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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Jessamine County Facing Surge in COVID-19 Cases**

*Health Dept. supports K-12 schools mask wearing*

**NICHOLASVILLE, Ky.** – Similar to that of the nation and state of Kentucky, Jessamine County is also experiencing a significant increase in 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. The increased transmissibility of the Delta variant as well as lower vaccination rates than needed to achieve herd immunity, contribute to this latest surge in cases.

The Jessamine County Health Department (JCHD) is reporting that Jessamine County has had a significant increase in cases over the last six weeks, from a 7-day rolling daily case rate of 1.58 per 100,000 on June 22, 2021 to 39.33 per 100,000 on August 9, 2021. Signifying a 2,389% increase and an average daily case rate not experienced since February 4, 2021 (Figure 1). Additionally, cases in the 0-17 age group have increased nearly 6 percentage points to 19.54% since July 1, 2021 compared to the cumulative rate of 13.88% (Figure 2).

“The spike of cases in the community over the past few weeks is concerning, especially with in-person instruction starting back up in our schools,” said Randy Gooch, Executive Director of JCHD.

As a minimal tool to help mitigate the risk of increased transmission of COVID-19 in our schools, and as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the JCHD announces its full support to both the Jessamine County Schools and the Governor’s decision to implement mask wearing for the beginning of the 21-22 school year.

“This support will continue until there is a significant reduction in disease to protect our unvaccinated and most vulnerable students and staff,” Gooch added.

Breakthrough cases, or cases diagnosed with COVID-19 after being fully vaccinated, are expected but represent only 31.44% of Jessamine County’s total cases since July 1, 2021. Majority of cases reported are in the unvaccinated population. The CDC reports evidence that breakthrough cases have a much smaller risk of experiencing severe symptoms from COVID-19, when compared to unvaccinated cases.

According to the [Kentucky COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#), as of August 9, 2021, the percentage of Jessamine County’s total population who have received at least one dose of vaccine was reported to be 51.40%. Most estimates place the threshold at 80% of the population gaining immunity, either through vaccinations or past exposure to the virus, before it begins to decrease in circulation.

“Everyone who is eligible to receive an authorized and effective vaccine but has not yet done so is highly encouraged to get vaccinated. Vaccination, mask wearing, and other protective steps such as physical distancing and staying home when sick are our best defenses to prevent severe illness which could result in hospitalization or death,” stated Gooch.

JCHD provides the latest COVID-19 information, local testing and vaccination sites, and weekly case summaries on their website at [www.jessaminehealth.org/covid19](http://www.jessaminehealth.org/covid19).

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*“Promote, Protect, and Improve the Health and Wellness of Our Community”*

Figure 1

Jessamine County COVID-19 Daily Incidence Rate Analysis

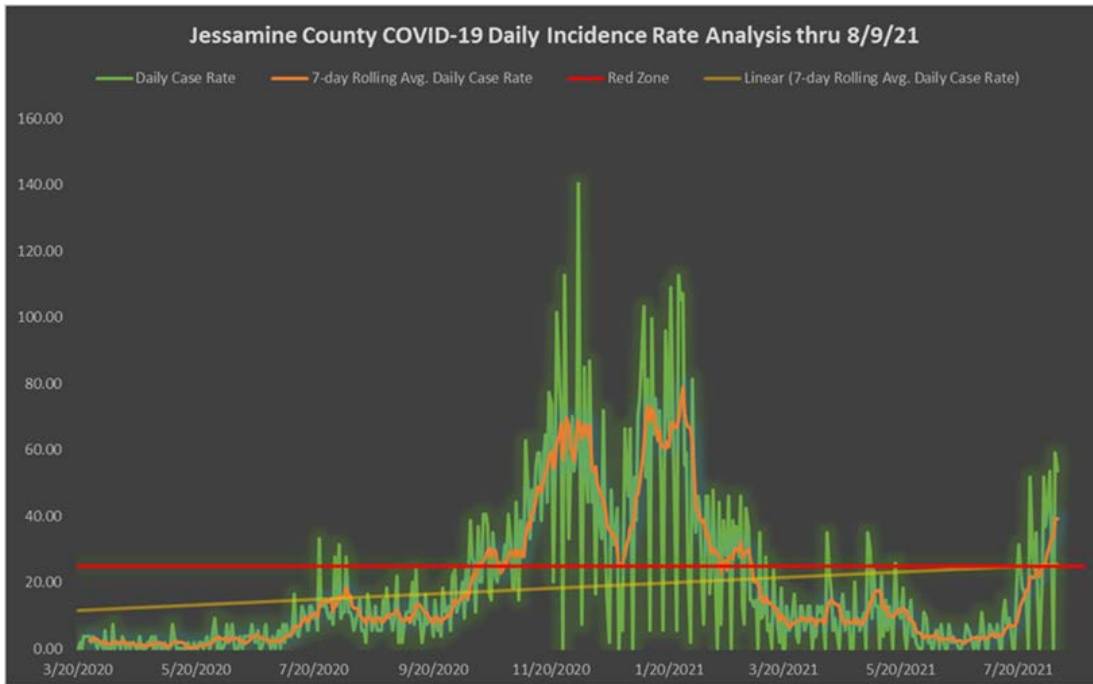


Figure 2

Jessamine County COVID-19 Case Percent by Age Group

