

# Officials declare measles outbreak in Pacific Northwest over

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A measles outbreak that sickened more than 70 people, mostly children, in the Pacific Northwest is finally over even as the total number of cases nationwide continues to spike to near-record levels, officials said Monday.

Six weeks have passed without a new infection in southwest Washington state, where the outbreak began on Jan. 3, said Dr. Alan Melnick, head of the Clark County public health department. A total of 71 people were infected — a tally that does not include a handful of cases in Portland and Seattle that were linked to the outbreak's epicenter.

The good news from the Pacific Northwest comes as authorities elsewhere struggled with the most measles cases in the U.S. since 1994. Across the country, 704 cases have been reported in 22 states as of Monday, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A large outbreak in the New York City area has stymied public health officials and more than 350 students at two major California universities remained quarantined after possible exposure, down from 800 students last week.



In this Feb. 13, 2019, file photo, a health care worker prepares syringes, including a vaccine for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), for a child's inoculations at the International Community Health Services in Seattle.

"We're grateful to see this outbreak come to an end without any deaths or serious complications," Melnick said. "But as long as measles exists elsewhere in the world and people continue travel, we're at risk of seeing another outbreak. We must improve our immunization rate to prevent future outbreaks and keep our children and other vulnerable people safe."

In Washington state, the outbreak began four months ago when measles was confirmed in a child who had

traveled from the Ukraine to the U.S. Authorities could not determine, however, that the child was the source of the outbreak.

It spread quickly among unvaccinated children: Ninety-three percent of the cases were in those under age 18 and 86 percent of patients were unvaccinated, while 14 percent had just one dose of a two-dose series of shots or didn't know their vaccination status. One person was hospitalized.

The outbreak cost nearly

\$1 million and 19,000 hours of staffing time to contain and affected 53 public places, including schools, hospitals, airports, stores and restaurants in both Washington and Oregon, officials said.

Melnick said during the outbreak, public health authorities struggling to contain its spread identified and contacted more than 4,100 people who were exposed to the viral illness and made daily monitoring phone calls to more than 800 people considered suscepti-



AP Photo/Gillian Flaccus, File  
In this Jan. 30, 2019, file photo, a sign warning patients and visitors of a measles outbreak is shown posted at The Vancouver Clinic in Vancouver, Wash. Officials in the Pacific Northwest say a measles outbreak that sickened multiple people is over.

ble to contracting measles. The outbreak prompted a public conversation in both Washington and Oregon about routine childhood vaccines.

The two adjoining states have some of the nation's highest statewide vaccine exemption rates, driven in part by low vaccination levels in scattered communities and at some private and alternative schools.

Four percent of Washington secondary school students have non-medical vaccine exemptions. In Oregon,

which has a similar law, 7.5 percent of kindergarteners in 2018 were missing shots for non-medical reasons.

Numerous studies have shown vaccines do not cause autism — a common reason cited by those who don't want their kids immunized.

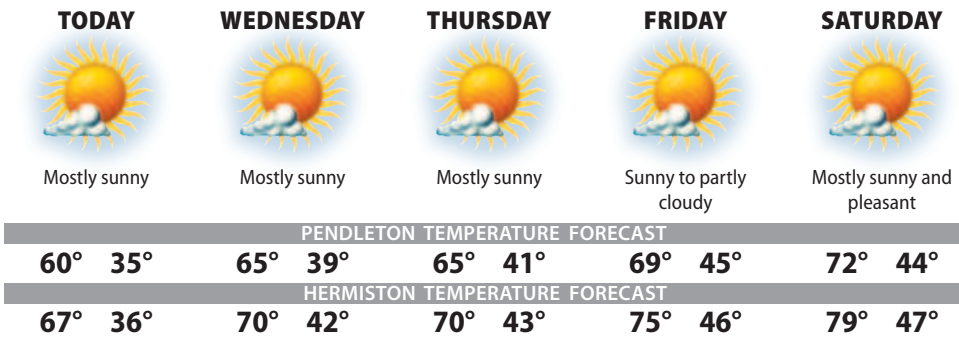
In Washington, lawmakers sent a bill to Gov. Jay Inslee's desk that would tighten up exemption rules for the mumps, measles and rubella shots. In Oregon, lawmakers will vote to remove a families' ability to opt out of required school vaccinations for personal, philosophical or religious reasons.

Before mass vaccination, 400 to 500 people in the U.S. died of the measles every year. Serious complications include brain swelling that can cause blindness or deafness and pneumonia.

Early symptoms include a fever, runny nose and malaise, followed by a rash that starts around the head and moves down the body. Patients are contagious four days before and four days after getting the rash.

