



September 2021

FLASH REPORT

A Brief Report of Public Health Activity Within Jackson County

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Contact Us

Communicable Disease Reporting at JCPH:
541-774-8045

After Hours:

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Healthcare & K-12 Employees in Oregon

In response to the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, Governor Brown and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) officials determined that a vaccination requirement would be necessary for health care providers and health care staff in health care settings. To help control the spread of COVID-19 and to protect students, teachers, school staff, and volunteers, Governor Brown also announced a vaccine requirement for teachers and school staff.

Here is additional information on the requirements, the exemptions forms, and FAQs.

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Healthcare Providers and Healthcare Staff in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Teachers and School Staff](#)
- [Healthcare Provider and Healthcare Staff Vaccine Rule FAQs](#)
- [Schools and School-Based Programs Vaccine Rule FAQs](#)
- [Instructions for filling out the COVID-19 Medical Exception Request Form and the COVID-19 Religious Exception Request Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exception Request Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Religious Exception Request Form](#)

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Availability in Jackson County

COVID-19 treatments known as monoclonal antibodies have the potential to save lives and relieve the burden on our nation's health care system. Monoclonal antibody therapies are now available in subcutaneous in addition to intravenous formulation.

How do monoclonal antibodies work?

Monoclonal antibodies treatments mimic our immune system's response to SARS-CoV-2 (the infection that causes COVID-19) and are available to eligible, non-hospitalized patients 12 years and older with a high risk of progressing to severe forms of COVID-19 or being hospitalized.

Who is eligible to receive monoclonal antibody treatment?

- People ages 12 and older and who weigh >40kg who:
- Have tested positive for COVID-19

541-618-4651

**Jackson County
Health & Human
Services**

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Medical Director
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ty.org



**Please print the
Reporting
Guidelines**



- are experiencing mild or moderate symptoms of COVID-19
- had first symptoms within the last 10 days
- are considered high risk for going into the hospital because of age >65, weight, pregnancy, immunosuppressive disease or treatment or some other chronic illnesses. See the full [list](#).

Learn more about this therapy [here](#).

Currently, Asante is offering the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment. Primary care providers can refer their patients by sending an order via fax to 541-789-5679 or call 541-201-4190. Patients can call the Asante hotline, 541-789-2813, to access the treatment.

Update: Shiga-toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (STEC) & HUS

Jackson County Public Health is investigating an unusually high number of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) cases. Since August 8, 2021, 16 cases have been reported to Jackson County, and 12 (75%) of these cases have been hospitalized. The age range of the cases is from 11 months to 65 years of age, with the median age being 23.5 years. The majority of the cases are in the teens and twenties. Of the total cases, 62.5% are males.

Jackson County Public Health is working with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on STEC outbreak investigation. At this time, Jackson County Public Health and the OHA do not have a definitive hypothesis on the source of infection. The genome sequencing, performed at the state public health lab, has not matched any other cases in the state or. Therefore, Jackson County Public Health and the OHA continue to do in-depth interviews with those that have tested positive to help us identify a possible source of exposure.

Symptoms of STEC

Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infection symptoms vary for each person, but often include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. Some people may have a fever, which usually is not very high (less than 101°F/38.5°C). Most people get better within 5 to 7 days. Some infections are very mild, but others are severe or even life-threatening. Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) is a particularly severe potential complication of STEC infection. Features of HUS include low platelet count, anemia due to broken blood cells, and kidney failure.

Actions to Take for Providers

Jackson County Public Health is asking medical providers to be aware of the increases in STEC cases in Jackson County and collect and test stool specimens on patients suspected to have bacterial gastroenteritis.

In addition, refrain from treating any gastroenteritis patients with antibiotics unless a definitive diagnosis supports this treatment. Antibiotics are not recommended for patients with suspected STEC infections until complete diagnostic testing can be performed, and STEC infection is ruled out. Some studies have shown that administering antibiotics to patients with STEC infections might increase their risk of

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



<http://jacksoncounty.or.gov/hhs/Public-Health>

developing HUS, and the benefit of treatment has not been clearly demonstrated.¹ Early treatment of pediatric STEC cases with IV fluids is recommended to prevent the development of HUS.

Patients with STEC infection are restricted from school and child care attendance, food handling, and patient care. Ask about the infected patient's activities and counsel patients on restrictions that apply to them.

Laboratory and Physician Reporting Requirements

Shiga-toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (including O157, HUS, and other serogroups) are reportable infections and must be reported to local public health authorities within one working day.

The requirement for HUS reporting is primarily a roundabout way of finding otherwise unreported STEC infections and secondarily a way of learning about other potential causes of HUS. A case is defined as such by the attending physician—typically a nephrologist or gastroenterologist.

How to report STEC and HUS cases to Jackson County Public Health

Report all lab-confirmed and clinically suspect cases of STEC and HUS to Jackson County Public Health within one public health working day.

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 at 541-774-7954.

Resources:

E.coli (Escherichia coli. Resources for Clinicians for Laboratories: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/clinicians.html>

CDC Health Advisory: Rapid Increase in Ivermectin Prescriptions and Reports of Severe Illness Associated with Use of Products Containing Ivermectin to Prevent or Treat COVID-19

Summary

Ivermectin is a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved prescription medication used to treat certain infections caused by internal and external parasites. When used as prescribed for approved indications, it is generally safe and well tolerated.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ivermectin dispensing by retail pharmacies has increased, as has use of veterinary formulations available over the counter but not

intended for human use. FDA has cautioned about the potential risks of use for prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

Ivermectin is not authorized or approved by FDA for prevention or treatment of COVID-19. The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel has also determined that there are currently insufficient data to recommend ivermectin for treatment of COVID-19. [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) has listings of ongoing clinical trials that might provide more information about these hypothesized uses in the future.

Adverse effects associated with ivermectin misuse and overdose are increasing, as shown by a rise in calls to poison control centers reporting overdoses and more people experiencing adverse effects.

Recommendations for Clinicians and Public Health Practitioners

- Be aware that ivermectin is not currently authorized or approved by FDA for treatment of COVID-19. NIH has also determined that there are currently insufficient data to recommend ivermectin for treatment of COVID-19.
- Educate patients about the risks of using ivermectin without a prescription, or ingesting ivermectin formulations that are meant for external use or ivermectin-containing products formulated for veterinary use.
- Advise patients to immediately seek medical treatment if they have taken any ivermectin or ivermectin-containing products and are experiencing symptoms. Signs and symptoms of ivermectin toxicity include gastrointestinal effects (nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea), headache, blurred vision, dizziness, tachycardia, hypotension, visual hallucinations, altered mental status, confusion, loss of coordination and balance, central nervous system depression, and seizures. Ivermectin may increase sedative effects of other medications such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates. Call the poison control center hotline (1-800-222-1222) for medical management advice.
- Educate patients and the public to get vaccinated against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination is safe and the most effective means to prevent infection and protect against severe disease and death from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, including the Delta variant. **Visit the Oregon COVID-19 Vaccine webpage that offers extensive materials, including vaccine facts, community resources, and translated materials to support all communities.**
- Educate patients and the public to use COVID-19 prevention measures, including wearing masks in indoor public places, physical distancing by staying at least six feet from other people who don't live in the same household, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

View the PDF of this CDC Health Advisory:

https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/pdf/CDC_HAN_449.pdf

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.

Available Trainings and Conferences

- **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, mental health, public health professionals, and other organizations 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>

Cost: Training is Free

“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.”

