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# CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION WEEKLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 10/27/2021

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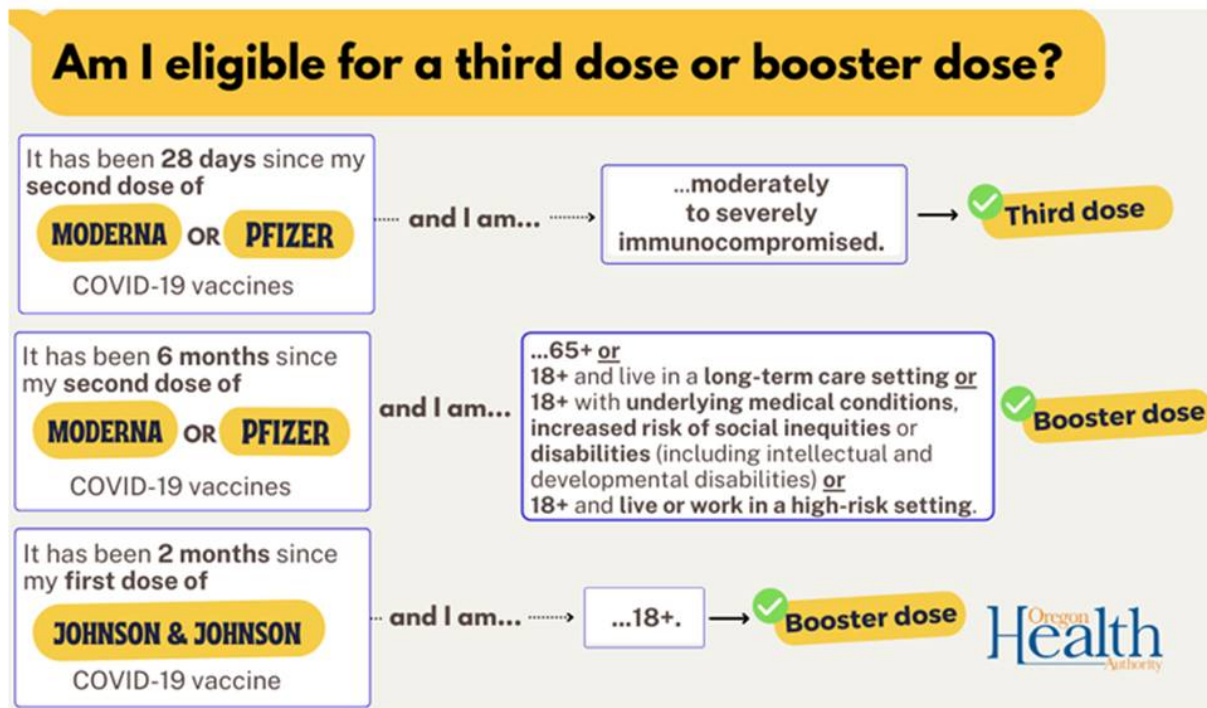
## COVID 19 booster vaccine

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup has recommended the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 boosters for certain populations of fully vaccinated people. See guidelines listed in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown praised the decision. “Whether you received the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine, everyone eligible who wants a booster will be able to get one and the extra layer of protection a booster dose provides,” she said.

### People eligible for booster doses can get one using any of the three COVID-19 vaccines

Booster doses may be any brand of vaccine, regardless of the vaccine you received for the initial dose(s) of the series. “Mix-and-match” dosing for people eligible for Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson booster doses is allowed. People can now get a booster dose at any location that provides COVID-19 vaccines, depending on advice from their health care provider, individual preference, availability or convenience.



