

House passes \$8.5 billion relief bill

Includes free testing, paid sick leave

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House, with President Donald Trump’s support, early Saturday passed a bill to provide free testing for the coronavirus, as well as paid sick and family leave, strengthened unemployment insurance and increased food aid to ease the hardship on families. The legislation will be taken up by the Senate this week. It would require paid leave for workers who contract the virus or who care for those who do and additional food aid for the poor and senior citizens. For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, it causes more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the virus.

The legislation includes:

Free coronavirus testing
It requires private health insurance plans to provide free coronavirus testing and waives cost-sharing rules for testing provided to people covered by Medicare, Medicaid and federal retirement programs. Another \$1 billion is provided to test people without health insurance. It boosts federal matching funds

to state Medicaid programs by 6.2% to ease the financial strain on states.

Paid sick/family leave

It establishes a temporary coronavirus-related sick leave benefit paid by employers with fewer than 500 workers. Workers with the coronavirus would receive 100% or their wages if they have the coronavirus or are self-isolating and two-thirds of their pay when caring for family members. The benefit would expire in January 2021. It also permits 12 weeks of job-protected family or medical leave at two-thirds pay, though the first 14 days of the extended leave would be unpaid. In both cases businesses would be reimbursed by the federal government through a refundable tax credit.

Food aid

It provides \$1.3 billion in emergency food aid for low-income pregnant women and their young children, senior citizens and food banks. It allows states to provide food stamps to make up for lost school lunch benefits if their children are kept home from school and directs \$100 million of the funds to U.S. territories.

Unemployment benefits

Workers laid off because of the coronavirus outbreak are already eligible for unemployment benefits, but the

legislation provides \$1 billion for additional caseloads and administrative costs to encourage temporarily furloughed workers to obtain unemployment benefits.

Protection for first responders

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration would be required to issue a temporary rule requiring increased protections against the coronavirus.

On Monday, Senate Democrats proposed a new coronavirus aid package, with at least \$750 billion to boost hospital capacity, unemployment insurance and other direct aid for American households, businesses and the health care industry.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer floated the proposal Monday as Congress and the White House are quickly developing a third aid package to fight the novel virus that has brought the nation to a standstill and thrown the economy into free fall.

“We will need big, bold, urgent federal action to deal with this crisis,” Schumer said.

Senators are returning to an emptied out U.S. Capitol building with one aid package pending — for sick pay, free testing and emergency food — and a new, more sweeping effort being launched amid the crisis.

The rush to inject an infusion of cash and resources into the economy is like nothing seen in Washington since the 2008 financial collapse, an enormous political and economic undertaking with interventions and eye-popping sums to try to protect Americans from the health and financial fallout.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell opened the chamber Monday afternoon, saying he had one message to Americans: “The Senate stands with you.”

McConnell is calling for a “comprehensive” approach for this next, third coronavirus aid package with “significant” steps to help families and businesses as workplaces shutter, schools send students home and health care systems brace to provide emergency care.

The days ahead will test if Congress can quickly respond to the crisis.

For now, the Senate is stalled, waiting on the House to send its package of sick pay and other resources that was approved early Saturday with President Donald Trump’s support, but quickly became tangled in technical issues.

All sides, the House, Senate and White House, say that package — which is coming on top of \$8.3 billion in initial aid approved at the start of the month — is not nearly enough to handle what’s coming.

OBITUARIES

John Zachariah Tetlow
Carmichael, California
July 30, 1970 — March 3, 2020

John Zachariah Tetlow, age 49, was born July 30, 1970, in Astoria, Oregon, and passed away March 3, 2020, surrounded by family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Insook; daughter Emma, age 17; parents Bill and Marlene Tetlow; sisters Jody Wright (Scott), Carrie Goosen (Duane), and Sally Tetlow; brother Tom Tetlow (Lori); and four nieces and three nephews.

John lived in Astoria until the age of 11, then his family moved to Seattle, Washington. John attended the Shoreline schools and graduated from Shorewood High School in 1989. He graduated from Eastern Washington University with a degree in criminal justice.

After graduation, John joined the U.S. Army and served for six years. While stationed in Seoul, South Korea, John met his wife, Insook.

After his honorable discharge, John went to work for AT&T in Madison, Wisconsin, as an engineer. He earned his master’s

degree in business administration from Liberty University, then in 2009, John relocated to Carmichael, California. John was later promoted to area manager, was highly respected in his career with AT&T, and was awarded employee of the year in 2017.

John was diagnosed with colorectal cancer on March 7, 2018. He fought a courageous fight, and had hope until the end. John will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

John’s celebration of life will be held at a later date in Sacramento, California.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to John’s immediate family to assist with expenses, or to the American Cancer Society in John’s memory.



John Tetlow



OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

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First patients receive virus test vaccine

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — U.S. researchers gave the first shots in a first test of an experimental coronavirus vaccine Monday, leading off a worldwide hunt for protection even as the pandemic surges.

With careful jabs in the arms of four healthy volunteers, scientists at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Research Institute in Seattle began an anxiously awaited first-stage study of a potential COVID-19 vaccine developed in record time after the new virus exploded out of China and fanned out across the globe.

“We’re team coronavirus now,” Kaiser Permanente study leader Dr. Lisa Jackson said on the eve of the experiment. “Everyone wants to do what they can in this emergency.”

The Associated Press observed as the study’s first participant, an operations manager at a small tech company, received the injection in an exam room.

“We all feel so helpless. This is an amazing opportunity for me to do something,” Jennifer Haller, 43, of Seattle said before getting vaccinated. Her two teenagers “think it’s cool” that she’s taking part in the study.

