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## HEALTH ADVISORY: Oregon's January 2025 Respiratory Outbreak Guidance Update

January 23, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this message finds you well.

Benton County Health Department Communicable Disease Program (CD) is informing our colleagues of Oregon Health Authority (OHA)'s recent update to the respiratory outbreak guidance made effective January 1, 2025.

OHA updated the reporting criteria for respiratory outbreaks in high-consequence settings. The outbreak reporting change primarily affects reports of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, Influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). High-consequence settings include (list not exhaustive): long term care facilities (LTCFs), skilled nursing facilities, healthcare settings, facilities serving people with disabilities, and/or facilities serving other vulnerable populations at risk for severe disease. OHA's changes can be reviewed in the [January 2025 Respiratory Disease Outbreak Investigative Guidelines \(Section 5 Pages 6 – 7\)](#).

**Benton County Health Department recommends high-consequence settings continue to immediately report 2 or more cases of COVID-19, Influenza, and/or RSV in a 7-day period.** We respect the recent reporting changes to the respiratory guidance. For Benton County, we can better support the mitigation and control of outbreaks in high-consequence settings if they are reported early. Additionally, we recommend staying up to date with vaccinations to prevent vaccine-preventable illnesses.

As a reference, [OHA's January 2025 Respiratory Outbreak Reporting Guidance](#) includes the following updated thresholds in high-consequence settings:

- 3 or more cases in residents and/or staff  
**AND**
- 10% of residents or staff affected

Again, please continue to immediately **REPORT** respiratory outbreaks in high-consequence settings when you have **2 or more cases in a 7-day period to Benton County's CD Program.**

Benton County CD Program can be reached at the following contacts (ordered by communication preference):

- [cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov)
- 541-766-6835
  - Please listen for the communicable disease reporting prompt

Thank you for supporting our shared goal of improved community health.

Respectfully,



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Carolina Amador, MD, MPH

Public Health Officer



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Sara Hartstein, MPH

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