

**Jefferson County****Public Health**
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Central Oregon Public Health Monthly Update

March 28, 2025

The Central Oregon Public Health Newsletter is now available in Spanish!
To receive it in your mailbox click [here](#).
Usted puede encontrar el boletín de este mes en español [aquí!](#)



April 13-19 is STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) Awareness week! Deschutes County Public Health would like to encourage people in our community to get tested to know their status. In the U.S., nearly 1 in 5 people have an STI. Central Oregon has seen an increase in diseases like gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV in the past five years, following the trend seen across the state and country.

The only way to be sure of your sexual health status is to get tested. Many STIs have no symptoms at all. STIs can cause serious health problems if left untreated. The sooner you get tested, the sooner you can take action to protect your health and the health of your partner(s). STI testing is quick, simple, and usually painless. All STIs can be treated, and some can even be cured.

STI testing is an important part of self-care!

How to get tested?

Contact your primary care providers office or other clinics in the community. If you are having trouble accessing testing call (541) 322-7155 in Deschutes County, (541) 475-4456 in Jefferson County, or (541) 447-5165 in Crook County for help.

Deschutes County Communicable Disease Prevention and Management



Photo of the Deschutes County Communicable Disease Prevention and Management team.

The Deschutes County Communicable Disease Prevention and Management Team often works behind the scenes to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and protect the public’s health. This work is conducted through both proactive and reactive efforts such as...

<i>Proactive Efforts</i>	<i>Reactive Efforts</i>
Collecting and analyzing disease reports.	Responding to disease outbreaks.
Studying risk factors for disease.	Tracking infectious disease origins.
Conducting surveillance on diseases of new interest and increasing concern.	Notifying people who have been exposed to an infectious disease.

Developing guidelines for disease prevention and control.	
Conducting infection prevention trainings in long-term care facilities.	
Ensuring access to immunizations.	

Deschutes County Public Health's (DCPH) infectious disease specialist and Health Officer, Dr. Fawcett, provides guidance and support to this team.

By law, **clinicians, veterinarians, and laboratories** must report specific diseases, infections and microorganisms when diagnosed and/or tests positive. These laws are outlined in Oregon Administrative Rules for **Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division – Chapter 333**.

Here's a closer look at our program areas...

- **Communicable Disease (including Tuberculosis)**

The Communicable Disease Team receives electronic lab reports of specific diseases, infections and microorganisms, then works to review and respond to these reports in accordance with OHA's **Investigative Guidelines** in order to prevent further spread in the community.

- **Immunizations**

The Immunization Team works to prevent disease, disability and death from vaccine-preventable diseases in infants, children, adolescents and adults through monitoring and ensuring high community immunization levels, providing vaccine safety-net clinics, and professional and public education.

