



Failure to Extend the Eviction Moratorium Will Increase COVID-19 illness and death

This week Oregon reached a grim milestone: we had a record number of COVID deaths in one day as our overall caseloads continue to increase at an alarming pace. Oregonians are making great sacrifices to try to lower the spread of COVID-19. But without an extension of the eviction moratorium, these efforts could be in vain. January could bring a wave of new evictions and new COVID infections and death.

Oregon's statewide eviction moratorium ends on December 31, 2020. Evictions will start as soon as the 2nd week of January unless there is an emergency special session of the legislature.

The [Journal of Urban Health](#) has released a study that shows that evictions during a global pandemic result in a dramatic increase of COVID illness and death. The research is clear: failure to extend the eviction moratorium in Oregon will extend COVID in our state, increase mortalities, and thwart our economic recovery.

The study found (controlling for other factors):

- States that have lifted their eviction moratoriums had 2.1 times higher incidence of COVID and 5.4 times the rate of COVID death.
- Lifting moratoriums resulted in 433,700 more COVID cases and 10,700 more COVID deaths during the study period (March 13-September 3).

This study validates both the CDC and state of Oregon's reason for implementing eviction moratoriums: halting evictions could prevent the spread of COVID-19 by facilitating self-isolation, supporting stay-at-home and social distancing directives, and reducing the risk of overcrowded living environments.