

Marion County moves back to extreme COVID risk

By JAKE THOMAS

Courtesy of Salem Reporter

Stringent COVID-19 restrictions are returning to Marion County.

Beginning Friday, April 30, restaurants will no longer be able to offer indoor dining, outdoor social gatherings will be limited to six people instead of eight, and churches will have to cut capacity. Gyms and movie theaters 500 square feet or larger will only be allowed to have only six customers at a time. Video lottery terminals will still be allowed in bars. But regulations only allow six people at a time who aren't allowed to eat or drink and must wear masks.

Gov. Kate Brown announced the changes Tuesday, April 27, in an attempt to head off rising COVID-19 cases that threaten to overwhelm the state's hospital system.

Less than a third of Oregon's population has been fully vaccinated, generally requiring two doses of vaccine spaced several weeks apart. In Marion County, about 121,000 people are fully vaccinated, about a third of the county's population.

Despite the increase in vaccinations, both counties

have seen a rise in new cases of COVID.

In Marion County, the case rate rose to 299 cases of COVID per 100,000 people between April 11 and April 24. That's up from 204 cases per 100,000 from the previous two-week reporting period and 137 per 100,000 the period before.

Counties with more than 200 new COVID cases per 100,000 residents over two weeks are considered "extreme risk," but in early April Brown said she would not impose new restrictions on those counties until COVID-related hospitalizations increased.

The governor enacted the restrictions because the state meeting two thresholds: hospitalizations of COVID-positive patients exceeded 300 and the seven-day total of COVID patients rose by above 15%.

Both thresholds were met with 319 COVID-positive patients occupying hospital beds statewide and the seven-day total of COVID-positive patients rising by 37.4%.

"If we don't act now, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and other health care providers in Oregon will be stretched to their limits treating severe cases of COVID-19," said Brown. "Today's announcement will save lives and help

stop COVID-19 hospitalizations from spiking even higher. With new COVID-19 variants widespread in so many of our communities, it will take all of us working together to bring this back under control."

Salem Health said in a statement that it is currently at 89% of its normally licensed bed capacity. The health care provider has been preparing additional bed capacity since 2019 the company said. Typically, the hospital has a capacity for 494 patients. Currently, it has a bed capacity for 534 patients and is caring for 56 COVID-positive inpatients.

COVID-19 vaccinations are now available to all Oregonians 16 and older.

Vaccinations are the strongest tool as the country and the world work to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and protect those who are most vulnerable to serious illness in the community.

Many large pharmacy systems are beginning to receive COVID-19 vaccines from the federal government. Salem Health, Lancaster Family Medical Center and WFMC Health also have vaccination shots to distribute.

senior housing guide

 <p>Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community Keizer's Best Kept Secret</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: Drive north on River Rd. Turn left on Wheatland Rd. Go 1.5 miles. On left side of road.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES: • independent living includ. studio and 1-bedroom apartments, 2-bedroom cottages</p>	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,768</p> <p>AMENITIES: • Not-for-profit, Christian community serving all faiths • Pets allowed • No Extra Charge for a 2nd person • 24-hour nurse on staff for emergency response • 3-delicious homecooked meals daily • Van service for shopping & medical appts • Housekeeping • Great Social Activities • Church Services</p>	<p>ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: yes</p> 
<p>7693 Wheatland Rd N, Keizer, OR 97303 • 503-393-1491 • www.willamettelutheran.com • e-mail: kay@willamettelutheran.com</p>				

 <p>AVAMERE Court at Keizer</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: From I-5, turn west on Lockhaven. Turn left at River Rd, then left on Claggett St. Immediately turn in driveway at left.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES: • independent living apts • assisted living apts • rehabilitation, skilled nursing & long term care beds</p>	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,837</p> <p>AMENITIES: • Beautiful 5-acre campus • Family-like culture • Continuum of care to meet all your loved one's needs • Quality lifestyle for active seniors • Our assisted living is 9 years deficiency-free • WE ARE HERE FOR YOU. WE ARE FAMILY.</p>	<p>ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: yes</p> 
<p>5210 River Rd N, Keizer, OR 97303 • PH: 503-393-3624 x340 • CELL: 971-599-9484 • www.avamerecourtatkeizer.com</p>				

 <p>the Village at Keizer Ridge ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: On River Road, one-half mile north of McNary Estates. Right on McGee Ct, take second driveway on left.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES: • Assisted Living • Memory Care</p>	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$2,855</p> <p>AMENITIES: • Individualized Care Plans • State-of-the-art theater • Raised garden beds • All day fresh gourmet dining • Life enriching, meaningful, stimulating activities • Resident created activity calendar • Courtyard walking path • More staff on hand 24/7 than other local facilities • Private & semi-private Memory Care apartments</p>	<p>ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: Yes</p> 
<p>1165 McGee Court NE, Keizer, OR 97303 • 503-390-1300 • www.VillageAtKeizerRidge.com</p>				

 <p>Emerald Pointe Senior Living Community</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: On River Road, one-half mile north of McNary Estates.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES: • Studio • 1 BR w/ deck or walk-in closet • 2 BR, 1 BA • 2 BR, 2 BA w/ deck or walk-in closet</p>	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,350</p> <p>AMENITIES: • Full kitchens in every apartment • Beauty Salon • Optional Meal Plans • Staffed 24/7 • Full Activities Calendar • Weekly Excursions • Special Dietary Needs Met • Coffee Lounge • Housekeeping • Community Room • Activity Rooms • Transportation to doctors, shopping, and more • Waist High Gardens • Walking Paths • Free WiFi</p>	<p>ACTIVE INDEPENDENT LIVING: yes</p> 
<p>1125 McGee Ct NE, Keizer, OR 97303 • 503-390-7700 • www.EmeraldPointeKeizer.com</p>				