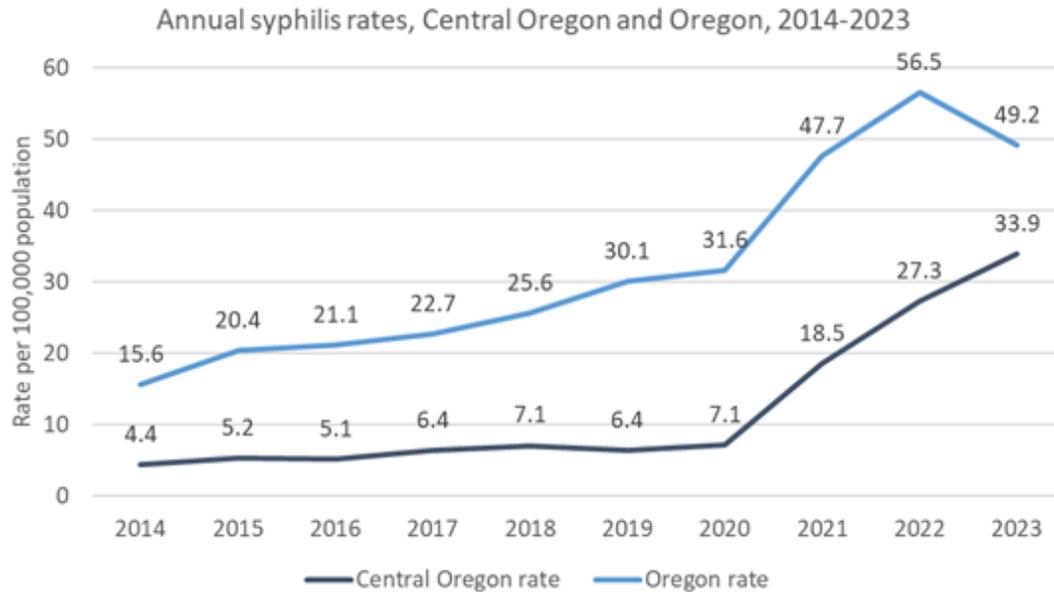
- **Infection Prevention**

Our Infection Prevention Nurse works with congregate care facilities such as long-term care facilities and shelters to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases through education and technical assistance.

- **Epidemiology**

Our epidemiologists analyze communicable disease data in the tri-county area to detect trends which helps to identify outbreak situations, emerging public health threats, and to set community outreach priorities. They provide regular reports to the community and providers on respiratory illnesses and communicable disease data numbers, rates, and patterns. Epidemiologists also monitor the work being done by nurses as part of disease investigation, like timeliness and completeness of investigating diseases, number of cases with adequate treatment, and number of contacts elicited, etc.

Epidemiology Report Example:



- **Access to Clinical Services**

Due to a substantial decrease in demand, Deschutes County Public Health no longer provides direct Reproductive Health clinical services. We do, however, continue to provide some safety net services for STIs/HIV. To ensure that clients are receiving the services that they need, DCPH works with community partners to assess and identify gaps and barriers to reproductive and sexual health services within our county. Once gaps and barriers are identified we work with community and clinical partners to implement plans to enhance access.

- **STI/HIV**

The STI/HIV Team follows up on reportable STIs, which include chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV. In Central Oregon, over the past five years, we have seen an increase in diseases like gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV. These diseases can cause serious health problems if not treated. This team makes sure that all cases are able to receive treatment and that people who could have been exposed receive testing and treatment. It is incredibly important to the team to prevent congenital syphilis (syphilis in a newborn babies), so we work extra hard to make sure all syphilis cases and contacts receive the correct treatment. Much of the testing done is through our mobile outreach van within the community. The team also provides STI/HIV education and outreach within our community. If you have any questions about STIs/HIV you can call (541) 322-7155.

Ryan White Case Management services are services for people living with HIV. The STI/HIV team provides these services for folks in the tri-county area to make sure they have access to HIV specialty providers and medication.

Springtime Safety: Protecting Yourself and Your Backyard Chickens from Infectious Disease



