

Risk level: One of 21 counties that will be at high risk through May 20

Continued from Page A1

the fourth surge,” the governor said in a statement. “Our hospitalization rates have stabilized. Our infection rates are on a downward trajectory. And in the race between vaccines and variants, our efforts to vaccinate Oregonians are taking the lead.

“We still have some work to do to reach our 70% goal, but I am confident we can get there in June and return Oregon to a sense of normalcy.”

As of Tuesday, about 30,400 doses have been administered in Clatsop County and nearly 13,600 people were fully vaccinated. About 55% of residents 16 and older have received at least one dose, according to the county.

“With eligibility opening up to younger residents, we continue to urge the public to get vaccinated to protect not only themselves and loved ones, but also to help us on the path to reopening,” a county spokesman said in



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Registered nurse Audrey Knippa administers a vaccination against the coronavirus.

an email.

Clatsop County is one of 21 counties that will be at high risk through May 20. Seven counties will be at moderate risk and eight 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 132 cases per 100,000 over a two-week period. Test positivity was 5.1%.

“I’m pleased that we are moving forward and extreme risk restrictions in Oregon will not be triggered this week. I’m optimistic Clatsop County can move down in risk category and the vaccination goals are

County reports 11 new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County on Wednesday reported 11 new coronavirus cases.

The cases include a woman in her 70s, whose residence is unknown, along with a female between 10 and 19, a man in his 30s and a man in his 60s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and involve a female under 10, three males between 10 and 19, a man in his 30s, a woman in her 40s and a man in his 60s.

One was hospitalized and the others were recovering at home.

The county has recorded 976 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 24 have been hospitalized and eight have died.

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 976 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 24 were hospitalized and eight have died.

Rent: ‘This bill has another side that has not been given any consideration’

Continued from Page A1

rental assistance to cover the back rent,” Morgan-Platt said in a statement furnished by Stable Homes for Oregon Families. “There are so many Oregonians in similar situations who lost jobs or income during COVID through no fault of our own and are still struggling to catch up. As Oregon continues to face a statewide housing crisis and our communities are suffering, SB 282 is going to be a lifeline to protect us from eviction.”

Reliance on state and federal aid

State Rep. Julie Fahey, a Democrat from Eugene and the chairwoman of the House Committee on Housing, said the bill banks on millions coming in state and federal aid to tenants and landlords.

“It is a reasonable compromise bill that sets the stage for a more equitable recovery,” Fahey, the bill’s floor manager and chief sponsor in the House, said. “By passing this bill, we can ensure that Oregon tenants and landlords can get the full benefit of rental assistance coming to our state and help prevent the fallout from the pandemic following the most vulnerable Oregonians for years to come.”

A special session of the Legislature in December extended the eviction moratorium from December to the end of June, and also set aside \$200 million for assistance — \$150 million for landlords and \$50 million for tenants. The Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services reported to the House committee this month that \$40 million was paid from the landlord compensation fund in the first round in March.

Congress also passed two rounds of federal assistance for renters, the latest round approved in March. Oregon’s senators announced this month that the state will be in line for \$222.5 million from President Joe Biden’s pandemic recovery plan. The state would get \$156.5 million; Portland, \$15.5 million; Multnomah County, \$3.8 million; Washington County, \$14.2 million; and Clackamas County, \$9.9 million. Other amounts will go to the counties that include Eugene, Salem and Medford.

“The policies we passed last year have likely prevented many thousands of people from being evicted from their homes during the pandemic,” Fahey said. “Because we know that public health research has shown that eviction moratoriums helped prevent the spread of COVID-19,

we know that in addition to keeping people stably housed, those policies have saved lives.”

Other provisions

Among other provisions of SB 282, which was brokered by Sen. Kayse Jama, D-Portland, with tenant and landlord advocates:

- Potential landlords would be barred from screening out applicants based on COVID-era evictions. The bill would allow sealing of evictions during COVID from a tenant’s record.

- Credit history reports would be barred on any late payments during the moratorium. Landlords would be barred from screening out tenants based on nonpayment of past-due rent during the eviction moratorium and grace period.

- Landlords could not evict tenants for doubling-up or occupancy limits that are narrower than current law during the COVID period when people have had to share housing due to the pandemic and wildfires.

