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## HIS NAME IS GEORGE ONE MAN'S LIFE and THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE FLOYD

ROBERT SAMUELS and TOLUSE Olorunnipa of The Washington Post



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PHOTO COURTESY OHSU

The weather is cooling and people are likely to gather for the holidays, increasing the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Although hospitalizations remain stubbornly high, health experts at Oregon Health & Science University do not expect a serious spike in the next few months.

## Hospitalizations Stay High

### Major drop in Covid-19 cases not expected until February

The number of Oregonians hospitalized with COVID-19 has reached a plateau that will stay above 400 patients a day through the holidays before it drops demonstrably in the new year, ac-

ording to the latest updated forecast from Oregon Health & Science University.

The forecast shows that hospitalizations won't drop below 200 until the beginning of February – about a month longer than last week's forecast.

The updated figures reflect survey data revealing that Oregonians are tiring of measures to reduce transmission, such as gathering indoors with people who don't

live in their households.

The highly contagious coronavirus delta variant continues to find a substantial pool of Oregonians – an estimated one in five – who aren't yet immune through vaccination or recent infection, health officials said.

Although hospitalizations will remain stubbornly high for the next several weeks, the latest projection does not anticipate an increase.

# Evening Shift Grows Street Response

## Boundary for calls covered also increases

Portland's new Street Response team, an experiment in responding to mental health emergencies outside of the home with unarmed professionals instead of police officers, has grown with the addition of a night shift and covering more territory in southeast Portland.

The second team began work on Nov. 4 offering expanded service from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., Thursdays through Sundays. The existing day shift has changed its hours to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Thursday, officials said.

Both day and night teams will respond in a new expanded boundary that corresponds to Portland Police Bureau's East Precinct, increasing the boundary from 13 square miles in the Lents

neighborhood to some adjacent southeast neighborhoods, covering 36 square miles.

The new night shift response team includes a Firefighter/EMT, a Mental Health Crisis Responder, and two Peer Support Specialists.

"This next phase of Portland Street Response's expansion is part of Portland Fire & Rescue's commitment to health equity and a bureau-wide vision for creating a community where all of our neighbors are able to access the mental, behavioral health, and social service supports they need to live healthy, productive lives," said Fire Chief Sara Boone.

Police Chief Chuck Lovell said officers from the police bureau's Behavioral Health Team have worked to supply training, provide support and assist the efforts of the Street Response Team as they begin their expansion.

"This is a valuable public safety partnership," he said.

Portland City Commissioner Jo

Ann Hardesty, who oversees Portland Street Response and helped create the program, said the expansion of the team will free up needed resources for the police.

"I'm so excited that today we are ready to expand Portland Street Response to a larger portion of Portland's eastside with a new shift coming onboard," Hardesty said. "I want to thank the Lents neighborhood for being an incredible partner throughout this pilot and Portlanders throughout the city who have continued to express strong support for growing Portland Street Response."

Officials said residents can plug their addresses into an online tool at

[www.portland.gov/street-response/address-lookup-tool](http://www.portland.gov/street-response/address-lookup-tool)

Portland.gov/streetresponse/address-lookup-tool to see if their home is within the new boundary. Requests for Street Response service can be made by calling 9-1-1.



Members of Portland's Street Response Team form a new second shift