their lives. ... You made the difference."

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced that she was continuing the state's efforts to mitigate the effects of the virus by extending the COVID-19 state of emergency in the state until May 2, a 60-day extension.

She also reported that case counts across Oregon trended down for the past three weeks, with several counties shifting lower on the risk for community spread.

As of Feb. 26, Lane County left "extreme risk" for "high risk," which meant fewer restrictions for restaurants, schools and other businesses.

Lane County Public Health and OHA will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases and community spread.

However, the biggest virus update comes in the form of vaccinations.

"One year in, with our vaccine efforts continuing to ramp up, we truly see light at the end of the tunnel," Brown said. "We have more than 14 percent of Oregonians vaccinated with their first dose which is more than half

David Debysingh, R.Ph.

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a million Oregonians." OHA reported 973,022 first and second doses of

it," Brown said. "While that gives us all a rea-COVID-19 "One year in, with our vaccine efforts continuing to ramp up, we truly see light at the end of

— Gov. Kate Brown

the tunnel."

have been administered in the state. So far, Oregon has received vaccine from both Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc., which both arrived in December.

OHA is adding a new vaccine, from Johnson & Johnson, this week, with an initial 34,000 doses. Unlike the Pfizer and Modern vaccines, the new vaccine only requires one dose.

The state will receive help from FEMA in administering vaccines to Oregonians.

Brown also nounced a new vaccine prioritization schedule, which she hopes will see all Oregonians 16 and older eligible for the vaccine by July 1.

"Come summer, provided supplies from the federal government continue as planned,

Mike Hankins R Ph

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son to breathe a sigh of relief, it should also serve as a reminder that the finish line is in sight — and we cannot let up."

any Oregonian who

wants the vaccine will

be eligible to receive

The next step for vaccinations will begin March 29, with the following groups eligible:

- Adults age 45 to 64 with underlying health conditions as defined by the CDC • Seasonally-impact-
- ed frontline workers, such as migrant seasonal farm workers, seafood and agricultural workers, and food processing workers
- Currently displaced victims of the September 2020 wildfires
- Wildland firefight-
- People living in low-income and congregate senior housing
- Individuals experiencing houselessness

By May, the prioritization schedule will begin vaccinating frontworkers, 16-45 year olds with underlying health conditions and multigenerational household members.

No later than June 1, Phase 2 of vaccination will begin with all adults aged 45 to 64. And, no later than July 1, all Oregonians 16 and over will be eligible to receive a vaccine.

"As we vaccinate thousands of Oregonians each day and reopen more school buildings and businesses as safely as possible, now is not the time to let up our guard," Brown said. "New, more infectious COVID-19 variants are circulating in the United States, including several confirmed cases in Oregon. We will continue to keep each other safe in the months to come by following the same safety measures we have throughout the pandemic — wearing face coverings, staying home when sick, maintaining physical distance and avoiding social gatherings."

For more information about COVID-19 in Oregon, visit govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19 covidvaccine.oregon. gov.



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