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# CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

## MONTHLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 10/05/2022

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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 remain in low risk for community spread. Cases in Clackamas County have slightly increased from previous weeks with 445 new cases recorded this past week. The percentage of positive test results have also slightly increased over the past several weeks, from 8.6% to 9.3%.

Oregon's case levels are slightly increasing after remaining relatively low in August. Cases in Oregon have jumped from 1,395 new cases recorded in the first week of September to 4,553 new cases this past week. The number of deaths across the state increased from the beginning of September by 134, reaching a total of 8,561 deaths. As of October 4th, there are 351 hospitalizations from COVID-19 with 37 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 27. 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 continue to show declines or plateaus. While there has only been a small increase in cases and hospitalizations, due to COVID-19 health systems continue to experience strain from a number of 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 coincided 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 in October. Even if you do not normally get a flu shot, this year it is more important than ever, and is recommended for everyone age 6mos and older.

Known daily cases continue to fall at the national level but differ between regions as cases increase in most Northeastern and Western states. The count of known cases now sits around 42,828 per day, down from more than 90,000 recorded in end of August. After increasing steadily from April through July, the number of Americans hospitalized with coronavirus has decreased to an average of 3,471 per day. 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 322.

### Bivalent Booster Vaccines Expected for Children

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Pfizer and BioNTechon sought [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) from the FDA for the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine booster for children aged 5 through 11 years. This application comes just days after Moderna also applied for FDA authorization for an extension of its own bivalent shot for

adolescents aged 12 to 17 years and children aged 6 to 11. EUAs from FDA are expected early to mid-October.

## CDC Updated Strategy for Global COVID-19 response

As the state of the pandemic in the US has improved in recent months, [the CDC](#) has restructured their agency's guidelines and priorities in global COVID-19 response. Focus on preventative health measures continue with newly aligned objectives to accelerate access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccinations and strengthen health systems to better facilitate response to COVID-19. From a global lens, CDC moves to expand response work to reduce the global burden of COVID-19 and build global public health capacity to prevent and control future pandemics. CDC's updated approach highlights a response focused in working with global partners to improve long-term health security in low- and middle-income countries. These global efforts may suggest sustainable improvements to end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CDC Changes to COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for Health Personnel

As of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the CDC has [updated isolation and prevention guidelines](#) for healthcare personnel to reflect the availability of vaccines, treatments, and prevention tools and intend to provide continued protection measures for patients and health care workers.

These updates include, but are not limited to the following:

- In general, asymptomatic patients no longer require quarantine following close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2.
- In most circumstances, asymptomatic health care personnel no longer require work restriction following close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2.
- Testing frequency in exposed individuals without symptoms has been updated to reflect variants with shorter incubation periods and to address the risk for false negative antigen tests.
- Options provided to ensure all entering a health care facility are aware of actions that can prevent spread of SARS-CoV-2.
- CDC has updated circumstances when universal source control (i.e., masking) is recommended. Health care facilities should be aware of other state masking requirements that apply, including Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Masking Requirement in Oregon Health Care Settings (OAR 333-019-1011).

**Oregon masking and vaccine requirements are still in effect for health care settings because community transmission remains high in almost all of Oregon, hospital capacity throughout the state remains strained, and both of these are expected to worsen this fall. Masking and vaccination are proven measures that limit spread and severity of illness.**

## 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
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	445	104.6	9.3%
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	332	90.3	8.6%
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	694	157.5	10.4%
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	697	169.3	10.0%
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	1024	210.0	13.6%
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	1083	276.5	13.0%

## 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	% SERIES COMPLETE
0 to 4	2,585	7.5%
5 to 11	16,744	42.1%
12 to 17	22,720	65.5%
18 to 19	7,718	85.4%
20 to 49	122,663	70.5%
50 to 64	69,452	79.2%
65+	78,008	88.5%

### People of all ages living in Clackamas County

75.3% have initiated COVID-19 vaccination and have received at least one dose.

70.0% have completed their primary series.

1.3% have received a bivalent booster in addition to completing their primary series.

## 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>