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LOCAL NEWS



Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are prepared at a drive-thru clinic in Portland. Gov. Brown, following public health guidelines, opened up vaccines to people 80 years or older this week, but reservations for the shots quickly outpaced supply. (AP photo)

Vaccine Signups Outrun Supply

Hard hit elderly begin to receive shots

(AP) — Appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon were quickly booked Monday, as residents who are 80 years and older became eligible to receive doses of the scarce and highly anticipated vaccine.

Seniors in Oregon have waited weeks to receive the vaccine, after the original eligibility date was delayed and then Gov. Kate Brown decided to prioritize educators ahead of the elderly.

The elderly have been the hardest hit group in state when it comes to the virus — people 60 years and older account for 90% of Oregon's COVID-19 deaths.

On Monday, seniors 80 and older began to receive shots. Eligibility will expand to younger age groups each week: 75 and older starting Feb. 15, 70 and older starting Feb. 22 and 65 and older starting March 1.

The Oregonian/Oregon Live reported Monday that every available appointment for seniors in the Portland area was booked within the first two and a half hours they were eligible. All appointments at the Oregon Convention Center and Portland International Airport's red economy parking lot for the next week -- through Tuesday, Feb. 16 -- were taken.

Last week, Oregon health officials warned that as 168,000 elderly Oregonians become eligible there could be issues.

In preparation for the increase in eligible people, Brown announced Friday that 30 additional National Guard members would be deployed to help field 211 calls and texts from seniors signing up and seeking information on vaccinations.

Officials from 211info, Oregon and Southwest Washington's information referral line for health and human services, said earlier this month that their call volume had gone from 400 calls a day before the pandemic to 1,800 calls a day during the vac-

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Officials Respond to Spike in Shootings

Chief moves officers; mayor supports new team

Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell and Mayor Ted Wheeler have announced moves to combat a spike in shootings and violent crime.

Lovell on Thursday said he is moving officers from traffic, K-9, narcotics and other units into street patrol to pursue immediate investigations in response to shootings and help process crime scene evidence.

At a news conference, Lovell said he regrets the Portland City



Chuck Lovell

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.
EDITOR: Michael Leighton
Office Mngtr/Clasfds: Lucinda Baldwin
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt
OFFICE ASST/SALES: Shawntell Washington

CALL 503-288-0033 • FAX 503-288-0015 • news@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com • subscription@portlandobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208