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# CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

## MONTHLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 11/02/2022

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### Coronavirus update

Clackamas County remains in low risk for community spread of COVID-19 according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Neighboring counties, Multnomah, Washington, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill have also remained in low risk for community spread. Cases in Clackamas County have slightly decreased from previous weeks with [230](#) new cases recorded this past week. The percentage of positive test results have decreased over the past several weeks, from 9.3% to 5.8%.

Cases in Oregon have decreased from 4,553 new cases recorded in the first week of October to [2,786](#) new cases this first week of November. This is still an increase from the beginning of September weekly average of 1,395 new cases. The number of deaths across the state continue to increase, up 119 from the beginning of October, reaching a total of 8,680 deaths. As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, hospitalizations from COVID-19 have decreased from 351 recorded at the start of October to 238 hospitalizations with 31 patients in ICU beds. Many Oregon hospitals are at capacity and available ICU beds are dwindling—statewide, the number of available beds remains low at [20](#). Looking at severity of COVID-19 hospitalizations, there were 8 COVID-19 positive patients on ventilators this past week, down from 12 at the start of September.

[Wastewater monitoring](#) indicates that most regions remain relatively flat with some regions seeing a sustained increase. While there has only been a small increase in cases and hospitalizations, due to COVID-19, health systems continue to experience strain from several sources including pandemic related workforce challenges such as burnout and not enough staff members to meet demand. Predicted surges this fall of COVID-19 are expected due to waning immunity. This COVID-19 surge is likely to coincide with greater numbers of influenza cases and hospitalizations than we have seen in the last 2 years, further straining our already taxed hospital systems. This predicted fall wave could be significantly mitigated with updated vaccine boosters now for both COVID-19 and flu.

Clackamas County Public Health encourages everyone get boosters up to date at a [vaccine clinic](#) to strengthen your protection against COVID-19, and get your annual flu shot. Even if you do not normally get a flu shot, this year it is more important than ever, and is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older.

Known daily cases continue to fall at the national level now sitting at [265,893](#) new weekly cases, down from more than 500,000 weekly case average recorded in first few weeks of September. After increasing steadily from April through July, the number of Americans hospitalized with coronavirus has decreased to an average of [3,301](#) weekly admissions. If that trend holds, the decline suggests that conditions may be improving. Deaths have decreased modestly since the start of September, down from 489 announced each day to 348.

### Bivalent Booster Vaccines for Children

October 13<sup>th</sup> - [Children ages 5-11](#) in Oregon are eligible for the new updated bivalent booster.

Clackamas County now offers both Pfizer and Moderna as Bivalent booster options for children 5-11.

## Novavax Boosters Authorized

October 19<sup>th</sup> – [CDC allows](#) Novavax Monovalent boosters for adults ages 18 and older. Novavax vaccine may be administered as a first booster dose to the following individuals at least 6 months after completion of primary COVID-19 vaccination series:

- Individuals 18 years of age and older for whom an FDA-authorized mRNA bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine is not accessible or clinically appropriate
- Individuals 18 years of age and older who elect to receive the Novavax COVID19 vaccine because they would otherwise not receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine

## Updates Recommended to Immunization Schedules

October 20<sup>th</sup> -[CDC's Advisory Committee](#) on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended updates to the 2023 childhood and adult [immunization schedules](#), which includes incorporating additional information for approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines.

These recommendations come as first steps toward a transition of the COVID-19 vaccination program from emergency response to a routine immunization program activity.

NOTE: there are currently no changes in the COVID-19 vaccine policy. This recommendation is to streamline clinical guidance for healthcare providers by including COVID-19 vaccines in their routinely recommended vaccines in one document. The updated program guidance will be published in early 2023.

## COVID, FLU, and RSV: The “Triple Threat”

October 26<sup>th</sup> – COVID-19, Flu, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) are spreading earlier than normal. Health officials have been referring to the combination of RSV, COVID-19 and Flu as a “triple threat” because they are all circulating simultaneously — and could all fuel a spike in respiratory illnesses in the coming months.

RSV is a common virus most people recover from in a week or two, but it can cause serious illness, especially for young children and older adults. Before the pandemic, around [2,300](#) per 100,000 children under the age of 1 were hospitalized with RSV. In the U.S. an estimated [177,000](#) older adults are hospitalized for RSV each year and 14,000 of them die. The percent positivity rate is above 10-15% in the U.S. which indicates RSV is [spreading fast](#) .

[Flu case numbers](#) are higher and earlier compared to the past two pandemic years and compared to before the pandemic.

While COVID wastewater is plateauing, hospitalizations have started to [rise](#) for those over the age of 65. The Triple threat isn't at its peak yet, but a resurgence is expected. As RSV, Flu, and COVID continue to spread it is important to stay up to date on Flu and COVID vaccinations and use preventive actions such as washing your hands, covering your cough/sneeze, avoiding close contact with others and staying home when you're sick.

## COVID-19 cases in Clackamas County

The number of [new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported](#) for Clackamas County.

Week of Date	Case Count	Cases per 100k	Test Positivity
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November 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>230</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>445</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>9.3%</b>
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>332</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>694</b>	<b>157.5</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>697</b>	<b>169.3</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1024</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1083</b>	<b>276.5</b>	<b>13.0%</b>

## COVID-19 vaccinations in Clackamas County

[Vaccination data](#) for Clackamas County.

Age Groups of people in Clackamas County who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon (per OHA)

AGE	NUMBER VACCINATED	% PRIMARY SERIES COMPLETE	% RECEIVED A BIVALENT BOOSTER
0 to 4	2,585	7.5%	0 %
5 to 11	16,796	42.3%	1.7%
12 to 17	22,788	65.%	2.7%
18 to 19	7,733	85.%	2.9%
20 to 49	123,040	70.6%	3.7%
50 to 64	69,459	79.1%	6.5%
65+	78,649	89.0%	16.2%

### People of all ages living in Clackamas County

**75.6%** have initiated COVID-19 vaccination and have received at least one dose.

**70.3%** have completed their primary series.

**6.1%** have received a bivalent booster in addition to completing their primary series.

**262,861** are eligible to receive a booster but have not yet.

**10.2%** of those eligible have received a booster.

## Testing

### No-Cost COVID-19 Testing

[Curative](#) testing site at Harmony Campus in Milwaukie operates 6 days a week with expanded afternoon hours on weekdays. The site also offers **free** rapid molecular testing with results available in about an hour. Appointments are not required.

[Rapid Molecular Testing](#) (Results usually within an hour)

Monday - Friday, 9:00a - 4:30p

Saturday 8:30a – 2:30p

### **COVID-19 Test to Treat Locator Available Online**

Test to Treat, a federal initiative launched in March, offers a new opportunity for testing and treating COVID-19. At select locations across the country, individuals can get tested and, if they are positive and treatments are appropriate for them, can get a prescription and have their medication filled all at one location.

A tool to find Test to Treat locations as well as more information on the program is available at [aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat](https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat). Prescriptions are currently being offered to those that are at high risk of becoming very sick. New Test to Treat locations will be added as the program expands.

Organizations serving communities in Clackamas County are still able to request test kits via <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/testkits>