- Increased damages would remain in effect temporarily for retaliation violations by landlords during the COVID era.

All of the votes against the final version were cast by Republicans, although three Republicans joined Democrats to vote for it.

“This bill has another side that has not been given any consideration,” Rep. Kim Wallan, R-Medford, said.

A move by Republicans to send the bill back to committee failed on a party-line vote.

Rep. Jack Zika, R-Redmond, said he sought an amendment that would have allowed landlords to check some tenant records unrelated to finances. He said his intent was not to block the bill itself, and that he felt an agreement was close.

“Nobody wants to see anybody evicted,” he said.

Rep. Whnsvey Campos, D-Aloha, said that as a case manager, she works with prospective tenants to help them apply for rental housing.

“I know there are backstops in place for checking on the past rental history of tenants,” she said.

“What I do know, from doing the work I do, is that if we do not pass this, it will cause harm to our communities. We all know that bad actors exist, but I also know that folks want to be able to pay their rent so they can stay in housing.”

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Preparedness: Two more public meetings planned in summer, fall

Continued from Page A1

Farncomb said there are a lot of north-south oriented waterways like lakes, streams and wetlands that make it difficult to create new connections. Meanwhile, a wide swath of the coast is expected to be inundated during a major earthquake and there are few places to reach higher ground.

Farncomb said improving trails in Fort Stevens State Park is also a priority because of the heavy visitor traffic during the summer.

Homeless: ‘Warming center is there for anybody and everybody’

Continued from Page A1

The conversation, the first of several meetings happening on Thursdays through May 20 and on June 3 and on July 1, comes as the consequences of homelessness have come to the fore in Seaside. Montero, Mayor Jay Barber and others proposed a series of forums last year before being delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

At a City Council goal-setting session in January, homelessness, addiction and mental health issues were listed among the city’s top priorities. In the months since, the topic has widened into a regional conversation.

Daniel Baker, of Light-house Christian Church, said he saw the forum as “a great opportunity for us to take a lead and lead in an area that needs us. And we want our communities to know that we are here as a part of the community.”

Baker recommended conversations with the homeless.

“If we have a real conversation with people, I think we might be able to get to the root that will actually help them understand that there’s a way out,” he said. “A lot of these folks have lost their purpose. It’s easier to just live on the street because they don’t really have anything they’re looking for. How do we help them have purpose? Again, it goes back to the individual person.”

Baker advocated for programs, but also sought accountability. “We’ve got to continue to have programs,” he said. “But I believe that there has to be some accountability, and not making it so easy to live on the street.”

Pastor Michael Avila serves at both the First United

The project will also look at building a vertical structure people can climb to evade a tsunami.

The county expects to hold two more public meetings in the summer and fall before presenting the completed project plan to the Board of Commissioners early next year.

An advisory committee for the project is made up of representatives from cities, fire districts, private and public landowners and nonprofit agencies, including Consejo Hispano.

Consult a PROFESSIONAL



LEO FINZI

Astoria’s Best



NEW HP DESKTOP

\$549.99

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

AstoriasBest.com

Is this email legitimate?

Examine the “suffix” of the email sender, the part after the “@” symbol.

If that identifies the company correctly, it is legit. For example,

“Specialoffers@usbank.com”@usbank.com” means it really is from US Bank.

USBank-specialoffers@gmail” is a crook that just created a gmail user name “USBank-specialoffers” for their purposes.

Disregard the “prefix”, the part before the “@” symbol. Focus on the “suffix” the part of the email to determine if an email is legit.



ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC

Alicia M. Smith, DC
Owner

503-325-3311

1490 Commercial Street, 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!



JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR
DMD, FAGD



503/325-0310
1414 MARINE DRIVE,
ASTORIA
www.smileastoria.com

Q: What should I use to clean my baby’s teeth?

A: Remember baby’s teeth are not only important, but part of their health and development. Cleaning baby’s teeth can be done by gauze, a finger swipe, or a small brush. Make it quick and fun!! Remember that a night-time bottle with milk has lactose (milk sugar) and juice has fructose or sucrose (sugar) and if it sits on teeth day after day, problems are going to develop. Baby teeth are small with thin enamel, so they are important to keep clean.



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 have your delivery stopped and donate 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.”