



Umatilla County Public Health

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For Immediate Release: January 7, 2022

Press Release: Umatilla County Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Contact Tracing Transition

COVID-19 cases in Umatilla County are rapidly rising. Last week there were 352 cases of COVID-19 which was a four-fold increase in cases from the week prior. This week there have been over 850 cases thus far, which is the highest case number week in the Coronavirus pandemic for Umatilla County.

In alignment with today's Oregon Health Authority announcement, UCo health will now implement surveillance strategies of COVID-19 in the community and move away from individual investigation and contact tracing calls to focus on investigating outbreaks in high-risk settings. UCo Health will continue to collect reports of COVID-19 in Umatilla County and report data regarding disease prevalence through the Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard posted at ucohealth.net.

UCo Health encourages anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 through laboratory or at home testing to stay home for 5 days from the start of symptoms or test date, whichever is earlier. Anyone who knows they have been in contact with COVID-19 and they are not up-to-date on the COVID-19 vaccination series should stay home for 5 days from their last known exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual. More information on COVID-19 quarantine and isolation can be found at our and CDC websites.

Individuals in need of additional support and education regarding their COVID-19 illness or exposure may reach out to our office by calling 541-278-6290. If you are positive with COVID-19 you may also "opt into" an online mobile-friendly survey that will be coming soon and be accessible through our website when it is live.

Vaccination remains the best way to prevent severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19. You can find information regarding where the COVID-19 vaccine is available on our website.

It is imperative that any person who is exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness stay home. Call your primary care provider first to discuss the next steps. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.

COVID-19 does not target people of any certain race, ethnicity, country of origin or geographic location. Increased community spread of COVID-19 can occur anywhere in Umatilla County at any time.

For media inquiries please contact:
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