

Health care workers, nursing homes set to get coronavirus vaccine first

By MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Health care workers and nursing home residents should be at the front of the line when the first coronavirus vaccine shots become available, an influential government advisory panel said Tuesday.

The panel voted 13-1 to recommend those groups get priority in the first days of any coming vaccination program, when doses are expected to be very limited. The two groups encompass about 24 million people out of a U.S. population of about 330 million.

Later this month, the Food and Drug Administration will consider authorizing emergency use of two vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna. Current estimates project that no more than 20 million doses of each vaccine will be available by the end of 2020. And each product requires two doses. As a result, the shots will be rationed in the early stages.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will meet again at some point to decide who should be next in line. Among the possibilities: teachers, police, firefighters and workers in other essential fields such as food production and transportation; the elderly; and people with underlying medical conditions.

Tuesday's action merely designated who should get shots first if a safe and effective vaccine becomes available. The panel did not endorse any particular vaccine. Panel members are waiting to hear the FDA's evaluation and to see more safety and efficacy data before endorsing any particular product.

Experts say the vaccine will probably not become widely available in the U.S. until the spring.

The panel of outside scientific experts, created in 1964, makes recommendations to



Pharmacist Michael Witte holds a tray with a syringe containing a shot that was used in the first clinical trial of a potential vaccine for COVID-19 at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle in March.

Biden asks Fauci to continue as nation's infectious disease expert

Associated Press

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's chief infectious disease expert, says there was never a question that he would accept President-elect Joe Biden's offer to serve as his chief medical officer and adviser on the coronavirus pandemic.

Fauci told NBC's "Today" show on Friday, "I said yes right on the spot" after Biden asked him to serve during a conversation on Thursday.

As the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Fauci has served several presidents,

Republican and Democratic. But during President Donald Trump's administration, he has been largely sidelined as Trump gave rosy assessments of the virus and insisted it would fade away.

Fauci has urged rigorous mask-wearing and social distancing, practices that have not often been followed at the White House.

On Thursday, Biden said he will ask Americans to commit to 100 days of wearing masks as one of his first acts as president.

"I told him I thought that was a good idea," Fauci told NBC.

the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who almost always approves them. It normally has 15 voting members, but one seat is vacant.

The recommendations are not binding, but for decades they have been widely heeded by doctors, and they have determined the scope and funding of U.S. vaccina-

tion programs.

It will be up to state authorities whether to follow the guidance. It will also be left to them to make further, more detailed decisions if necessary — for example, whether to put emergency room doctors and nurses ahead of other health care workers if vaccine supplies are low.

The CDC on Tuesday

revised its guidelines for people who may have been exposed to the coronavirus to quarantine for 10 or seven days, depending on the person's test results and symptoms, instead of 14 days. People need to only quarantine for 10 days if they do not develop symptoms. The period can be reduced to seven days if they test negative.

OBITUARIES

Kent Leahy Johnson Astoria

Aug. 10, 1940 — Nov. 23, 2020

Kent Leahy Johnson Adair in 1966 and they passed away on Nov. 23, 2020, in Astoria. had two sons. They later divorced.

He was born on Aug. 10, 1940, in Astoria, the son of Helen Leahy Johnson and Jalmer Johnson. He attended John Jacob Astor Elementary School for his elementary education and graduated from Astoria High School in 1958.

As a young man he worked numerous jobs in the area, including at Bumble Bee Seafoods, on his Uncle Howard Johnson's farm, fishing with his father on the troller Brejoh and gillnetting in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

After high school he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves and was stationed in Texas.

He was a member of the plumber and steamfitters UA Local 290 for 34 years before retiring in 2003, working both residentially and commercially, including on the Alaska pipeline.

He married DeOnne



Kent Johnson

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, clam digging and traveling and visiting Sweden and Norway in 2001.

Most of all he liked watching his grandchildren's ball games.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 12, Astoria Moose Lodge and the Scandinavian Benevolent Society.

He is survived by his sons, Darren (Maria) and Todd Johnson, of Astoria; grandsons, Tucker, Jalmir-Daniel, Sven-Kristian and Jack Johnson; sister, Corleen (Loran) Mathews; and special companion of 19 years, Darla Salo.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Astoria High School sports.

Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at caldwellsmortuary.com

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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 person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

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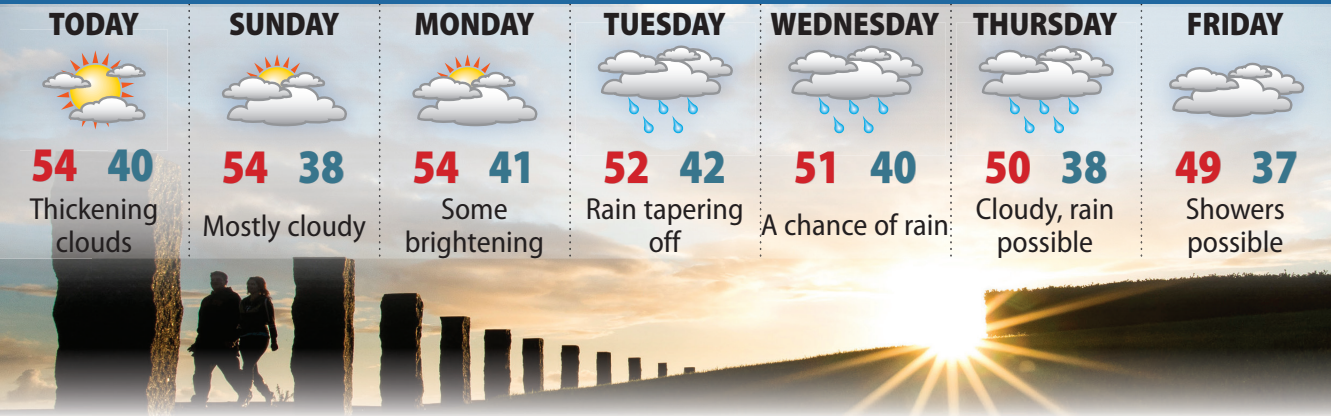
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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC	
Astoria through Thursday	
Temperatures	
High/low	52/33
Month to date	50/37
Record high	63 in 2015
Record low	27 in 2013
Precipitation	
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	1.08"
Year to date	56.35"
Normal year to date	58.70"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

UNDER THE SKY	
Tonight's Sky: Although the winter solstice is almost three weeks away, we will see the earliest sunsets (4:27 p.m.) of the year over the next few days. Source: Jim Todd, OMSI	
SUN AND MOON	
Sunrise today	7:42 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:30 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:36 p.m.
Moonset today	12:06 p.m.
Last	New
Dec 7	Dec 14
Dec 21	Dec 29

TODAY'S TIDES	
Astoria / Port Docks	
Time	High (ft.)
4:56 a.m.	7.0
10:12 a.m.	3.8
3:36 p.m.	8.1
10:52 p.m.	0.2
Cape Disappointment	
4:34 a.m.	6.9
9:21 a.m.	4.3
3:19 p.m.	7.7
10:10 p.m.	0.2
Hammond	
4:46 a.m.	7.2
9:45 a.m.	4.1
3:31 p.m.	8.1
10:30 p.m.	0.0
Warrenton	
4:51 a.m.	7.4
9:56 a.m.	4.0
3:31 p.m.	8.5
10:36 p.m.	0.3
Knappa	
5:33 a.m.	7.3
11:13 a.m.	3.3
4:13 p.m.	8.4
11:53 p.m.	0.1
Depoe Bay	
3:50 a.m.	7.0
8:50 a.m.	4.4
2:28 p.m.	8.0
9:40 p.m.	0.0

NATIONAL CITIES	
Today	
City	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	54/32/pc
Boston	45/31/r
Chicago	40/27/pc
Dallas	60/40/pc
Denver	52/28/s
Honolulu	86/70/pc
Houston	58/43/pc
Los Angeles	69/46/s
Miami	81/65/pc
New York City	47/34/r
Phoenix	69/43/pc
San Francisco	60/48/pc
Wash., DC	49/35/pc
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.	

REGIONAL FORECAST

