

Oregon's shipment of Johnson & Johnson vaccine cut by 88%

By AIMEE GREEN
The Oregonian

SALEM — Problems in producing Johnson & Johnson's one-dose coronavirus vaccine will result in an 88% reduction in the amount sent to Oregon this week, similar to the blow dealt to all 49 other states.

Oregon last week received a record 61,400 doses, but this week the federal government will ship only 7,300 doses, according to figures provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The outlook is even worse as April proceeds, with Oregon's top state public health official expecting just 2,000 doses next week.

Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen told state legislators the shortages of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine could exacerbate struggles in rural Oregon to get all people 16 and older vaccinated. Allen said lagging inoculation rates in some rural counties is due to people who've decided against vaccination. But others, he said, are holding out until the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is available.

Medical experts say the vaccine has proved to be the go-to option among people who dislike needles or want to make only one trip to a vaccination clinic, because it only requires one jab rather than two like with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Some people who've received Johnson & Johnson's vaccine have posted giddy and celebratory Tweets under the popular hashtag #OneandDone.



Mary Altaffer/Associated Press, File

In this March 31, 2021, file photo, a nurse fills a syringe with a dose of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine. Problems in producing the one-dose coronavirus vaccine will result in an 88% reduction in the amount sent to Oregon this week, similar to the blow dealt to all 49 other states.

Gov. Kate Brown received a Johnson & Johnson dose in early March.

The one-dose vaccine also has been a valuable resource for states eager to immunize hard-to-reach or mobile populations, such as individuals who are homeless, jail inmates, migrant workers or college students.

Overall, the hit to Oregon's Johnson & Johnson allocation will result in an overall 20% reduction in total vaccines received — from 258,190 last week to 205,830 this week — largely because shipments of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are staying relatively consistent and Johnson & Johnson allocations have

been comparatively small, according to numbers from the state.

Those numbers, however, don't include doses sent to pharmacies through the federal retail pharmacy program. The number of doses sent to the program weren't yet available, as of Friday, April 9.

Allen said he predicts the John-

son & Johnson production problems will amount to only a slight delay to Oregon's goal of inoculating 70% of residents 16 and older by the end of May with at least one dose of one of the three available vaccines.

"That may shift a week or two based on what we're currently beginning to see, but not by months or months or anything like that," Allen said.

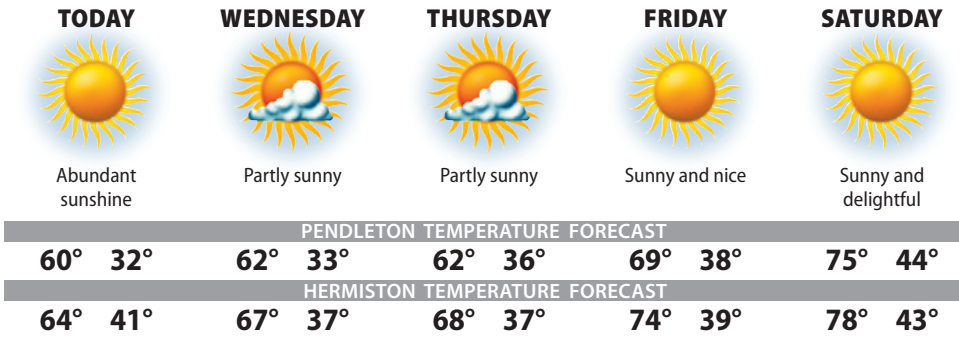
The number of Johnson & Johnson vaccines shipped to Oregon and other states since the federal government granted emergency use authorization in February has seesawed from week to week because of production challenges overseas, where all doses of the vaccine are currently manufactured.

Two weeks ago, the federal government sent nearly 2 million Johnson & Johnson doses to states. Last week, it was nearly 5 million. This week, it's just 700,000.

Washington is seeing its allocation drop from 109,000 to 12,900. California's is going from 572,700 to 67,600.

