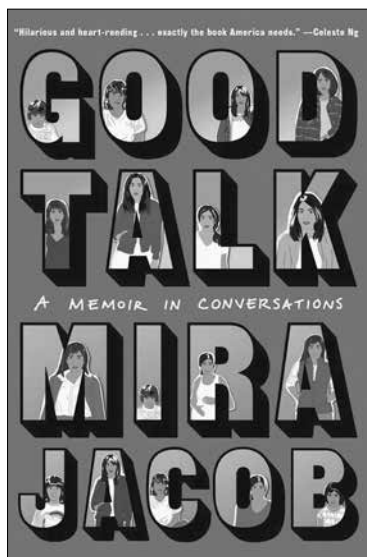


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More Schools Impacted

Surge in COVID brings back distant learning

A growing number of schools in Portland and Vancouver returned to distance learning this week because of COVID-related staffing issues impacting the number of teachers available for classroom instruction. Officials say more schools may temporarily move to online instruction as the surge tied to the Omicron variant of the coronavirus continues.

Officials said absences and the lack of substitutes continues to cause shortages of teachers, staff, administrators and bus drivers.

In the Portland Public School District, Roosevelt, McDaniel and Cleveland high schools, serving north, northeast and southeast Portland started the week in distance learning. Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland and Faubion PK-8 School in northeast Portland also closed on Tuesday to prepare for online instruction for at least the rest of the week.

The Parkrose School District said temporary distance learn-



A nurse cares for a critically ill patient in the Intensive Care Unit at Oregon Health and Science University. The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 increased to 692 statewide this week, but hospitalizations were still about 40% below their peak during a summer surge.

ing would begin for all students on Wednesday. Parkrose High, Parkrose Middle, plus Prescott, Russell, Sacramento and Shaver elementary schools were impacted. Late Monday afternoon, the Vancouver School District also announced some of their schools would include remote learning four days a week for the next three weeks.

Oregon health authorities reported Monday that 18,538 new confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 cases were identified over the weekend.

The state has a positive test rate of just over 22% as the highly contagious omicron variant spreads. The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 increased to 692, but hospitalizations were still about 40% below their peak during the summer surge of the delta variant.

Eighteen new deaths were announced Monday.

With breakthrough infections spreading, healthcare officials said vaccinated Oregonians can flatten the curve by masking and refraining from indoor gatherings.

The Portland Observer
Established 1970 USPS 959 680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Portland, OR 97211

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Biketown Expands Bicycle Sharing

Larger service area means more people will be served

Designed to be affordable and accessible, Biketown has expanded its bicycling sharing service area to now include St. Johns in north Portland and far parts of east Portland, growing operations by nine square miles or by 25 percent.

Known for its ubiquitous orange bikes, Monday's expansion came as Biketown continues to embark on a goal of expanding into areas with a high percentage of communities of color that have been underserved by transportation, said officials with Lyft, the operator of the service and the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

Biketown's service area now includes portions or all of Hazelwood, Mill Park, Parkrose and Parkrose Heights. In North Portland, the expanded service area brings in the University of Portland and downtown St. Johns. It also includes all or large sections of



Portland Transportation Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty announces the expansion of the Biketown bicycle sharing service area at a news conference at Knott Park.

the Arbor Lodge, Cathedral Park, Kenton, Portsmouth, and University Park neighborhoods, providing a much-needed sustainable transportation option for residents, students and visitors.

Transportation Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty announced the expansion at a news conference Monday at Knott Park, an east Portland gathering space in the Parkrose Heights neighborhood that is now part of the Biketown service area.

"This is an exciting milestone in our efforts to ensure everyone has safe, convenient access to biking in Portland," Hardesty said. "For too

long, our East Portland and North Portland neighborhoods have been lacking the city services and convenient transportation access that the rest of Portland takes for granted. I'm so glad to see PBOT prioritizing racial equity in expanding access to our bike share system. With the collaboration with private sector partners like Nike and Lyft, we can continue our efforts to reduce our carbon emissions and make sure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy sustainable transportation options."

For more information, visit biketownpdx.com.

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