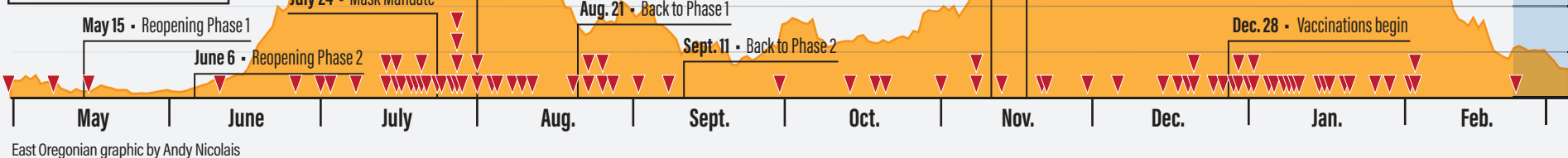


### UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND - AS OF MARCH 5

Umatilla County cases: **7,706** (67 new cases this week)  
 Umatilla County deaths: **82** (0 new deaths reported this week)  
 Oregon cases: **156,884** (2,006 new cases this week)  
 Oregon deaths: **2,293** (87 new deaths reported this week)

Umatilla County vaccinations: **4,197** in progress, **5,144** complete (as of 12:01 a.m. 3/5/2021)

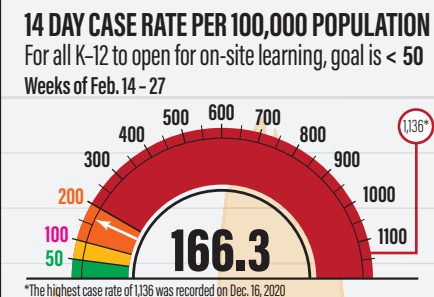
**LEGEND**  
 7 DAY AVERAGE DEATHS LAST 10 DAYS\*  
\*Cases in this time period may not yet be reported  
 SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH



**TEST POSITIVITY RATE**  
 For all K-12 to open for on-site learning, goal is < 5%  
 (Number of positive tests divided by number of people tested)

Time Period	Umatilla County	Oregon
Feb. 14 - 27	7.7%	3.9%
Feb. 7 - 20	9.8%	4.1%
Jan. 31 - Feb. 13	10.5%	4.3%

Source: Oregon Health Authority. Percentages may change week to week as data is updated.



East Oregonian graphic by Andy Nicolais

## Yellowhawk to vaccinate area teens, school employees

East Oregonian

**MISSION** — The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation COVID-19 Incident Command Team has announced plans for Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center to vaccinate area high school students 16 and over, and school employees who have not yet been vaccinated on a first come, first served basis.

The effort is in response to reports of an increase in positive cases among teenagers

in the local area. High school students who are 16 and over, and school employees at Pendleton, Athena, Helix and Pilot Rock school districts are eligible to register online.

“Our children are our future,” said CTUIR Board of Trustees Chair Kat Brigham. “And to that end, if we can help stop any spread of this virus through teenage students we are happy to help provide some vaccinations.”

The appointments for first doses will take place on March 17 from 1-3 p.m.

#### MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

Area high school students over 16 years of age and school employees who have not been vaccinated can register for their first and second appointment at <https://airtable.com/shrBvSnL3ehESq8jZ> or by calling the vaccination line at 541-240-8733.

during a mass vaccination event at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. The Oregon National Guard will be on hand to administer the vaccine along with staff from Yellowhawk. “We really appreciate this

gesture from the Tribes,” Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock said in an email. “They have their own source of vaccine and they have been very generous in sharing it with people

they serve well beyond Tribal members.”

Murdock commended the Tribes’ efforts to vaccinate as many people connected to reservation and in the broader community of Umatilla County.

“In the end, this is about getting vaccine for every person in the county who wants it and the Tribes have really helped get shots in the arms of Umatilla County residents,” he said.

The decision to provide vaccinations was influenced

by the number of area high school students engaging in sports and other activities, the number of positive cases being reported, and plans for Pendleton High School students to return to the classroom in late March.

“We encourage teens to be smart about their safety inside and outside of school,” said Chuck Sams, CTUIR incident commander. “Stopping the spread in this sector is critical to opening schools and keeping our whole county moving toward a full recovery.”

## Prisons finish offering vaccines to inmates

By BRYCE DOLE  
 East Oregonian

**UMATILLA COUNTY** — Umatilla County’s two state prisons finished the first step of immunizing all adults in custody against COVID-19 this week by successfully offering the first doses to all inmates, according to spokespersons from the two prisons.

Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla finished offering first doses to all adults in custody at the prison on Wednesday, March 3, according to a TRCI spokesperson, which capped off initial vaccine efforts at the county’s two prisons.

In all, 1,263 inmates at TRCI were vaccinated of the 1,726 offered a shot. The prison held two large clinics and three smaller ones to vaccinate its inmates.

Prison officials at TRCI are now vaccinating inmates for a second time, with 195 having received a second dose already, the spokesperson said.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton



East Oregonian, File

**Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton finished its initial vaccination efforts on Monday, March 1, with 1,081 inmates taking the shot of the 1,618 who were offered one.**

finished its initial vaccination efforts on Monday, March 1, with 1,081 inmates taking the shot of the 1,618 who were offered one.

