

Oregon's public universities to require COVID-19 vaccinations, exemptions

Oregon Institute of Technology and Eastern Oregon University state's last public universities to announce requirement

By MEERAH POWELL
Oregon Public Broadcasting

LA GRANDE — It's unanimous. With recent announcements from Eastern Oregon University and the Oregon Institute of Technology, all of Oregon's public universities will be requiring COVID-19 vaccinations this fall.



Insko said in a statement. Eastern Oregon University was one of the founding higher education partners in Eastern Promise. Its professors work with public school teachers to ensure high schoolers are doing college-level work in college credit courses.

In a board meeting last month, Insko said many students and faculty were split on the decision to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine, according to a survey. In that survey, the majority of faculty at EOU were in favor of a vaccine mandate, while the majority of students were against one.

Eastern will officially require COVID-19 vaccinations when the FDA fully approves one or more of the vaccines.

Both Pfizer and Moderna have started the monthlong process of getting full approval, and the FDA has indicated they're "highly likely" to be approved later in 2021. But EOU officials don't want members of the campus community waiting for that, emphasizing in a news release, that it "strongly encourages students, employees and partners to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible."

EOU said it will require vaccinations for all students and employees who learn or

work on campus. Students who attend class fully online and who don't engage in any on-campus activities will not be required to be vaccinated.

"Ultimately, as with every decision related to the pandemic, we are focused on protecting the safety and health of the EOU community, and returning to a highly engaged, in-person, on-campus experience that upholds our mission and shared values," Insko said in his statement. "We remain committed to providing all

students with the greatest educational opportunities possible in preparation for success after graduation." Both EOU and OIT say they will provide more information on how to request an exemption or submit proof of vaccination.

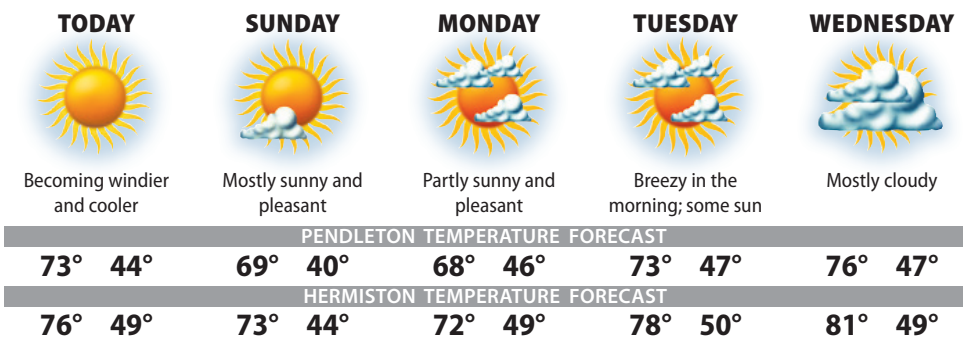
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Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

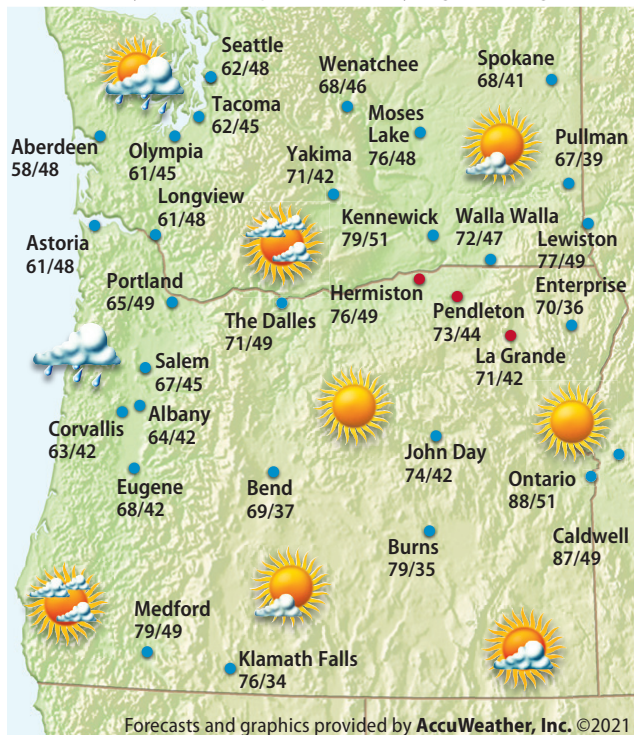
With Eastern Oregon University announcing a COVID-19 vaccine requirement on Thursday, June 3, 2021, all of the state's public universities now have vaccine mandates in place for this coming fall.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