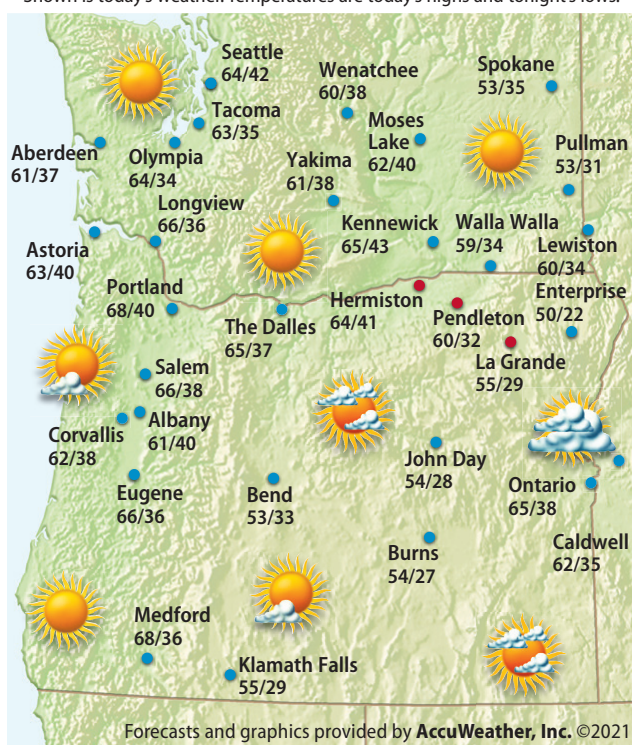
Although Allen said the reduction might delay Oregon's overall vaccination efforts by a week or two, the timing of Johnson & Johnson's production difficulties is unfortunate. New COVID-19 cases are up 44% and hospitalizations 46% over the past two weeks, as the state battles a fourth surge that started weeks ago. Nationwide, new known cases are up 13% and hospitalizations up 7% over the same time period.

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 | 58° | 21° |
| Normals | 61° | 39° |
| Records | 85° (1934) | 21° (2021) |

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.51"
Year to date 3.34"
Last year to date 4.98"
Normal year to date 4.47"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

| TEMP. | HIGH | LOW |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Yesterday | 62° | 21° |
| Normals | 64° | 39° |
| Records | 89° (1936) | 21° (2021) |

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.29"
Year to date 1.20"
Last year to date 0.48"
Normal year to date 3.40"

WINDS (in mph)

| | Today | Wed. |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Boardman | NE 10-20 | NNE 8-16 |
| Pendleton | NNE 7-14 | NNE 6-12 |

SUN AND MOON

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Sunrise today | 6:13 a.m. |
| Sunset tonight | 7:39 p.m. |
| Moonrise today | 7:11 a.m. |
| Moonset today | 9:30 p.m. |

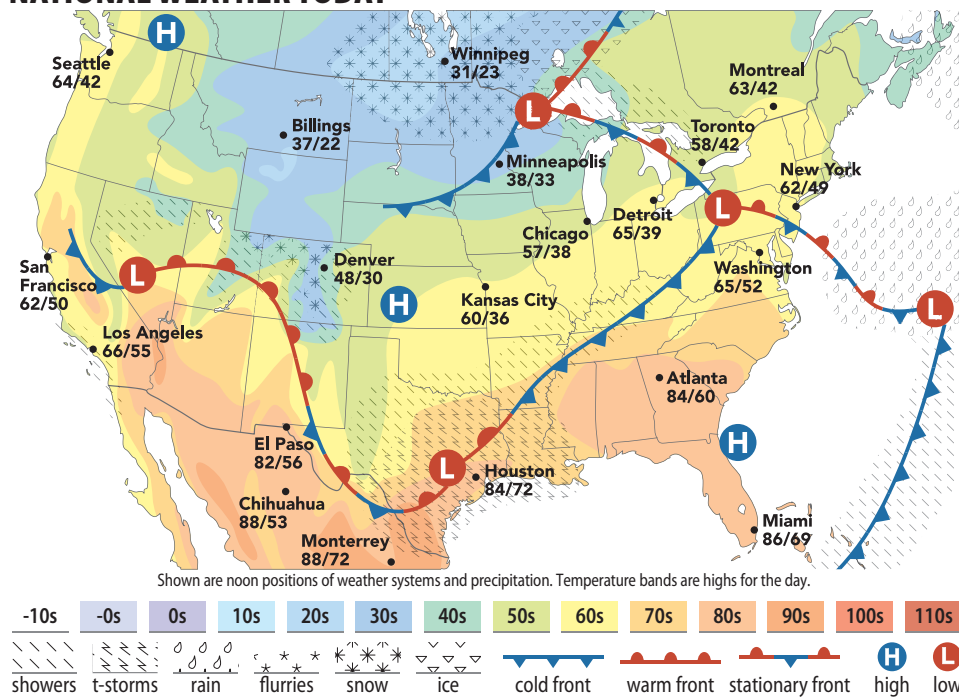
First Full Last New
Apr 19 Apr 26 May 3 May 11

