

# Oregon OSHA to revise COVID-19 workplace guidelines

## With limited exceptions, all remaining industry-specific and activity-specific workplace guidance will be repealed

By **MIKE ROGOWAY**  
The Oregonian

SALEM — Oregon's workplace safety agency said this week it is relaxing standards for COVID-19 safety precautions, adjusting rules to conform with new state health guidance. That means the end to formal mask requirements and other precautions.

The state Occupational Safety and Health Division, known as Oregon OSHA, established emergency safety rules in 2020, early in the pandemic. Six months later, in April 2021, the agency moved to extend those protections.

Because Oregon law allows emergency rules to remain in place for just 180 days, though, OSHA said it needed to make those rules nominally "permanent" to

keep them in place.

Vaccines were proliferating at the time, and many states were repealing mask mandates altogether, so Oregon's decision to use the "permanent rulemaking" process

ignited a furor. OSHA said at the time that it intended to remove the workplace rules whenever COVID case levels allowed it, but it faced criticism for not setting specific metrics for when that would be.

The pandemic surged and waned intermittently over the next 11 months, but Oregon is now enjoying a sharp decline in infection rates, and the state repealed most indoor

mask requirements earlier this month.

So OSHA said this week that it's relaxing its rules, following guidance from the Oregon Health Authority. OSHA said this week it won't enforce last year's rules while it begins the regulatory process to repeal the "permanent" changes enacted last April.

While the rulemaking process is underway, OSHA said it will enforce

a few standards:

- Employers must allow workers to voluntarily wear masks, and employers must provide them free to workers who want them.
- Employers conducting COVID-19 testing must cover the costs of those tests, including employees' time and travel.

OSHA said employers should also "optimize" indoor ventila-

tion to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and notify employees of potential exposure to COVID-19 at work.

The old, higher safety standards remain in place for what OSHA calls "exceptional risk workplaces." In general, that refers to health care settings with direct patient care. The state still requires masks in those settings.



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## HOROSCOPES

by Stella Wilder

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

**YOUR BIRTHDAY** by Stella Wilder

Born today, you want to be the best -- period. At what, you may ask -- and that can prove a difficult question for anyone to answer who isn't close to you and doesn't know the deep, dark secrets that you harbor within your soul. For the truth is that you look like you could do just about anything, and you have been endowed with a great many talents to explore in your lifetime.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- The promise of a handsome reward is likely enough to get you to step out of your comfort zone today and try something very unusual.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- You may be expecting something from someone today for which there has been no evidence or advance notice whatsoever. Why is that?

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- It's a good time to revisit something that, in the past, gave you a great deal of pleasure. You know someone who will share this with you.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- You must resist feeling competitive toward someone who is only trying to help you. Instead of being defensive, why not invite cooperation?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- A misconception of some sort has you preparing for something that is not likely to happen. This is a "no harm, no foul" situation, however.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Someone may be expecting too much of you today, and you must say so before you find yourself in a situation that is too much to handle alone.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** -- You know very well who is responsible for the mess that you are left with at this time, so why not insist on getting the help you need?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** -- You can take full advantage today of a situation you were not even aware of yesterday. Progress is made very swiftly at this time.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** -- You may wonder at the treatment you receive at the hands of someone who thinks they're in charge. It's surely time to speak up.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- You may have gotten along so far by pretending to be this, that or the other thing -- but today you must be genuine in all interactions.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** -- A personal sacrifice may be necessary today before you are able to make any more measurable progress, but this shouldn't be too difficult.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** -- The time for exploration and experimentation may be coming to a close; today, you will want to narrow down your choices significantly.

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**110 Announcements**

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**114 Self-Help Group Meetings**

**Drug Problem? We can help!**  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Phone: 541-805-2229  
[www.neo-na.org](http://www.neo-na.org)

**PEOPLE with PARKINSON'S**  
Caregivers, Family, Friends  
**SUPPORT GROUP**  
Contact Judith at 208-855-9199  
Meetings resume @GRH when restrictions ease.