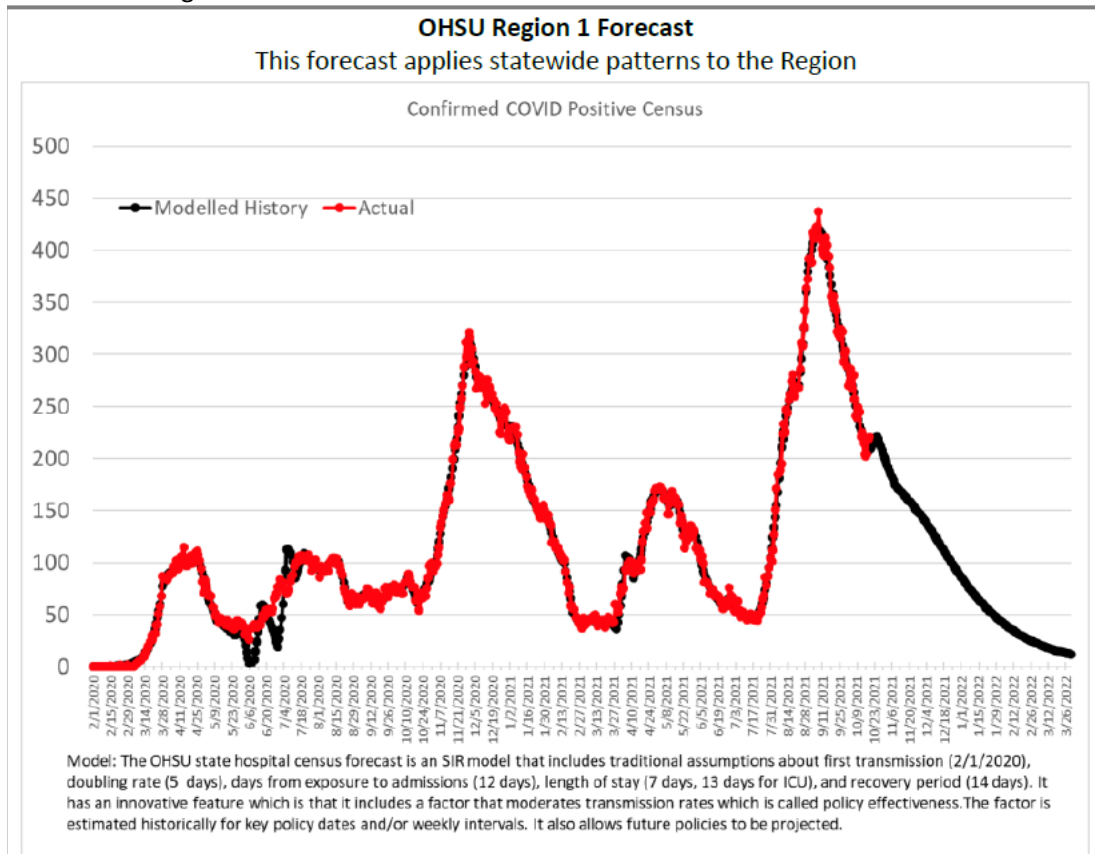
## Renewed Emergency Declaration

U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) renewed its [public health emergency declaration](#) over the pandemic for 90 more days, from 10/18/21 through 1/16/22.

## Oregon Health Sciences University updated forecast

OHSU's latest [forecast](#) shows that statewide hospitalizations will fall somewhat more slowly through the first quarter of 2022 than previously modeled. Oregonians are returning more frequently to higher risk behaviors such as gathering in large groups indoors. Read OHSU's statement about the forecast [here](#).

Below is the Region 1 forecast.



Dr. Peter Graven of Oregon Health and Science University data analysis shows Oregon could see an [expected decline](#) in cases to a point that we are in lower risk levels of disease by early next year. This still depends on people continuing to take precautions such as masking and social distancing, as well as continuing to get vaccinated.

## International travelers

Beginning 11/8, international travelers coming into the U.S. will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Acceptable vaccines will include FDA approved or authorized (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) and WHO Emergency Use Listing vaccines. More information. The Presidential Proclamation and CDC's Order **do not apply to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or U.S. lawful permanent residents.**

## Monoclonal Antibodies

The delta variant is increasing COVID-19 cases, resulting in serious illness, hospitalizations and deaths. Monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapies can help prevent severe illness, save lives, and reduce the burden on our hospitals and health systems. This therapy is now available through shots, making it easier to get.

### **Why get mAb therapy?**

- It can reduce hospitalization by up to 70% for COVID-positive people with currently mild to moderate symptoms.
- It reduces the risk of getting COVID-19 by up to 81%, if a person gets treated after exposure.
- It reduces risk of death.
- It is proven effective against the Delta variant. What are monoclonal antibodies? Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are antibodies developed in a lab that block the virus from entering your cells.

### **Who is eligible for mAb therapy?**

1. Individuals 12 and older who weighs at least 88 pounds (40 kg) who:

- Have tested positive for COVID-19
- Are within 10 days of having symptoms
- Have mild to moderate symptoms
- Are outpatients and not on oxygen therapy
- And are considered high risk patients.

2. Have been exposed to COVID-19 or are at high risk of exposure due to cases in an institutional setting (like nursing homes) AND are not completely vaccinated AND are considered high risk. Fully vaccinated people are also considered eligible in certain situations.

**How can I get mAb therapy?** Contact your health care provider to learn more and find out if you are eligible for this treatment. Clackamas County Health Centers has provided this service for 10 patients that have met the criteria.