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 98° in Cotulla, Texas Low 6° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



46th annual Balloon Stampede to take flight this year in Walla Walla

By CHLOE LEVALLEY
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Hot air balloons are expected to take flight this fall for the 46th annual Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. The tradition was rescheduled, and then canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Laurie Spencer, producer of the event from Lighter than Air America, said Walla Walla Balloon Stampede is set for Oct. 13-17, and they will be flying out of Howard Tietan Park.

With many event cancellations in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Spencer is looking forward to putting balloons in the sky.

Jerry Cummins, a local pilot since 1987, said almost all of the large hot air balloon events had been canceled, and events are starting to be scheduled again. Walla Walla's will be one of the first he has seen to come back.

"It's going to be a return to

some type of normal. That's what I would hope that we would see with these balloons in the air for this year, a return to yesteryear," Cummins said. "Let's start going back to tradition."

He said he is looking forward to seeing friends, acquaintances, fellow pilots, and balloons in the sky again.

Spencer said she expects 30 balloons this year, the same as in previous years.

They will kick off Stampede week with Kid's Day on Oct. 13, where, depending on COVID-19 safety guidelines, every kid who comes down to the park will get a tether ride in a balloon.

Scheduled for Oct. 15 is Nite Glow, where they inflate the balloons after dusk, and then the burners light the insides of the balloon up. They will fly through Oct. 17, she said.

"We feel very comfortable this year that with vaccines available ... that we'll be in really good shape to have the event. Of course, we'll

follow all of the local and state guidelines that are put out, in case there is a need to do that," Spencer said.

They are still working on who will go up in the balloons since they still have flight obligations from last year that they canceled and need to fulfill.

"The availability at this moment is an unknown, closer to the event, then we will have a better idea of what commitments we have," Spencer said. "Due to the generosity of our sponsors, particularly Columbia REA, who's the presenting sponsor, that's how we can have this community event."

PIFCU sponsors Kids Day and other sponsors include Gordy's Plastics, a longtime sponsor, Port of Walla Walla and the city of Walla Walla.

"We're excited to be able to come back and put balloons in the sky and give something to people where they can come out as a family and enjoy and have smiles on their faces," she said.

IN BRIEF

Conspiracy theories arise surrounding FEMA trailers meant for wildfire survivors

MEDFORD — A new staging area for wildfire disaster trailers has rumors flying and has attracted visitors armed with guns.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has about a hundred trailers set aside for wildfire survivors from Jackson County.

It originally had those trailers staged at the Jackson County Fairgrounds, known as the Expo, as officials looked for potential housing sites nearby. But they recently had to relocate them three hours away to an old mill in Gardiner, which is on the coast north of Reedsport.

Since then, FEMA officials say they've been fielding phone calls from locals

concerned about the sudden appearance of the trailers.

"A lot of conspiracy theories that we were developing this RV park for immigrants from the southern border," says FEMA spokesman Paul Corah. "The truth is we need those mobile homes for fire survivors in Oregon."

Some calls have come from local and national media, including two people who said they represented the *American Free Press*, a far-right newspaper. Corah says they showed up to the site carrying sidearms — which alarmed some FEMA staffers — but the incident ended without physical confrontation. The newspaper didn't respond to requests for comment.

Despite the rumors, Corah says all of these trailers are intended for wildfire survivors and the agency isn't currently housing undocumented immigrants in Oregon.

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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