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**  
Tues., Noon - 1 PM  
**PHONE MEETING**  
CALL: (605) 475-4120  
USE CODE: 8655565  
Or for more information call: 541-540-5326 or 541-523-5128  
Please Leave a Message

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP**  
Support for family & friends of Alcoholics  
**Tuesday evenings: 6-7pm**  
Joseph Methodist Church (basement on northside)  
Joseph, OR  
Contact 541-398-1398

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

**ACROSS**

- Alarm
- Commercials
- Low-lying clouds
- Ship of myth
- Attack word
- Fiend
- Stalemate
- Have — at
- Rider's gear
- Mind reading
- Miff
- Brand of spandex
- Apiece
- Contented sigh
- Wind dir.
- Canasta plays
- Attired
- Monastic title
- Deserve
- Where Nairobi is
- College stat
- Colorful carp
- SFO info

**DOWN**

- Craze
- Say incorrectly
- Ottoman title
- Oar puller
- On the double
- Shovel
- Dip of ice cream

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

G	L	O	P	S	O	C	K	S	H	H	
Y	I	P	E	E	B	O	N	T	E	A	
M	E	T	E	O	R	I	T	E	U	R	N
R	T	E	E	N	D	E	D				
B	E	R	E	T	N	A	S	A			
L	A	U	D	L	O	G	P	I	T	H	
I	R	S	E	V	E	O	H	O			
P	L	E	A	G	A	D	D	U	E	L	
C	O	O	S	M	O	S	E	Y			
A	N	G	E	R	Z	I	G				
W	O	N	A	R	G	E	N	T	I	N	A
E	R	A	T	O	O	T	A	R	I	D	
S	A	T	E	T	T	A	G	A	L	E	

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- Baker City Herald
- Dollar Tree
- Black's Distributing
- Ryder Bros
- VFW
- Baker Elk's Lodge
- Main Event
- Lefty's Tap House
- Baker City Fire Dept.
- Haines Sell-Rite
- Idle Hour
- Salvation Army

**114 Self-Help Group Meetings**

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Third & Broadway  
Baker City, OR  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
6:15 - 8:00 PM

**AL-ANON Attitude of Gratitude.**  
Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30pm.  
Faith Lutheran Church.  
12th & Gekeler, La Grande  
Please wear a mask & practice social distancing  
541-786-2051

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**  
Goin' Straight Group  
Meetings:  
Mon., Tues. Thurs. & Fri.  
Start at 8 PM  
Episcopal Church Basement  
2177 1st Street, Baker City

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**  
Would you like to stop compulsive eating?  
For Information Call 541-523-5128  
Leave a Message  
Email: [ecapoa@live.com](mailto:ecapoa@live.com)

**BAKER COUNTY AA MEETINGS BAKER CITY**

**MONDAYS Survivor's Group**  
12 -1:00 pm  
Baker Presbyterian Church  
1995 4th St.  
(4th & Court, Side Door)

**WEDNESDAYS Survivor's Group**  
12:05 pm  
Baker Presbyterian Church  
1995 4th St.  
(4th & Court, Side Door)

**THURSDAYS Survivor's Group**  
12:00 pm  
Baker Presbyterian Church  
1995 4th St.  
(4th & Court, Side Door)

**FRIDAYS Been There Done That**  
5:30 pm  
Grove Apartments  
Community Room  
2970 Walnut Street

**SATURDAYS As Bill Sees It Group**  
10:00 am 2970 Walnut  
(Corner of "D" & Grove St.)  
Grove Apts. Community Rm

Questions call AA Hotline:  
541-624-5117  
[www.oregonaadistrict29.org](http://www.oregonaadistrict29.org)

**WALLOWA COUNTY AA MEETINGS**

**Enterprise**  
MONDAYS  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
Closed Meeting  
113.5 E Main St.

**TUESDAYS**  
• Enterprise Group  
7 - 8:00 pm  
(Big Bk Study)  
113.5 E Main St.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
Closed Meeting  
113.5 E Main St.

**THURSDAYS**  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
113.5 E Main St.

**FRIDAYS**  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
Closed Meeting  
113.5 E Main St.

**SATURDAYS**  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
113.5 E Main St.

**City of Joseph**  
WEDNESDAYS  
• Buck Stops Here  
Joseph United Methodist Church, 12 pm  
301 S. Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

THURSDAYS  
• Grace and Dignity \*(WM)  
Joseph United Methodist Church, 12 pm  
301 S Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

SATURDAYS  
• Buck Stops Here  
Joseph United Methodist Church, 12 pm  
301 S. Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

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