



# Jackson County Health Department

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*Creating Healthy Communities*

To: News Editor

From: Rashmi Travis, MPH, CHES  
Health Officer  
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Re: COVID Cases Increasing

Date: July 24, 2020

## COVID Cases Increasing in Jackson County For Immediate Release

**Jackson, Mich-** The daily cumulative count for positive COVID cases in Jackson County has been steadily increasing since the end of June (484 on June 30 and 594 on July 24). Henry Ford Allegiance Health reports people hospitalized with a positive COVID diagnosis on their [webpage](#) every Wednesday and as of July 22, there were five people hospitalized with COVID, which was up from the week before. Overall, Michigan numbers have been increasing and reflect rising counts nationwide. As discussions about schools re-opening continue, this is of great concern to our community.

In Jackson County, COVID-19 have been traced to activities such as:

- Travel both domestically and internationally of our residents, without following proper precautions to avoid the risk of infection (i.e. facemask, social distancing of at least six feet and frequent handwashing).
- Spending time outdoors in public places where there are large groups without a mask. Most of these cases had the intention to social distance, but unexpected crowds such as waiting in line, standing at a counter-service bar or restaurant, or on a crowded beach, happened and then they may have been exposed.
- Attending big events such as family gatherings, parties, or sporting activities. Often times these events take place where individuals who are not from within the same household interact and mingle. These are places where exposures occur.

Rashmi Travis, Health Officer, Jackson County Health Department, states, “While we recognize it is summer and individuals want to be traveling and/or socializing, we are in the midst of a pandemic and it is critical for individuals to question if they need to travel, attend a social event or attend crowded gatherings. It is also important for individuals to exercise safe practices by wearing a mask, washing hands, and social distancing.”

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Working together to create and promote a healthy community through disease prevention and control, health education, environmental protection and emergency preparedness.

Before traveling anywhere, consider the [travel safety tips](#) available online through the [Centers for Disease Control](#). It is important to understand that just because an event is held outdoors; it does not always make it safe. Virus droplets can travel at least 6 feet which is why facemasks are recommended. In addition, it is estimated around 40% (4 out of 10) of the people infected with COVID are asymptomatic, meaning they can pass the virus on to others and never exhibit symptoms. Unless a person has been identified as a contact and gets tested, they may never know they have the virus and could potentially infect many people in their daily activities without realizing what they are doing.

We understand that people are beginning to experience a variety of emotions regarding the COVID virus. It is to be expected when having to deal with restrictions and changes in routines. Resources for coping can be found on the [Health Department webpage](#) devoted to [Coping Mentally with the Stress of COVID-19](#).

Jackson County residents have done a great job so far and together we can keep these numbers down in our community. Public Health IS LOCAL and together we can keep our community strong and healthy.

## **Stay Safe, Social Distance, and Wear a Mask Over Your Nose and Mouth**

Jackson County cases are reported daily by noon on our webpage located at [www.mijackson.org/hd](http://www.mijackson.org/hd) on the [Coronavirus](#) page, which is easily accessed from the front page. Michigan case numbers are reported by 3:00 pm on their webpage located at <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>.

If you have any questions, please call (517) 788-4420, Option 9. For more information, visit the Jackson County Health Department webpage located at [www.mijackson.org/hd](http://www.mijackson.org/hd). You can also visit [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for additional information regarding preventing getting sick.

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