For the week of 10/25/21, Oregon has been allotted the following monoclonal antibodies:

- Casirivimab/Imdevimab – 900
- Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab – 540
- Sotrovimab – 360

Allotments are [equitable distributed](#) by the Oregon Health Authority.

Monoclonal antibodies are not preventative from getting COVID or a substitute for receiving your COVID-19 vaccination. This therapy is being used to help [keep people out of the hospital and it seems to be working](#).

## Vaccines provide added protection after COVID-19 infection

People infected with COVID-19 produce antibodies that offer protection (“natural immunity”) from future exposures. However, not everyone builds the same immune response, and research is not yet clear on how strong, or for how long, protection from natural immunity lasts. What is clear is that immunity wanes over time, and vaccinations after infection offer improved protection.

**COVID-19 infection provides more protection when combined with vaccine immunity**

- [Research in Kentucky](#) comparing individuals who had COVID-19 found that those who did not get vaccinated were more than two times as likely to be re-infected than those who were fully vaccinated.
- [Research](#) also suggests people who experienced mild or asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 may not have built as many antibodies as someone who had a more severe case.

### Natural immunity wanes over time

- [A study](#) of 156 health care workers who experienced mild cases of COVID-19 found that:
  - 94 percent of participants had fewer antibodies after about two months, and
  - 28 percent no longer had enough antibodies to meet the threshold to test positive.

This means the more time that passes after infection, the more vulnerable one is to becoming ill with COVID-19. If you have recovered from COVID-19 or were asymptomatic, then vaccination is still the best choice. [The Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommends if you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma to wait 90 days before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

### COVID 19 and the workplace

One of the strategies of President Biden's Federal COVID-19 action plan "[Path out of the Pandemic](#)" includes requiring all employers with 100 + employees to ensure their workers are vaccinated or tested weekly. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is tasked with developing the rule and implementing the requirements. [Oregon OSHA](#) covers most private sector workers and all state and local government workers. Once the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) ruling is finalized, Oregon will be required to comply with the ETS. Nationally many large employer groups are [asking that the requirement be delayed](#). Clackamas County as an employer is in compliance with the current Oregon vaccine mandates for healthcare workers and schools, and is preparing for further rules.

### Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 5 to 11

This week the Federal Drug Administration met to [authorize kid-size doses of Pfizer's COVID-19](#) vaccine, which has been found to be safe and nearly 91% effective at preventing symptomatic infections in 5- to 11-year-olds. The children's Pfizer vaccine is 1/3 of the dose used for older kids and adults. The CDC vaccine advisory group will meet on November 2 and 3, and then the Western States Scientific Safety Review Work Group will approve its use in Oregon and other western states. Moderna also reported that a low dose of its COVID-19 vaccine is safe and appears to work in 6- to 11-year-olds. Approval of Moderna for kids is under review.

In addition to preventing COVID-19 illnesses and hospitalizations among children, the FDA committee noted that the vaccine could address other negative impacts of the disease on children in this age group, such as:

- The social impacts of school closures and COVID-19 mitigation strategies,

- The disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color, and
- The [long-term complications of COVID-19 disease](#).

When COVID-19 vaccines become available to younger children, Oregon Health Authority anticipates that they will be widely available in clinics, community health centers, and pharmacies. Clackamas County has already ordered the Pfizer vaccine for 5-11 year olds, and if received and approved, vaccinations are planned for the week of November 8th. Children vaccinated early could be fully protected by winter break if regulators give the go-ahead.

## COVID-19 cases among people under age 18

14.6% of statewide cases the week of October 10th were in people under the age of 18. The pediatric case rate in Clackamas County was 133 per 100,000 for the same week.

- 1,442 new pediatric cases were reported statewide, down from 1,484 the week prior.
- In Clackamas County there were 116 pediatric cases reported with an onset the week of 10/10.

For more information on pediatrics, [visit the OHA Pediatric Dashboards](#).

## Learn how safe COVID-19 vaccines are for adolescents

Clackamas County Health Officer Dr. Sarah Present gives a [highly informative, engaging webinar](#) regarding COVID-19 vaccine and adolescents.

A Spanish language presentation will be held Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Sesión educativa sobre la vacuna contra el COVID-19 Jueves, October 28, 2021. Escuche la información de Dr. DeBess, Epidemiólogo de la Autoridad de la Salud de Oregon. Regístrese en:

[https://clackamascounty.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DlwvvlrTRSicNfFrnV6WNg](https://clackamascounty.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DlwvvlrTRSicNfFrnV6WNg)

## COVID-19 hospitalizations

Oregon Health Authority released its latest COVID-19 forecast showing a continued decline in daily cases and hospitalizations through early November. According to the [report](#), the effective reproduction rate – the average number of new people infected by each case of COVID-19 – was estimated at 0.90 on Oct. 6, which is slightly lower than last week’s projection. Anything less than 1.0 leads to an overall decline in case rates.

