registration-2/>  
**Cost:** \$25
- **Engaging People Who Use Drugs in Healthcare:** join us for an upcoming training on how to best serve people who use drugs (PWUD) in Jackson County and southern Oregon. We will discuss ongoing barriers to accessing care and identify opportunities for collaboration amongst providers and peers. This training is intended for healthcare professionals and staff serving PWUD, particularly those in an emergency, urgent care, and primary care clinical settings in Jackson County and southern Oregon. **Free CME is available to all participants**  
**Speakers:**
  - Christopher Evans, MD, MPH, AAHIVS, HIV Team Lead Physician, OHSU
  - Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal, Medicine
  - Geriatrics, School of Medicine, OHSU, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine, OHSU**When:** Thursday, September 9, 2021, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
**Where:** Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Medford OR or attend virtually  
**Registration:** In-person registration link <https://tinyurl.com/aje7r6tf>  
**Registration:** Virtual registration link <https://tinyurl.com/3uxkf7pr>  
**Cost:** Training is Free

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*"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.*