

# Oregon Health Authority releases weekly workplace outbreak report

New cases may be result of Halloween gatherings, health authorities say

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

The Oregon Health Authority's weekly report of outbreaks of COVID-19 for Dec. 9 shows half of Umatilla and Morrow counties' current workplace outbreaks began within two weeks after Halloween.

Umatilla County Public Health Director Joe Fiumara previously stated the area's spike in cases in November was largely spurred by large Halloween parties with no social distancing.

In OHA's weekly report, outbreaks are reported at workplaces with at least 30 employees that have had at least five cases, and includes employees who tested positive and close contacts of those employees, such as family members.

An outbreak is considered active until the site has gone at least 30 days with no new cases, at which time the workplace is taken off the list, and new cases in the future are considered the start of a new outbreak.

The outbreaks in Umatilla and Morrow counties for the Dec. 9 report are as follows:

- Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton, 554 cases since June 24
- Lamb Weston East, Boardman, 96 cases since July 13
- Walmart Distribution Center, Hermiston, 93 cases since June 30
- Good Shepherd Medi-

cal Center, Hermiston, 74 cases since July 16

- Lamb Weston Boardman Pac Center, Boardman, 59 cases since July 1
- Shearer's Foods, Hermiston, 16 cases since Nov. 16
- Smith Frozen Food, Weston, 16 cases since Nov. 17
- Marlette Homes, Hermiston, 13 cases since Nov. 16
- Keystone RV, Pendleton, 12 cases since Nov. 16
- Lamb Weston West, Boardman, 10 cases since Nov. 9
- Earl Brown and Sons, Milton-Freewater, nine cases since Oct. 28
- Walmart, Hermiston, six cases since Nov. 4
- Pilot Travel Center, Stanfield, five cases since Nov. 16

OHA also reports outbreaks linked to nursing homes and other congregate care facilities. Outbreaks listed in its Dec. 9 report include:

- Avamere at Hermiston, 47 cases and four deaths since Oct. 26
  - Regency Hermiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, five cases since Nov. 7
  - Guardian Angel Homes, Hermiston, five cases since Nov. 10
  - Cascade Valley Assisted Living, Milton-Freewater, eight cases since Nov. 30
- For the full outbreaks report and other statistics from Oregon Health Authority's weekly report, released each Wednesday, visit [govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19](http://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19).

# First phase of Wheatridge now online

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

The first phase of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility in Morrow County is now operational.

The commercial power generation project, a joint venture between Portland General Electric Company and a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, came online Dec. 8. According to a news release from PGE, the facility is "one of the first large-scale energy facilities in the United States to combine wind, solar and battery storage resources at a single location."

A 300-megawatt wind farm with 120 turbines was the first phase of the project and is now generating power. The 50-megawatt solar farm and 30-megawatt battery storage are expected to be operational in 2021.

The project — just northeast of Lexington — is part of PGE's companywide goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

"Customers want and expect cleaner, greener energy sources," Maria Pope, PGE president and CEO, said in a news release. "This is an exciting step toward completion of this important resource



Portland General Electric/Contributed Photo  
The wind portion of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility is now operational.

and adds to our growing wind generation portfolio. We deeply appreciate the partnerships that make the Wheatridge project possible, with NextEra and with the transmission services teams at the Bonneville Power Administration and Umatilla Electric Cooperative."

Sen. Ron Wyden praised the project in a statement, saying he was happy to have helped the project get over hurdles. He said it will have a "huge benefit" in both handling the climate crisis and generating jobs in rural Oregon.

Port of Morrow General Manager Ryan Neal said in a statement the port's long-term partnership with PGE has created family-wage jobs for the county, and Morrow County Commissioner Don Russell said in a statement the county was pleased to be playing a role in providing clean energy for Oregonians.

"Projects like Wheatridge Energy Facility provide family-wage jobs, tax revenue for our schools and services and strengthen Morrow County's position in the region's clean energy economy,"

Russell said.

According to the news release, the wind farm brings PGE's wind generation portfolio up to more than 1,000 megawatts nameplate capacity, "typically generating enough power to serve the equivalent of 340,000 homes." The release said "up to" 300 jobs were created at Wheatridge during the construction of the wind phase, and about 174 workers will build the solar and battery storage phases. About 10 employees will operate the site once it is finished.

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| <b>Bellinger Farms</b><br>541-567-5870        | <b>Hale's Restaurant</b><br>541-567-7975      | <b>Panaderia Yasmine</b><br>541-567-0671      | <b>Tacos Nayarit</b><br>541-571-7209   |
| <b>Burger King</b><br>541-564-1967            | <b>Harkenrider Sr. Ctr.</b><br>541-567-3582   | <b>Panda Express</b><br>541-848-6189          | <b>Tacos Xavi</b><br>541-571-6880  |
| <b>Chen's Chinese</b><br>541-667-8472         | <b>Hermiston Drug</b><br>541-567-3072         | <b>Panda Inn</b><br>541-564-6515              | <b>Tacos y Mas</b><br>541-289-0228   |
| <b>Dairy Queen</b><br>541-567-6622            | <b>Ixtapa Mexican Rest</b><br>541-564-0320    | <b>Papa Murphy's</b><br>541-567-6000          | <b>Taste of Thai</b><br>541-567-5700   |
| <b>Delish Bistro</b><br>541-303-9006          | <b>Jack in the Box</b><br>541-567-3671        | <b>Pho Quan</b><br>541-701-0676               | <b>The Pheasant Bar/Grill</b><br>541-567-3022  |
| <b>Denny's</b><br>541-567-7178                | <b>Kobe Hibachi Sushi</b><br>541-567-6178     | <b>Pizza Hut</b><br>541-567-7177              | <b>Trina's Mexican Food</b><br>541-289-8888  |
| <b>Desert Lanes</b><br>541-567-6364           | <b>La Palma</b><br>541-289-7240               | <b>Quiznos</b><br>541-567-5050                | <b>USA Subs &amp; Grill</b><br>541-567-2260  |
| <b>Domino's Pizza</b><br>541-567-4000         | <b>Lawan's Thai Garden</b><br>541-289-8424    | <b>Ruty's Restaurant</b><br>541-314-9606      | <b>Veg Out</b><br>541-561-9231   |
| <b>El Nopal Mexican Grill</b><br>541-567-0385 | <b>Little Caesar's Pizza</b><br>541-567-1697  | <b>Shiki Steakhouse/Sushi</b><br>541-303-1558 | <b>Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe</b><br>541-567-9066  |
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Covid-19 regulations are evolving. Please check with restaurants for updated information. 12/14/20