

County reports 21 new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County has reported 21 new coronavirus cases over the past few days.

On Wednesday, the county reported four cases.

The cases include a man in his 40s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and involve a woman in her 20s and a man and a woman in their 50s.

All four were recovering at home. On Tuesday, the county reported

five cases.

The cases include a man in his 20s and a woman in her 30s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and involve a woman in her 40s and a man and a woman in their 60s.

All five were recovering at home. On Monday, the county reported 12 cases.

The cases include a female between 10 and 19, a woman in her 20s, a man in his 30s, a woman in her 40s and a man in his 50s living in the

northern part of the county.

The others live in the southern part of the county and involve a man and a woman in their 20s, a man and a woman in their 30s, a man in his 50s and two women in their 60s.

All 12 were recovering at home. A woman in her 60s living in the northern part of the county whose case was reported on April 14 was hospitalized.

The county has recorded 902 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 22 were hospitalized and eight have died.



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Band director Cory Pederson teaches a cohort of students in the gym at Jewell School.

Band: 'We don't get the same experience'

Continued from Page A1

Stands out

Jewell School District stands out among other districts this school year. Because of its small size and remote location, it was able to reopen to students across grade levels in September in ways many others could not. Still, it has been a far from normal year for Jewell students.

For band students, the performance in the gym felt almost like regular, pre-pandemic high school life.

"It was like a moment of relief and normalcy," Shaw said, adding, "We finally got to have a bit of a normal high school year back just by being able to play with each other."

This is the first time Jewell has had an ensemble compete and qualify for state.

Normally, the school would try to send a full band, but those competitions were canceled because of the pandemic. The only state competition happening was a solo and ensemble championship. Entries for large ensembles capped at 16 students — the exact number Pederson had in his band class after some seniors graduated early.

Working through musical arrangements in cohorts was difficult for the students and for Pederson.

"You can't work with blend and balance so you do your best with what you already know," he said.

Rehearsing was more individual. Younger students didn't have the benefit of working alongside older, more experienced students who could convey the unspoken side of what it means to participate in the band.

"It was actually really difficult," said Justin Wammack, a sophomore who plays percussion. "As an ensemble, in order to grow and maintain good quality and good sound, you have to be together and constantly listening to everyone."

The necessity of continuing to practice primarily in cohorts means, despite the rare group rehearsal, it is still



Kiera Butori plays her oboe.

difficult today, he said.

Short, infrequent group rehearsals can only do so much to smooth things out musically, but it's more than some students ever expected.

"When I heard we were going to have band, I was really wondering how it was going to work with all the regulations and guidelines," said Olivia Swearingen, a junior who plays the flute. "I was a little skeptical."

But when she got into the classroom, she felt safe. And she believes there may be some advantages to practicing in the small groups.

"We were able to work on more individual parts and master those and we wouldn't have been able to do that with the whole band there," Swearingen said. "We learned we all have

to have confidence and we can't hide behind anyone."

Not quite the same

This year, there is not quite the same excitement about going to state, students say. Wammack remembers how, in years past, the school bus would explode in a riot of celebration when Pederson would announce that they'd qualified. With the pandemic, there is no travel and the performances are happening in front of a camera in a gym that has been familiar to most of the students since preschool: "We don't get the same experience," Wammack said. "We're in the same spot we've always been."

The usual performance jitters are also missing, and with them a particularly useful tool that can spur the musicians to go "beyond what we feel and what we think we can't do and prove we can make an impact with our music," Shaw said.

Still, said Yvonne Chronister, a sophomore who plays trombone, they are an ensemble. They have made it work. It's not as complete as it used to be; it's certainly not as convenient.

But, she said, "I feel like we've grown a lot as band, as an ensemble. I think it shows through the pandemic. We've still gotten a place in state and we're doing what other schools kind of aren't."

To Pederson and his students, state competitions aren't about winning — although it's nice. They are about showcasing their skills, pushing themselves and being proud of what they achieve.

Pederson made the decision to push for a state competition for several reasons. Championships have always functioned as a sort of carrot: Students would work hard all year, but then they'd get to show off their skills on a large stage.

This year, it is still a carrot. But, even more, Pederson said, "I want people to see something amazing is going on in this little, whatever size room we have in Jewell."