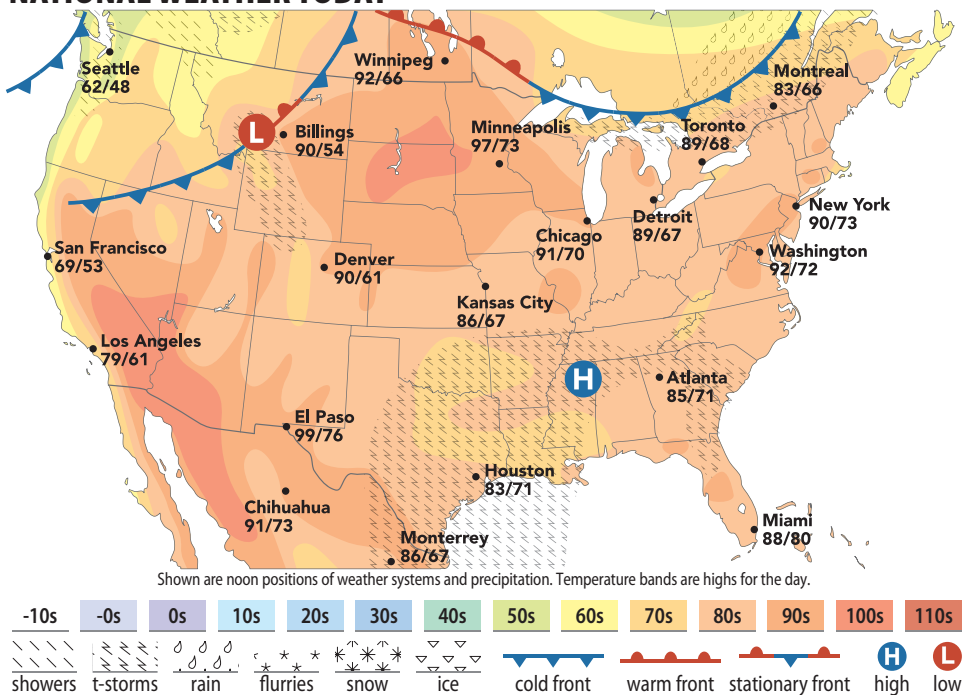
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	85°	64°
Normals	75°	51°
Records	98° (1969)	35° (1991)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace	
Month to date	Trace	
Normal month to date	0.24"	
Year to date	4.03"	
Last year to date	7.86"	
Normal year to date	6.75"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	89°	66°
Normals	77°	51°
Records	100° (1970)	40° (1980)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.00"	
Normal month to date	0.11"	
Year to date	1.70"	
Last year to date	1.43"	
Normal year to date	5.22"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	Sun.	
Boardman	WSW 12-25	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	W 10-20	W 7-14
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:07 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	8:41 p.m.	
Moonrise today	3:04 a.m.	
Moonset today	4:09 p.m.	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 110° in Needles, Calif. Low 31° in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



BPA adds power shut-offs to wildfire plan for Pacific Northwest

By JEDIDIAH MAYNES
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA — Energy officials could intentionally shut off power in some areas of the Pacific Northwest this summer to mitigate wildfire risks, regulators said, though it would likely be a rare event.

Bonneville Power Administration officials said in a release Wednesday, June 2, they've "added a public safety power shut-off procedure" as part of a wildfire mitigation plan "to protect public safety, life and property."

"This procedure is (a) preventative measure," BPA Administrator John Hairston said in the release. "BPA is committed to taking appropriate actions to prevent, mitigate and quickly recover from the devastation wildfires bring to the people and communities we serve."

Officials said a shut-off should be rare and requires the evaluation of several conditions, including weather and the status of the electrical system, to determine a



Don Ryan/The Associated Press, File

Power lines from Bonneville Dam head in all directions in North Bonneville, Washington, in a photo from February 2010. Bonneville Power Administration officials said in a release Wednesday, June 2, 2021, they've "added a public safety power shut-off procedure" as part of a wildfire mitigation plan "to protect public safety, life and property."

high risk of wildfire ignition. BPA officials said they would require very dry conditions, wind gusts above 60 mph and relative humidity below 20% before a shut-off is enacted.

BPA officials said taking a line out of service does not necessarily mean residents and businesses will lose power, although warnings may come in "compressed"

times because of how quickly wildfire conditions can change.

Rolling blackouts have been used in places such as California to help prevent wildfires.

Experts are predicting a bad wildfire season for much of the West as extreme drought conditions have not let up.

IN BRIEF

Wolves from Keating Pack kill calf

BAKER CITY — Wolves from the Keating Pack killed a four-month-old calf on a private pasture north of Keating Valley last weekend, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A ranch employee checking cattle May 31 found the dead calf, which had been dragged under a fence. The carcass was about 12 feet outside the fence.

The carcass was intact and had not been scavenged, according to an ODFW report. An ODFW biologist estimated the calf died 24 to 36 hours earlier.

"The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes and severe underlying muscle tissue trauma are consistent with wolf attack injuries on calves. The depredation is attributed to the Keating Pack."

Rescuers help two visitors to Tollgate area over weekend

TOLLGATE — Emergency officials in Umatilla County reported two separate rescue efforts for people visiting the Umatilla National Forest near Tollgate during the weekend.

An 83-year-old man was reported missing Friday, May 28, near Tollgate, Umatilla County sheriff's spokesperson Jodi Florence said. He was found by family members after 10 minutes and was unharmed, Florence said.

On May 29 on the Zig Zag Springs Trail, a woman was reported to be injured while hiking. Dispatchers were alerted at 1:14 p.m. The woman was found at 3:15 p.m.

Rescuers hiked into the area to reach the woman and brought her out. An air ambulance flew her to a hospital, officials said.

— EO Media Group and Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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.

EAST OREGONIAN
— 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.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com
In the App Store:

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 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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Circulation Dept.
For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

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	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$10.75/month	50 percent
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13 weeks	\$37	36 percent

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\$1.50 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

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