



**COVID from page 1A**

Twenty patients are in the ICU, with 10 needing ventilators.

According to OHA, the week of Aug. 9 through Aug. 15 represents a 53% increase in cases over the previous week — marking the fifth consecutive week of increases.

In the state, there have been 31,394 confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 among people under 18 years old. OHA is now tracking pediatric COVID-19 case data through its Tableau Public dashboard at [public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19](http://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19).

Statewide, more than 845 Oregonians are hospitalized for COVID-19, with 226 in ICU. Hospitals are currently at 93% capacity.

“This isn't just about beds—it's about having enough trained health care professionals to treat patients,” Brown said Thursday. “Our nurses, doctors, and health care workers have been on the frontlines of this pandemic—in full PPE—for over 17 months. They are being stretched to their absolute limits providing life-saving treatment for the patients in their care. This puts all of us at risk. When our hospitals are full, there may not be a staffed bed for you if you have an unexpected medical emergency. When ambulances have nowhere to go, people die preventable deaths.”

The governor announced two new vaccination measures to address the hospital crisis, as well as the education system as schools prepare to reopen.

Oregon's vaccination requirement for health care workers will no longer have a testing alternative. Health care workers will be required to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18 or six weeks after full FDA approval, whichever is later.

In addition, all teachers, educators, support staff and volunteers in K-12 schools will be required to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18 or six weeks after full FDA approval, whichever is later.

“I know we had all hoped that, by now, we could put the challenges of 2020 behind us. But after the last year and a half, I also know what we are capable of when we all work together. Last year, we stood together for our nurses, doctors, and health care workers. We saved lives by following science and data. I'm asking you to do it again for our health care heroes, vulnerable community members and Oregon's kids,” Brown stated. “Our best tools to keep our schools, businesses and communities open are wearing masks and getting vaccinated.”

The governor outlined steps Oregon is taking to support hospitals during the ongoing surge in cases and hospitalizations, including deploying the National Guard and nurse strike teams, establishing temporary

decompression units to free up bed space, and removing barriers to discharging patients who no longer require hospital-level care.

This week, OHA also released information on the demographics of those currently contracting the virus.

“OHA's most recent update on COVID-19 breakthrough cases ... found that 85.6% of the 20,701 reported COVID-19 cases between Aug. 1 and Aug. 14 occurred in people who were unvaccinated. There were 2,982 breakthrough cases, accounting for 14.4% of all cases,” the report stated.

To date, there have been 7,138 COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases in Oregon. The report shows that the rate of COVID-19 in unvaccinated people is currently approximately six times higher than in vaccinated people.

Learn more about breakthrough cases in Oregon at [www.oregon.gov/oha/covid19/Documents/DataReports/Breakthrough-Case-Report-08-19-2021.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/covid19/Documents/DataReports/Breakthrough-Case-Report-08-19-2021.pdf). People can watch the governor's Aug. 19 press conference at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxfQIROP-jyw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxfQIROP-jyw).

To learn more about COVID-19, visit [healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://healthoregon.org/coronavirus) and [covidvaccine.oregon.gov](http://covidvaccine.oregon.gov), as well as [lanecounty.org/coronavirus](http://lanecounty.org/coronavirus) and [lanecounty.org/vaxclinics](http://lanecounty.org/vaxclinics).

**COUNCIL from page 1A**

The council meeting began with the reading of a Proclamation by Mayor Joe Henry which recognized an important development in American history.

“Whereas, Sept. 17, 2021, marks the 234th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitution-

al Convention; and whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and Whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and whereas, public law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating Sept. 17 through 23 as Constitution Week, therefore, I, Joe Henry, Mayor of the City of Florence, do hereby proclaim Sept. 17 through 23, 2021 to be ‘Constitution Week’ in the City of Florence and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787.”

Following this, the public comments section of the meeting again included comments by activist Mike Allen, which updated the council on the Lane County actions related to the development of a countywide plan to mitigate future climate related impacts.

As the bulk of the meeting was related to property annexations, Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller was on hand to provide insight on issues related to sewage and water. Throughout the meeting, councilors engaged with Miller to clarify these types of issues.

The process for annexation includes consideration from

the Florence Planning Commission and extensive work by Planning Department staff. All of the evening's requests were approved by the Planning Commission and forwarded to the city council for final approval.

Each annexation request requires coordination and communication between numerous entities. These consulting entities often include Lane County Transportation, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Heceta Water District and the Florence Police Department.

Generally, annexation requests come in the form of ordinances with an accompanying public hearing. There may also be a request for a related zoning modification connected to the proposed annexation ordinance.

That was the case for all of Monday's six annexation related requests, which included Ordinance No. 14 through Ordinance No. 19, Series 2021. Ordinances 16 and 17 passed unanimously.

The Pear Blossom Annexation review was presented by Senior Planner Roxanne Johnston while the Gott and Mantzouranis requests were reviewed by Planning Department Director Wendy FarleyCampbell.

There was also an extensive review of the applicable city codes which govern annexation.

Staff entered into the record the responses from affected municipal and county agencies which supported the annexation as possible and legal.

City Councilor Maggie Wisniewski was the singu-

lar holdout on approval of the evening's zoning change requests, as she expressed concern with changing the density of these locations from low to medium.

Wisniewski explained the reasoning behind her “yes” vote on the first annexation request, which did not include a related ordinance for a zoning change, and her vote against the two later requests.

After the discussions and votes on annexation, City Manager Erin Reynolds spoke about the upcoming celebration scheduled for the 25th anniversary of the Florence Events Center.

Reynolds informed the council that the scheduled recognition will be held as planned.

“The city is proceeding with all of our plans for the Florence Events Center celebration. Our contingency planning to this point has been active and everything is planned to be outdoors, predominantly at the Florence Events Center,” Reynolds said. “We will continue evaluating the situation and making adjustments as necessary, but at this point we are hopeful that we will see everyone there.”

For more information, visit [ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us).

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