Risk: Clatsop one of 23 counties at high risk

Continued from Page A1

Clatsop County is one of 23 counties that will be at high risk through May 6. Three counties will be at moderate risk and 10 will be at lower risk.

Counties with a population of 30,000 or more are evaluated for risk based on virus cases per 100,000 over two weeks and the test positivity rate for the same period.

Counties at high risk have a case rate between 100 and 200 per 100,000 people, and may have a test positivity between 8% and 10%.

As of Saturday, Clatsop County had 125 cases per 100,000 over a two-week period. Test positivity was 5.4%.

Restaurants and bars can continue indoor dining at 25% of capacity — or up to 50 people — with an 11 p.m. closing time. Up to 75 people can dine outdoors, with a limit of six people per table from two households.

Gyms, indoor pools, museums, theaters and other entertainment venues can operate at 25% of capacity, or up to 50 people, whichever is smaller.

Grocery stores, pharmacies, retail shops and shopping malls can operate at 50% of capacity.

Churches can operate at 25% of capacity or 150 people indoors, whichever is smaller, and 200 people outdoors.

Indoor social gatherings must be limited to six people from two households in counties at high risk. Outdoor gatherings can have eight people.

Businesses should urge employees to work remotely if able.

Visits are allowed at

long-term care facilities.

The county has recorded 902 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 22 were hospitalized and eight have died.

Margo Lalich, the county's public health director, said the county is seeing household outbreaks, as well as sporadic and workplace-related cases.

"While it's concerning,

as we open up, as tourism increases ... we're going to see more cases," Lalich told county commissioners during a work session on Tuesday. "And also, beginning to look at COVID-19 as something that while it's a pandemic, it's also endemic, meaning it's within the community. It's not going away, just like the flu comes and goes, as well as other seasonal illnesses. So our response to it will be as such because we've built the infrastructure to respond."

All Oregonians 16 and older became eligible for vaccination against the virus on Monday. Since the county only has the Moderna vaccine, which is not yet permitted for people under 18, only people 18 and older are able to get the vaccine in Clatsop County.

Lalich said that after discussion with the state, the county expects to receive some Pfizer doses for 16- and 17 year-olds by early May.

As of Friday, 23,267 vaccine doses were administered in the county, and 8,420 people were fully vaccinated. The county's goal is vaccinating 27,533 people.

Consult a PROFESSIONAL



LEO FINZI
Astoria's Best



MAC MINI
\$399.99

Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat/Sun Closed
77 11th Street, Suite H
Astoria, OR • 503-325-2300

AstoriasBest.com

How do I keep my Mac up to date?

1. Choose System Preferences from the Apple menu, then click Software Update to check for updates.
2. Click the Update Now button to install them, this includes Safari, Music, Photos, Books, Messages, Mail, Calendar, and FaceTime.
3. To update other apps you may have, start the app, click on Help, then check for updates.



ASTORIA
CHIROPRACTIC

Alicia M. Smith, DC
Owner

503-325-3311

1490 Marine Drive,
Suite 202
Astoria, Oregon

Q: What are 3 things I can focus on to stay healthy?

A: Diet, exercise and sleep. They are all interrelated. In fact, if you focus on one, the others get better. So, start by picking one that seems to be lacking, and commit to small changes. Have more questions? Call us today!



Jeremy
Feldman
Circulation Manager

the
Astorian

800-781-3214

www.dailyastorian.com

949 Exchange St., Astoria, OR

Q: I'm going out of town and need to stop my newspaper. What are my options?

A: We have different options for you if you are heading out of town. We can switch you to a Web subscription while you are away and you can read the paper online, or you can donate your delivery stopped and have your missed papers to local schools. Whichever option fits your needs, just call our circulation department at 800-781-3214 or go online and enter your vacation at www.dailyastorian.com under "Subscriber Services."



Leinassar Dental Excellence Trusted, Caring and Affordable Dental Care

Hear what loyal and new patients alike are saying...

I am never comfortable visiting a dental office. Your staff members made me feel at ease. Excellent care! I felt like I was given choices. Nice to know I have some say about treatment options. Just sorry I waited so long to visit your practice. - Gary



JEFFERY M. LEINASSAR
DMD, FAGD

503 325-0310 • 1414 Marine Drive, Astoria

www.smileastoria.com