

Tribal community covid update

The Warm Springs community update, as of earlier this week, indicated four active cases of Covid-19 on the reservation. In addition, there were 15 close contacts receiving daily monitoring.

Regarding vaccinations among the community: The Warm Springs Covid-19 Response Team reported that health workers had administered 1,951 primary vaccines among community members.

In addition, 1,420 secondary or booster doses have been administered.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, requiring a single dose, arrived at the clinic; and so far 55 doses have been administered.

Some of the tribes' guidelines:

You must be 18 or older; and be Indian Health Service eligible, or live or work in Warm Springs to receive a Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccination.

There is an opportunity for 16- and 17-year-olds to get vaccinated this **Wednesday, March 24**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. This will be a opportunity for a first-dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

This **Thursday, March 25** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a vaccination clinic, administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, at the Simnasho Longhouse. This will be open to qualifying individuals 18 and older.

To schedule a Covid-19 vaccination appointment at the Health and Wellness Center; for this Wednesday's Pfizer vaccine clinic; or for the Simnasho Johnson & Johnson clinic: Call 541-553-2131.

Symptoms of Covid-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell.

To talk with a medical professional, call the IHS Covid-19 Nurse Triage Hotline at 541-553-5512.

Outside of business hours you can call the Registered Nurse Health Advice Hotline at 1-866-470-2015.

School board vote in May

The last day to register to vote in the May 18 election will be April 27. The election is to fill several positions on a number of boards of directors within Jefferson County.

Three positions are open on the Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors.

Candidates for position no. 3 on the school district board are Jaylyn Suppah of Warm Springs, and Jacob Struck of Madras.

The May 18 election will be conducted entirely by mail. Ballots are mailed out on April 28, and must be received 8 p.m. on May 18. (See page 4 of this publication for more on the upcoming election.)

Vaccine success among NW tribes

Across much of Indian Country, Native American tribes are seeing some of the most successful Covid-19 vaccination campaigns in the U.S. Three Indigenous principles have helped provide the impetus to get vaccinated, according to activist Allie Young, a citizen of the Navajo Nation:

Recognizing how Native Americans' actions will impact the next generations.

Acting in honor of ancestors who fought to ensure their survival, and elders who carry on their traditions and cultures.

Holding on to ancestral knowledge.

Many Native American tribes—in Oregon, for instance, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Siletz Indians, and Umatilla Tribes—are seeing great success with their vaccination clinics.

"In Oregon and the broader Northwest, it's been very good for tribes," says Bryan Mercier, Northwest regional director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

He says tribes have strong social networks, and have also leveraged existing resources such as Indian Health Service clinics to promote positive messaging about the Covid-19 vaccines.

"So what I've seen regionally, not just in Oregon, are tribes surpassing their state colleagues because of those infrastructures and networks," Mr. Mercier says.

Perhaps those having the hardest time accessing the vaccines are tribal members living beyond the reservation and the city.

In the Columbia River Basin are traditional village sites that members of the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce and other tribes have shared for generations, largely for fishing.

The lack of modern infrastructure limits communication and pandemic protocols considerably, as the federal government has yet to rebuild fully the original sites flooded by dam development back in the 1950s.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission applied for grants through the Oregon Community Foundation, and with One Community Health based in The Dalles and Hood River area, received a specialized medical van for testing and vaccination for the Native people living in the basin area.

"It's a lot of effort to get the vaccine if you're 200-300 miles from your reservation," says CRITFC's Jeremy FiveCrows.

Mr. FiveCrows recounts their first Columbia community tribal vaccination venture was in January at the Celilo Village site. In less than a day, all 100 doses were accounted for, something he attributes to a "brute force" outreach campaign with partner The Next Door.

"They went from site to site, just knocked on doors or campers and told them, 'If you're in these age groups, you're eligible. Can we sign



Vaccination event recently at Celilo Village.

‘ You also wonder how much of that is from the cultural memory of how different pandemics swept through the tribal populations... ’

you up?" FiveCrows said. "It took a lot of effort to get the success that they did."

He says there are more mobile clinics planned for the village sites, and he credits the higher interest among Native Americans in getting the needle in the arm for that success.

"You also wonder how much of that is from the cultural memory of how different pandemics swept through the tribal populations and decimated us," FiveCrows said.

"So how much of that played into trying to fight that, knowing we probably have grandparents or parents that may have died from other pandemics?"

JOIN US FOR COCC PREVIEW DAY!

Learn more about COCC by taking virtual mini-classes with staff and faculty, virtually touring the Bend campus, and more. Pre-registration is required. "See" you there!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21
9 to 11 a.m.



Please register online today!
cocc.edu/previewday



In advance of College events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability, contact Joe Viola at 541.383.7775. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact Disability Services at 541.383.7583.

Black Bear Diner

Good Old Fashioned Family Food!

BREAKFAST
Served All Day

LUNCH
Quick & Satisfying

DINNER
Comfort Food Classics



237 S.W. 4th St. • Madras, OR • (541) 475-6632

BlackBearDiner.com | [Facebook.com/BlackBearDiner](https://www.facebook.com/BlackBearDiner) | [#blackbeardiner](https://twitter.com/blackbeardiner)