The report also identified a “significant contrast” in adherence to the recommended public health protocols between unvaccinated and vaccinated persons. Mask wearing among unvaccinated people is about half the rate of vaccinated people. Unvaccinated people are also more likely to attend large events outdoors. Vaccinations remain the safest and most effective shield against COVID-19. Oregonians should wear masks when in indoor public spaces and when outdoors among crowds.

The number of hospitalized patients on 10/26 with COVID-19 across Oregon is 542. There are 127 COVID-19 patients in intensive care unit (ICU) beds. There are 49 available adult ICU beds out of 684 total (7% availability) and 244 available adult non-ICU beds out of 4,134 (6% availability).

## Inequities experienced by racial and ethnic groups

OHA is publishing a [new quarterly report](#) on age-adjusted rate ratios of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths by race and ethnicity over time. Age adjustment is a method used to quantify inequities among different racial and ethnic groups. When adjusted for age, people from Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, LatinX, Black and American Indian/Alaska Native communities have experienced disproportionate rates of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and death. These inequities were acutely pronounced earlier in the pandemic and have decreased over the course of the pandemic. However, there continues to be inequities of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and hospitalizations for communities of color and tribal communities.

The [Clackamas County Equity Plan and update](#) is available for review.

## "Magic" team brings vaccination confidence to Oregon — and the world

As a refugee services provider Catholic Charities Oregon has a mission — to create trusting relationships with the families and communities they serve. Through a partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, Catholic Charities hired a team of COVID-19 Community Engagement Specialists in early 2021. This team rapidly took on the work of supporting their communities.

“We are a group of individuals from different backgrounds and nationalities who work for Catholic Charities with pride,” said [Chomba Kaluba](#), who is originally from Zambia and serves the Congolese- and Swahili-speaking communities. “The power of numbers is what each one of us brings as a strength. And that strength is from all backgrounds; our values, beliefs and passion.”

He came up with the idea of making language- and culturally-specific videos about the vaccine to amplify vaccination confidence. Clackamas County Public Health provided a producer to film and edit the work.

### **The group felt it was essential to meet people where they are.**

“It is because we are immigrants,” said Kaluba. “We are coming from backgrounds which might have lacked a health education, might have lacked access to health care, might have different political systems or economic systems.” “We have been able to reach the world because someone in Burma, they'll see that video on YouTube and they'll go, 'Wow - I can get vaccinated.' So maybe somehow, we are trying to do what they say is teaching in time saves nine. So maybe we are saving lives somewhere else,” he said.

You can watch the videos in [Burmese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Rohingya](#), [Somali](#) and [Swahili](#).

## 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 17 <sup>th</sup>	556	130.4	6.7%
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	600	140.7	6.2%
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	595	139.5	7.1%

## COVID-19 Vaccinations in Clackamas County

[Vaccination data](#) for Clackamas County. Third doses and booster doses are currently reported together.

Weekly Vaccinations in Clackamas County (per OHA)	
10/19-10/25	6,611
10/12-10/18	6,797
10/5-10/11	6,561

## Cases and deaths

Due to an unexpected technical glitch, Opera, the COVID-19 case database, was down from 6 p.m. on Oct. 22 through 9 p.m. Oct. 23. As a result, daily case counts for those days were lower than expected. That disruption accounts for October 27<sup>th</sup> higher case tally, which arises as local public health authorities work through that backlog of cases. The week ending October 16<sup>th</sup> there are 4,237 COVID-19 [deaths](#).

Over the coming weeks, OHA will begin reporting approximately 550 deaths among people who died with COVID-19 but whose deaths only became recently known to state epidemiologists due to a technical computer error. Most of these deaths occurred between May 2021 and August 2021. [More information](#).

## Disease Response

The outbreak team is monitoring 85 outbreaks and is still only opening high priority outbreaks. 31 are in school or extracurricular school activities. OHA and local public health are reviewing quarantine guidance for exposures in schools with the goal of relaxing requirements while ensuring a safe learning environment.

With decreasing cases and the use of a self-administered interview tool, the case investigation team has increased case interviewed cases to 36% from a low of 19% at the peak of surge. The case interview includes education, wrap around support services and notification of contacts and is an important tool in controlling spread of disease.

The vaccine team is offering a soft roll out of Moderna and Johnson and Johnson boosters this week at the Clackamas Town Center site and will open all standing community sites for boosters next week. The team has vaccine clinics for 5-11 year olds planned for the week of November 8<sup>th</sup>.