



# JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## NEWS

**FOR RELEASE: Immediately (7/15/21)**

**For more information contact: 618-684-3143**

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONCERN ABOUT RAPID RISE IN COVID-19 CASES

Jackson County Health Department is alerting the public of a recent sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. For the first 15 days of July, 106 new cases have been detected in the county, compared to 42 cases for the whole month of June. This averages out to 7.1 new cases/day for July thus far, versus 1.4 new cases/day for June. This same trend is seen across southern Illinois (IDPH Region 5), as a whole, with the number of new cases more than doubling the last two weeks. In late June Jackson County was down to only four active cases of COVID-19, but was up to 97 active cases as of July 15. All of this data translates to increased local risk of contracting COVID-19.

Various factors are contributing to this trend, including the following:

- Relatively low vaccination rates for Jackson County (38%) and the region.
- Resumption of “normal” activities by unvaccinated individuals without the use of masks or distancing. Several cases recently have been linked to sports, travel, and summer camps.
- General disregard of Covid symptoms; symptomatic people no longer staying home as much.
- The presence of the Delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19, which is more easily transmitted person-to-person.

Suggested actions to reduce transmission while local risk is elevated:

- Consider being vaccinated. All three authorized vaccines have been shown to safe and very effective, even against the Delta variant. Vaccines are also widely available at health departments, pharmacies. And other medical providers. Talk to those you trust, including your physician, about any concerns.
- Unvaccinated people should wear masks and practice physical distancing. People who are immunocompromised or have significant health conditions, even if vaccinated, should consider masking in crowds.
- Stay home when Covid symptoms are present, including many of the ones commonly mistaken for seasonal allergies or the common cold.

Jackson County Health Department is providing routine immunizations and Covid vaccinations on a walk-in basis Monday-Friday, 8:30am-3:30pm, with additional hours on Tuesdays of 3:30-5:30pm. Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available to those age 12 and older. Those age 12-17 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to provide consent. Vaccinations are free, no insurance information is collected, and no appointment is needed.

Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the most important step to bringing the virus under control, lessening public health precautions, making more activities possible, and keeping those most vulnerable in our community safe and healthy. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit [getvaccineanswers.org](http://getvaccineanswers.org) or [www.ourshotsi.com](http://www.ourshotsi.com).

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