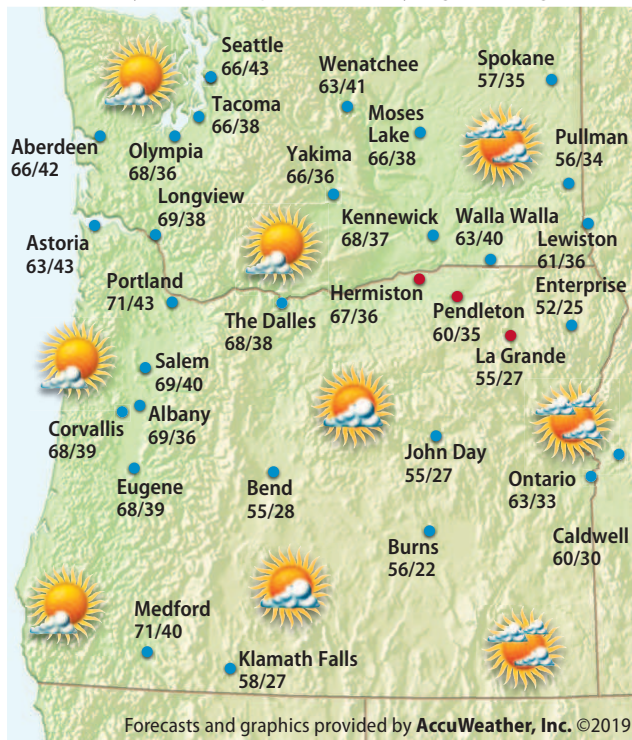
Nine out of 10 unvaccinated people who are exposed will get the disease. Someone who has no immunity can get sick up to three weeks after they have been exposed to the virus.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



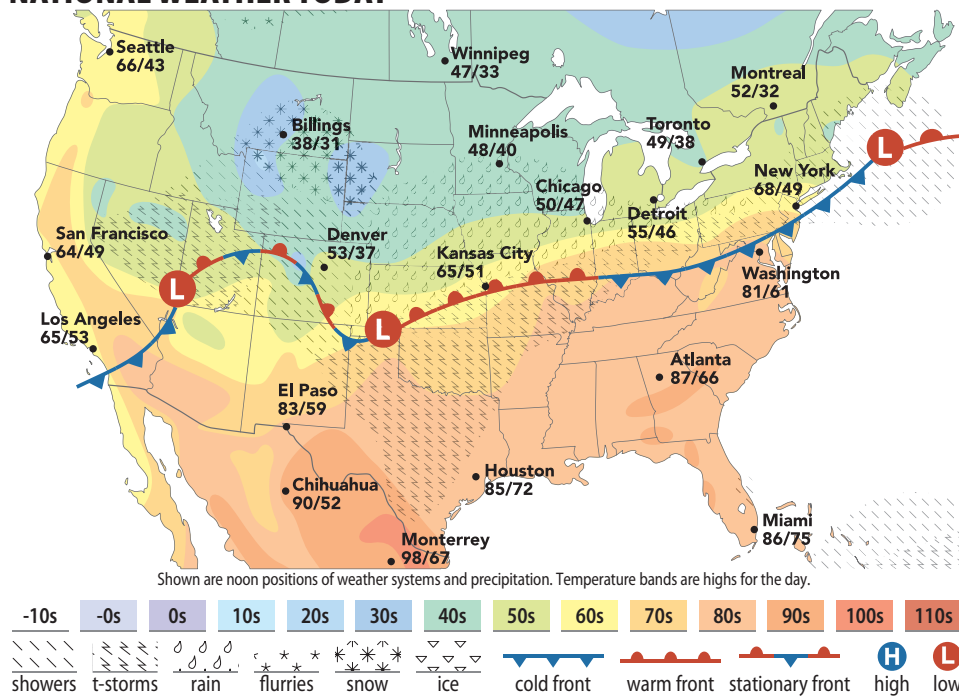
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	57°	31°		
Normals	66°	42°		
Records	91° (1926)	25° (1907)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	1.68"			
Normal month to date	1.12"			
Year to date	7.76"			
Last year to date	5.41"			
Normal year to date	5.08"			
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	63°	28°		
Normals	68°	42°		
Records	87° (1939)	27° (1952)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	0.29"			
Normal month to date	0.85"			
Year to date	3.88"			
Last year to date	4.05"			
Normal year to date	3.96"			
WINDS (in mph)				
	Today	Wed.		
Boardman	NNE 4-8	WSW 8-16		
Pendleton	NNW 6-12	WSW 7-14		
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	5:45 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	8:01 p.m.			
Moonrise today	4:23 a.m.			
Moonset today	3:40 p.m.			
	New	First	Full	Last
	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 26

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 95° in Presidio, Texas Low 5° in St. Mary, Mont.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Idaho, Utah seek to defend Trump drilling plan lawsuit

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Two states are seeking to intervene on the side of the federal government after four conservation groups asked a judge to immediately halt drilling, mining and other activities to protect habitat for a ground-dwelling bird in seven Western states.

Idaho and Utah filed documents in U.S. District Court late last week seeking to defend a plan put forward by President Donald Trump in mid-March.

The conservation groups

in a supplemental lawsuit filed in late March against the Interior Department, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service say the plan weakens an earlier version put forward by the Barack Obama administration in 2015. The groups also sued in 2016 contending the Obama plan didn't do enough to protect sage grouse — a chicken-sized bird that relies on sagebrush.

The groups say the plan put forward by Trump weakens protections further. Last week, they asked a judge

to block the Trump administration plan altogether in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, California and Oregon.

Idaho officials have long argued that the plan the state put forward in 2015 was significantly altered at the last minute by the Obama administration, which added new protections to key sage grouse areas.

The 2015 sage grouse plans are widely considered to have stopped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from listing sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act.

**CORRECTIONS:** The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211  
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday,  
Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers  
Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR.  
Postmaster: send address changes to  
East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801.  
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**Single copy price:**  
\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

**Circulation Manager:**  
Bonny Tuller, 541-966-0828

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