After the injection, she left the exam room with



Ted S. Warren/AP Photo

A pharmacist gives Jennifer Haller, left, the first shot in the first-stage safety study clinical trial of a potential vaccine for COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus on Monday at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle.

a big smile: “I’m feeling great.”

Three others were next in line for a test that will ultimately give 45 volunteers two doses, a month apart.

Neal Browning, 46, of Bothell, Washington, is a Microsoft network engineer who says his young daughters are proud he volunteered.

“Every parent wants their children to look up to them,” he said. But he’s told them not to brag to their friends. “It’s other people, too. It’s not just Dad out there.”

Monday’s milestone marked just the beginning of a series of studies in people needed to prove whether the shots are safe and could work. Even if the research goes well, a vaccine would

not be available for widespread use for 12 to 18 months, said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

At a news conference, President Donald Trump praised how quickly the research had progressed. Fauci noted that 65 days have passed since Chinese scientists shared the virus’ genetic sequence. He said he believed that was a record for developing a vaccine to test.

This vaccine candidate, code-named mRNA-1273, was developed by the NIH and Massachusetts-based biotechnology company Moderna Inc. There’s no chance participants could get infected because the shots do not contain the

coronavirus itself.

It’s not the only potential vaccine in the pipeline. Dozens of research groups around the world are racing to create a vaccine against COVID-19. Another candidate, made by Inovio Pharmaceuticals, is expected to begin its own safety study next month in the U.S., China and South Korea.

The Seattle experiment got underway days after the World Health Organization declared the new virus outbreak a pandemic because of its rapid global spread, which has infected about 175,000 people and killed more than 6,700.

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
50 36	52 36	52 39	51 38	51 37	52 38	53 38
Plenty of sunshine	Partly sunny	Clouds limiting sun	Cloudy	Rather cloudy	A shower possible	Rain

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures

High/low	50/32
Normal high/low	54/39
Record high	74 in 1947
Record low	28 in 1988
Precipitation	
Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	1.98"
Normal month to date	3.74"
Year to date	27.02"
Normal year to date	21.38"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: Last-quarter moon (2:34 a.m.).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:24 a.m.
Sunset tonight 7:25 p.m.
Moonrise today 4:07 a.m.
Moonset today 12:48 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 16	Mar 24	Apr 1	Apr 7

TODAY’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
7:59 a.m.	7.6	2:05 a.m.	3.6	
10:04 p.m.	6.2	3:37 p.m.	4.8	
Cape Disappointment				
7:42 a.m.	7.6	1:21 a.m.	0.8	
10:09 p.m.	6.1	2:53 p.m.	0.8	
Hammond				
7:53 a.m.	7.7	1:44 a.m.	3.7	
10:10 p.m.	6.3	3:07 p.m.	0.5	
Warrenton				
7:54 a.m.	8.0	1:49 a.m.	3.7	
9:59 p.m.	6.6	3:21 p.m.	0.9	
Knappa				
8:36 a.m.	7.9	3:06 a.m.	3.1	
10:41 p.m.	6.5	4:38 p.m.	0.6	
Depoe Bay				
6:58 a.m.	7.7	12:52 a.m.	4.1	
9:22 p.m.	6.2	2:23 p.m.	0.7	

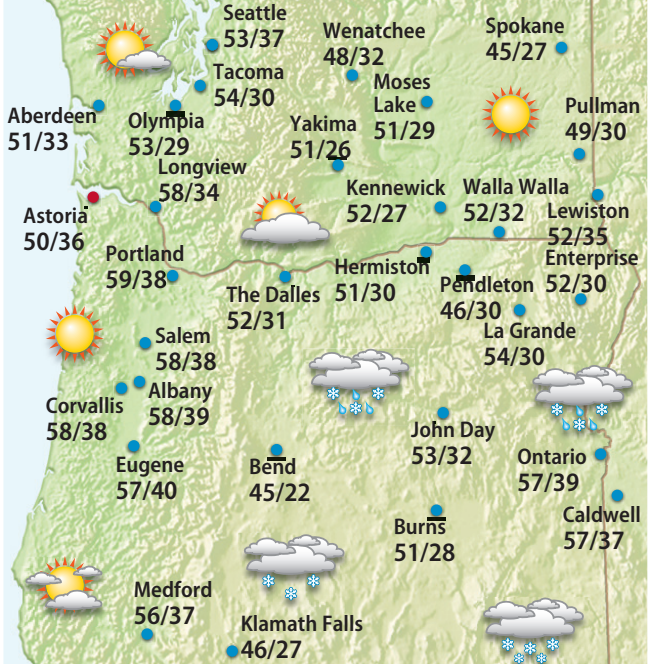
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	71/58/sh	72/59/c
Boston	50/35/sh	49/38/s
Chicago	50/36/pc	44/38/r
Dallas	74/64/t	78/67/t
Denver	58/37/c	64/36/pc
Honolulu	81/71/sh	81/71/sh
Houston	80/66/c	82/71/c
Los Angeles	58/43/pc	60/48/c
Miami	84/70/pc	84/72/pc
New York City	56/40/sh	55/44/s
Phoenix	73/55/c	61/47/r
San Francisco	58/45/sh	59/46/c
Wash., DC	64/43/pc	60/51/pc
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	56/31/sf	52/26/c	North Bend	52/41/s	52/36/c
Brookings	49/40/pc	51/39/c	Roseburg	56/39/c	57/35/c
Ilwaco	49/37/s	51/37/pc	Seaside	50/36/s	52/35/pc
Newberg	59/36/pc	58/31/pc	Springfield	58/40/pc	56/33/pc
Newport	50/39/s	50/35/pc	Vancouver	59/37/pc	58/34/pc