Image Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

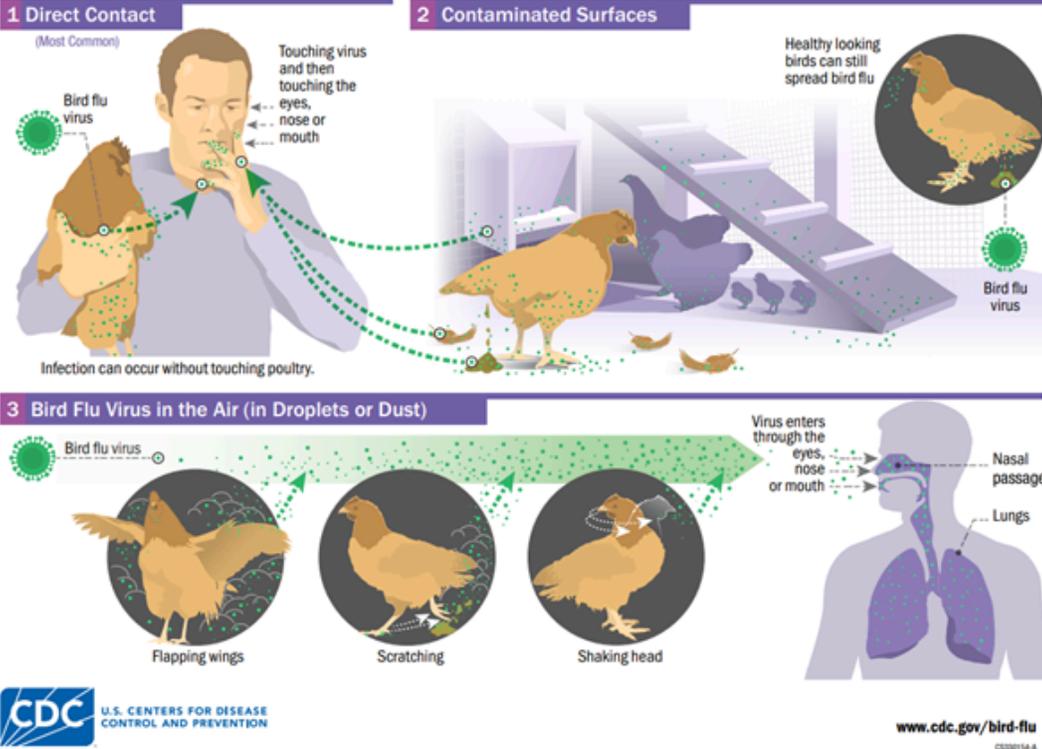
As the chill of winter melts away, many around the high desert begin feeling the excitement of spring just around the corner – spring skiing, warmer and longer days, flowers blooming, and new life everywhere. For many, an exciting sign of spring is the welcoming of peeps and baby chicks! At a time when Avian Influenza (H5N1) is causing poultry farm outbreaks and increased egg prices, many are considering the switch to backyard chickens for their egg needs. While these soft, adorable little chicks bring excitement and joy, they also bring potential illnesses, such as H5N1 and salmonella, that can make you, your flock, and others sick.

What is H5N1, or “Bird Flu”?

H5N1 is a viral strain of avian influenza (also known as “bird flu”) that primarily infects birds. You’ve likely heard of bird flu in the news due to outbreaks at poultry and dairy farms. Backyard chickens are at risk of bird flu from contact with wild birds or their droppings and can become sick very quickly. While the risk of H5N1 to humans **remains low** at this time, humans can be infected through direct contact with infected birds or their coops.

How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People

Human Infections with Bird Flu Viruses Rare But Possible



What is Salmonella?

Salmonella is a type of bacteria, and another common infectious disease associated with backyard chickens, it has been the source of many outbreaks. Chickens can be infected with salmonella while showing no symptoms and can pass the disease on to humans, causing gastrointestinal illness and symptoms including fever and diarrhea.



Following the key safety tips below will help keep you, and your chickens healthy!

- **Practice Good Hygiene:**

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching chicks or anything in or surrounding their coops.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth until you wash your hands after handling chickens. This means keeping an eye on little ones!
- Clean and sanitize eggs before storing – if an egg is cracked, immediately discard it.
- Keep food and water containers clean to prevent spread of bacteria, like salmonella.
- **Consider Protective Gear:**
 - Wear gloves and protective clothing when collecting eggs, cleaning the coop and handling chickens. Consider wearing a mask to reduce exposure if bird flu is spreading in your area.
- **Prevent Contact with Wild Birds:**
 - This is key for reducing the chance of H5N1 in your backyard flock! Avoid your chickens coming into contact with wild birds and their droppings by keeping them in a secure area.
 - If you notice any sick or dead wild birds near your home, report to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) at (866) 968-2600. For more information, please refer to the **Dead Bird Reporting website**.
- **Monitor Chicken Health:**
 - Regularly check chickens for signs of illness including coughing, lethargy or unusual behavior. If you notice unusual symptoms, isolate the chicken and contact your veterinarian for advice.

The arrival of spring brings exciting new life, and while backyard chickens can be a great addition to your home, it is important to take proper safety precautions. By practicing good hygiene, wearing protective gear, and monitoring the health of your chickens, you can enjoy their company while minimizing the risk of infectious diseases. With just a little extra care, you can ensure the health, safety, and joy of your backyard farm!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Join us for an Evening of Learning & Fun!