The prison has also begun vaccinating inmates with second doses. As of March 1, 155 inmates were fully immunized against coronavirus, according to a spokesperson from the prison.

The two facilities have

completed the first round of vaccinations after enduring some of the largest COVID-19 outbreaks among prisons in Oregon.

At TRCI, 766 inmates have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began — more than any prison in Oregon. In January alone, 15 inmates who contracted the virus died. And among staff, 127 have tested positive, the

second most in Oregon.

The prison suffered two months of rapidly surging case counts, with more than 600 inmates testing positive between December 2020 and February.

At EOCI, infection surged through the summer and fall 2020 seasons. With 458 inmates testing positive since the pandemic began, the prison has reported the third highest case count among Oregon prisons. Four inmates who tested positive for COVID-19 at EOCI died.

In response, inmates from several state prisons filed a lawsuit against Gov. Kate Brown and other state officials, criticizing their response to outbreaks throughout the state’s prison system. In February, a federal judge ordered the state to begin offering the vaccine to the state’s 11,000 AICs.

Currently, TRCI has just 15 active cases among inmates — a stark contrast to active case counts in January, which for weeks was upward of 250. EOCI, currently, does not have any active cases.

## City council to consider franchise agreement for 5G

By JADE MCDOWELL  
 East Oregonian

**HERMISTON** — The Hermiston City Council will discuss a proposed franchise agreement for placement of small cell technology that can be used to deliver 5G cellphone service during its Monday, March 8, meeting.

Cellphone carriers, internet service providers and other telecommunication companies pay fees, known as franchise fees, to place their technology along city rights-of-way. The proposal before the council would allow Oregon RSA#2, described in the agenda packet as the entity operating U.S. Cellular’s system in the Hermiston area, to pay to place “small cell” wireless transmitters and receivers on power poles and street lights.

The five-year agreement would generate \$5,670 for the city in 2021, with a 3% increase in fees per year plus \$270 per additional device placed.

The consent agenda for the March 8 meeting includes a request from planning department staff to initiate the public hearing

and public notice process necessary to amend the city’s zoning ordinance. The amendments would add a new proposed use to some residential zoning, known as a “senior housing cluster,” that would permit for a mixture of memory care, assisted living, and other types of housing for senior citizens on one property.

According to the agenda packet, the proposed change was spurred in part by the city’s request for proposals for creating a senior housing project on property on Northwest 11th Street.

The March 8 agenda also includes several presentations at the start of the meeting, including one on school resources officers and another recognizing the winner of the Funland Playground art contest. The meeting will end with an urban renewal agency vote on a façade grant request to help pay for new awnings at 149 E. Main St.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center and will be livestreamed on the city of Hermiston YouTube channel as well. The full agenda packet can be found at [hermiston.or.us/meetings](http://hermiston.or.us/meetings).

### LOCAL BRIEFING

#### PHS athletes quarantined after COVID exposure

**PENDLETON** — Umatilla County Public Health confirmed that the Pendleton High School boys soccer and dance teams were exposed to COVID-19.

In a Thursday, March 4, email, Pendleton School District Superintendent Chris Fritsch said the exposure will affect 40 students and five staff members as the teams quarantine until March 15.

Fritsch wrote that quarantine will cause the soccer team to miss four games, while he was unsure about how the dance team’s activ-

ities will be affected.

Fritsch reiterated that students in middle and high school will still reopen for in-person instruction on March 29, and reminded parents and students to continue to follow the standard COVID-19 precautions.

#### Drive-thru vaccinations in Milton-Freewater

**MILTON-FREEWATER** — Grab your car keys for a drive-thru vaccination event in Milton-Freewater on Thursday, March 11.

Umatilla County Public Health staff and volunteers will be at the Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1244 N. Elizabeth St., from 8 a.m.

to 6 p.m., or until COVID-19 vaccine doses run out.

Interested people are highly encouraged to go to Umatilla County’s vaccination site to sign up for an arrival time assignment.

Oregon is currently vaccinating people in Phase 1b and those in Phase 1a who wish to get vaccinated and haven’t done so. Phase 1b includes people age 65 and older, child care providers, those employed in early learning, and educators and staff for grades K-12.

This clinic will also offer

second-dose shots for people who received a primary dose on or before Feb. 11.

The March 11 vaccination location will require drivers to enter the church parking lot from North Elizabeth Street and exit onto Highway 11.

For more information go to [ubne.ws/3c63Pi8](http://ubne.ws/3c63Pi8).

— EO Media Group and Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

[www.EastOregonian.com](http://www.EastOregonian.com)

**PENDLETON CENTER for the ARTS**

**Make it!**

We’ve loaded up our website with projects and resources to help you stay home & stay creative.

[pendletonarts.org/online-resources](http://pendletonarts.org/online-resources)



**WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO**

**3/5-3/11**

**Cineplex Show Times**

Theater seating will adhere to social distancing protocols  
 Every showing \$7.50 per person (ages 0-3 still free)

**Raya and the Last Dragon (PG)**  
 1:40p 4:40p 7:40p

• • • • •

**Chaos Walking (PG-13)**  
 1:20p 4:20p 7:20p

• • • • •

**Tom and Jerry (PG)**  
 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p

• • • • •

**News of the World (PG-13)**  
 1:00p 4:00p 7:00p

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