

# VACCINE

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Busch was given his first shot, then a second 28 days later. He tracked his temperature daily, kept an e-diary and checked in weekly.

He also was to check in if he ended up ill.

Though he wasn't initially told if he was given the vaccine or a placebo, he suspected he had the real deal, which turned out to be the case.

He never had anything more than mild side effects to the vaccine, including some arm soreness and a minor headache. He was able to operate as normal, and didn't have to be "holed up" as he put it.

"I even went fishing out at sea for a week," he said. "They couldn't call me, but I got on the ship to shore and called them."

He was consistently tested for COVID-19 and had blood drawn on several occasions during the early stages of the study.

Steven Busch will actually be part of the study for two years as long-term effects are looked at.

The Moderna vaccine was developed using mRNA rather than the actual virus itself. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, messenger RNAs, as they are called, "...teach our cells how to make a protein — or even just a piece of a protein — that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies."

mRNAs have been studied for about 10 years, and Amy Busch said they have been used on other diseases, such as ebola. The CDC site noted mRNA vaccines have



Amy Busch/Contributed Photo

Steven Busch, left, was part of the trial group for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in 2020. His daughter, Amy Busch, right, is a public relations and development director at Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and also received the COVID-19 vaccine. Both had similar minor side effects to the inoculation.

been studied on the flu, Zika and rabies, as well.

"They've been with us for so long, which is why we were able to get a vaccine so quickly," she said. "It's been really exciting science. They are looking at it for cancer, as well."

Her background knowledge of mRNAs made her confident that even though the vaccine was still in its early stages, her dad would be OK being part of the trial.

"I was proud," she said. "I thought it was so cool that he was willing to do that for our communities across the nation and for the world, really. I was kind of jealous. Being in a small town we don't really have that opportunity. It was in larger cities where they could draw a larger population."

Like her father, Amy Busch had very mild side effects, including soreness and a headache.

"I did it because I care about this place," she said. "I care about the people we serve at Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness. If this is a way I can give back to my community this is how I give back."

Both see the importance of the vaccine, and Amy Busch said people who have concerns should meet with their doctor.

"Our local doctors and primary care providers are doing a really good job at tracking the research and tracking the data. They have great knowledge," she said. "They want to talk to our community about the vaccine, go through the pros and cons (with people). If you have health concerns, they will understand what those health concerns are, (and) why it would be good if you get the vaccine or not."

"Having that heart-to-heart is really important."



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Lisa Chadwick of The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints carries a box of food Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, outside the Northeast Oregon Regional Bank, La Grande.

# FOOD

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Regional Food Bank after receiving a request for food from a church member in Grant County. He checked and found the food bank was in need of a boost and helped to get a shipment of food to it. Chadwick said his role in the large donation was a minor one.

The Northeast Oregon Regional Food Bank, based in La Grande, is a part of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon Inc.

Rob Murphy of Deseret Industries, a part of the LDS Church, drove the semi hauling the load. He said he has delivered numerous large shipments of food and items throughout the United

States. In many cases he has driven into disaster zones, including communities hit by hurricanes. Murphy said he never tires of making deliveries to those in need.

"It is a wonderful thing to be a part of," he said.

Smith said the timing of the delivery was ideal. She noted donations to the food bank are down, which is normal for this time of year. She said donations typically fall the first few months after Christmas.

Supplies at the food bank also are down because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She said fewer food drives have been conducted during the pandemic because they involve more contact, putting people at risk. And the recession the pandemic has caused makes

the situation worse, increasing the need for food.

"Demand is way up," Smith said.

Smith said significant financial contributions also helped the Northeast Oregon Regional Food Bank. Grocery Outlet in Island City donated \$13,000 to the food bank in 2020 following a fundraising drive, and the state provided \$60,000 in 2020 for food purchases due to the pandemic. She said the state normally does not provide such funding.

Those funds, Smith said, have played a big role in sustaining the food bank in early 2021.

And the shipment from the LDS Church will go a long way toward helping Smith feel more at ease.

Smith described it as "a huge relief."

# CASES

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because providers have 72 hours to report doses administered, and technical challenges have caused providers to lag in their reporting.

OHA has been providing technical support to vaccination sites to improve the timeliness of their data entry into the state's ALERT Immunization Information System.

Oregon as of Monday administered a cumulative total of 683,887 first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines, according to the OHA. To date, 885,250 doses of vaccine have been delivered to sites across Oregon. The Health Authority cautioned these data are preliminary and subject to change.

The OHA also noted on Monday the decline in vaccine administrations is likely the result of the winter weather that is

pummeling the region.

The Center for Human Development continues to hold COVID-19 vaccinations clinics. According to information on the cen-

ter's vaccination webpage, www.chdinc.org/get-vaccinated-update, the clinics on Feb. 19 and Feb. 22 to provide the first dose of the vaccine are full.

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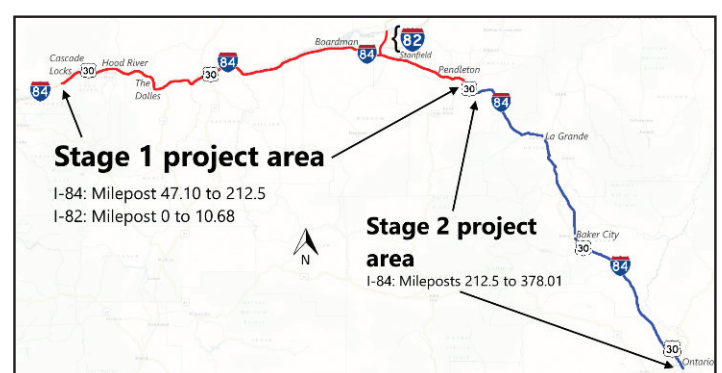
That's why between 2021 and 2023 the Oregon Department of Transportation will be upgrading signs along the Interstate 84 and Interstate 82 corridors. To collect feedback about the upcoming project we are holding an **ONLINE OPEN HOUSE** now through **Feb. 28**. Please take a few minutes to visit the site, review our plans, maps, pictures, and traffic impacts information, and then let us know if you have any comments.

[odotopenhouse.org/i-84-cascade-locks-idaho-i-82-sign-upgrades](http://odotopenhouse.org/i-84-cascade-locks-idaho-i-82-sign-upgrades)

**Overview:** This project will upgrade and replace signs along 331 miles of I-84 from Cascade Locks to Idaho, and on all 10.7 miles of I-82. All freeway and ramp signs will be replaced, with the exception of traveler information (blue signs), milepost signs and recently replaced signs.

The project will be completed in two phases, with the first phase starting later this year and the second phase starting in 2023.

We appreciate your review and feedback. It will help us construct a better, safer project.



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