An event for Parents & Families!

Come together for an evening packed with learning, fun and food as we raise awareness about tobacco use and its effects on youth. This event is a great opportunity to equip yourself with valuable resources and have fun while learning. Let's work together for a tobacco-free future for our kids

What You'll Learn:

- Facts about tobacco use in youth
- How to prevent your kids from using tobacco
- Effective strategies to help them quit
- Learn about vaping, cigarettes, chewing tobacco and more!

Enjoy:

- **FREE** Food trucks offering delicious options
- Live music to keep the energy up
- Ceramic painting fun to all ages
- Raffle prizes

CROOK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
5-8PM

FREE EVENT

SEE YOU MAY 22ND!

You may be wondering
who is invited?

PARENT NIGHT

Any care giver, guardian,
parent that engages with
youth. Yes the kids if you
would like them to join.

Activities will include Free
food and mocktails along
with entertainment.

Raffle for the adults.



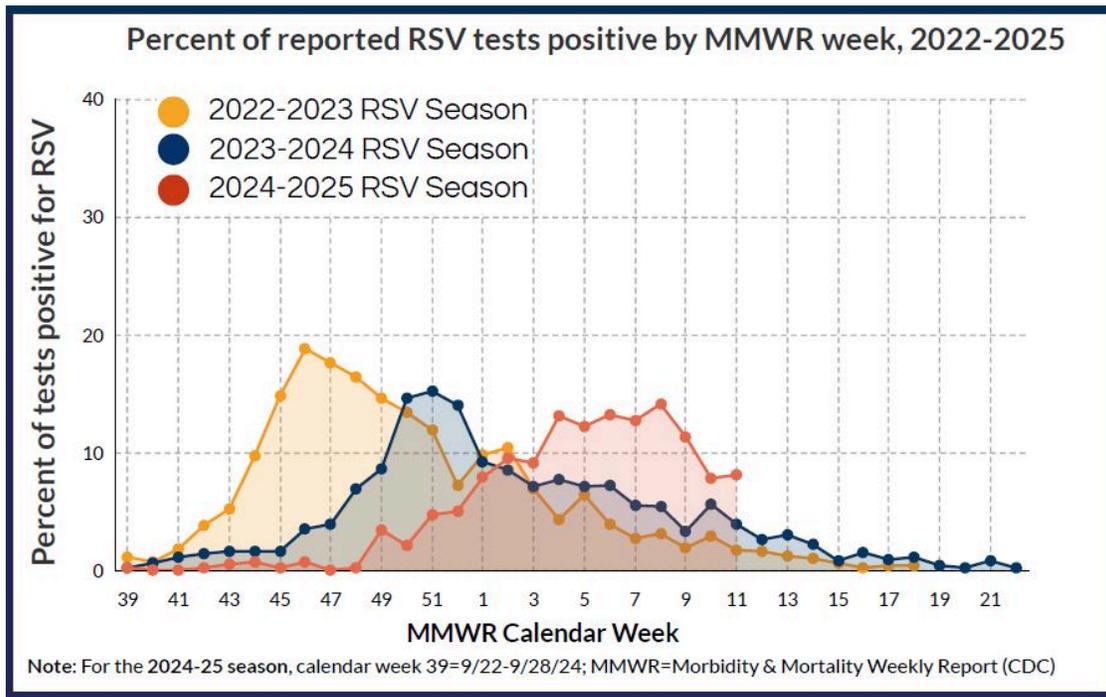
MAY 22ND

5-8:00PM

Crook County Fairgrounds



Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report



To access the latest respiratory reports or sign up for weekly respiratory reports, please visit our [website](#).

Health Services hosts numerous classes and special events each month!

For details about these events and any updates please visit our [Health Services Calendar](#).

Public Health Resources:

- Central Oregon public health web resources:
 - [Crook County](#)
 - [Deschutes County](#)
 - [Jefferson County](#)

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