

# Rebecca Jack

University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
College of Business HLH 525L  
Lincoln, NE 68588

[bjack2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:bjack2@huskers.unl.edu)

## Education

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Ph.D., Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln | 2026 (expected) |
| M.P.P., Brigham Young University                 | 2014            |
| B.S., Mathematics, Brigham Young University      | 2012            |

## Research Fields

Labor and Public Economics

## Fellowships and Activities

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Becker Friedman Price Theory Camp        | 2023      |
| NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp | 2022      |
| Othmer Fellowship                        | 2021-2023 |
| Ogle Fellowship                          | 2021-2023 |

## Research Experience

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Research Director, COVID-19 School Data Hub, Dr. Emily Oster          | 2020-current |
| Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Daniel Tannenbaum, Dr. Brenden Timpe | 2022-current |
| Research Assistant, Dr. Olga Stoddard                                 | 2013-2020    |

## Teaching Experience

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Honors Principles of Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant | 2021 |
| Principles of Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant        | 2022 |

## Published Papers

“COVID-19, School Closures, and Outcomes.” (with Emily Oster), *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2023.

“Pandemic Schooling Mode and Student Test Scores: Evidence from US School Districts.” (with Clare Halloran, James Okun, and Emily Oster), *AER: Insights*, 2023.

“Effectiveness of three versus six feet of physical distancing for controlling spread of COVID-19 among primary and secondary students and staff: A retrospective, state-wide cohort study.” (with Polly van den Berg, Elissa Perkins, Isabella Epshtein, Richard Nelson, Emily Oster, and Westyn Branch-Elliman) *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2021.

“Disparities in learning mode access among K–12 students during the COVID-19 pandemic, by race/ethnicity, geography, and grade level—United States, September 2020–April 2021.” (with Emily Oster, Clare Halloran, John Schoof, Diana McLeod, Haisheng Yang, Julie Roche, and Dennis Roche) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 2021, 70(26), p.953.

## **Working Papers**

“Post COVID-19 Test Score Recovery: Initial Evidence from State Testing Data” (with Clare Halloran, Claire Hug, and Emily Oster) *NBER Working Paper*, 2023.

“COVID-19 mitigation practices and COVID-19 rates in schools: Report on data from Florida, New York and Massachusetts.” (with Emily Oster, Clare Halloran, John Schoof, and Diana McLeod) *medRxiv*, 2021.

## **Works in Progress**

"The Parenthood Gap: Firms and Earnings Inequality After Kids" (with Daniel Tannenbaum and Brenden Timpe)

This paper aims to look at the role of firms in the earnings gap between men and women after the birth of a first child. A lot of work examines the role of policy in these persistent earnings gaps after parenthood, but firms play a large role in earnings determination and potentially vary in response to young mothers and young fathers. We aim to document the firm's role in earnings dynamics around childbirth as well as worker behavior around parenthood and to better understand the impact of firms on both worker sorting and earnings inequality.

“Student Mental Health during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Electronic Health Record Data” (with Diana McLeod and Emily Oster)

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly disrupted children's education as well as their daily lives. School closures in response to the pandemic impacted students academically but also affected them socially and in other important developmental areas. However, it is unclear how the pandemic impacted the overall mental health of school-aged children. This paper uses electronic health record data to examine the trends of various mental health diagnoses, including depression, anxiety, and eating disorders, for children prior to and during the pandemic and analyzes the role of school closures in diagnosis patterns.