

OREGON REPORTED 178 NEW CASES OF CORONAVIRUS ON THURSDAY, A DAILY RECORD

Brown pauses reopening for some counties due to case spike

■ One-week pause doesn't affect Baker County, which has been in phase 2 since June 6

Portland Tribune

Gov. Kate Brown on Thursday evening issued a one-week pause in the schedule to reopen counties closed for weeks because of the pandemic quarantine.

Multnomah County was scheduled to go into Phase 1 of reopening on Friday.

The announcement came as the state reported 178 new positive cases of the virus on Thursday, June 11, surpassing the previous one-day record of 146 cases set just last Sunday.

On Friday there were 142 new cases reported.

"When we began reopening nearly a month ago, I was clear that COVID-19 case counts would rise. We now see that happening in several parts of the state, both urban areas and rural communities," Brown said in a Thursday evening press release. "As I have said before, reopening comes with real risk. As we navigate the reopening, we are carefully monitoring the capacity of our public health system to respond to COVID-19 cases without becoming overwhelmed. The noticeable increase in COVID-19 infections in Oregon over the past week is cause for concern."

"This one-week pause will give public health experts time to assess what factors are driving the spread of the virus and determine if we need to adjust our approach to reopening."

— Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

Phase 1 reopening, allowing some restaurants and other businesses to reopen, was approved for 31 of the state's 36 counties in mid-May.

While much of Oregon has moved into Phase 2, including Baker County, nearly half of Oregon's 4.3 million population live in counties that are lagging behind.

Multnomah County, which includes Portland, is the only county that has not started the reopening process. It has applied to go into Phase 1 beginning Friday. Marion, Washington, Clackamas, Hood River, Lincoln and Polk counties are still under Phase 1.

"In order to ensure that the virus is not spreading too quickly, I am putting all county applications for further reopening on hold for seven days," Brown wrote. "This is essentially a statewide 'yellow light.' It is time to press pause for one week before any

further reopening.

"This one-week pause will give public health experts time to assess what factors are driving the spread of the virus and determine if we need to adjust our approach to reopening. I will work with doctors and public health experts to determine whether to lift this pause or extend it or make other adjustments."

Beyond this week's spike in cases, other factors played into the decision to pause reopenings. They include:

- Multnomah County has seen an increase in residents admitted to the hospital over the last two weeks. The percent of tests that are positive is going up, in the face of increased testing. More than 40% of the new cases in the last week have not been traced to a source.

- Hood River County has seen an increase in new cases over the last week and is



managing several simultaneous workplace outbreaks.

- Marion County has seen an almost 40% increase in cases over the last week and new hospital admissions for COVID-19 of county residents has increased over the last two weeks.

- Polk County has seen an increase in cases over the last week and is managing a work site outbreak.

Current status of reopening and all guidelines are available at coronavirus.oregon.gov. Currently:

- Twenty-nine counties are in Phase 2.

- Three counties are in Phase 1 and have applied for Phase 2: Hood River, Marion, and Polk. These applications are being put on hold for one week.

- Three counties are in Phase 1 and have not yet applied for Phase 2: Clackamas, Lincoln, and Washington.

- Multnomah County is in baseline status. County leaders have applied for Phase 1, and that application is being put on hold.

Gary A. Warner of the Oregon Capital Bureau contributed to this report.

Rachel Center fundraising drive starting June 21

By Chris Collins

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The Rachel Pregnancy Center's baby bottle fundraising drive will begin on its usual ending date of Father's Day and continue through July this year.

The annual Mother's Day opening of the Rachel Center's fundraising event was postponed this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, said Vera Grove, the center director and only paid employee.

Baskets of bottles, where monetary donations can be placed, are ready for church representatives to pick up at the Rachel Center office at 2192 Court Ave. during regular hours, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (June 16, 17 and 18) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office is closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch. Grove said those who can't make it to the office during regular hours, also may call to come in at other times on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

The baby bottles represent the living babies who are supported by the fundraiser, Grove said.

"It's a visual statement that a baby is alive," Grove said. "A baby is a life that God has created."

A new feature this year, for those who would prefer to write a check to the Center during the fundraiser rather than collect change in a baby bottle, offers self-addressed envelopes to fundraiser participants.

See Fundraiser / Page 5A

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FICTION

- "Daddy's Girl," Danielle Steel
- "Credible Threat," J. A. Jance
- "The Persuasion," Iris Johansen
- "Wrath of Poseidon," Clive Cussler
- "The Summer House," James Patterson

NONFICTION

- "Dinner in French," Melissa Clark
- "A Year in Flowers," Erin Benzakein
- "The Blue Zones Kitchen," Dan Buettner
- "D&D Dungeon Masters Guide," Mike Mearls
- "How the South Won the Civil War," Heather Richardson

DVDS

- "1917" (Action)
- "Birds of Prey" (Sci-Fi)
- "Clemency" (Drama)
- "Gretel & Hansel" (Horror)
- "The Hustle" (Comedy)

CHURCHES

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During phase 1, from May 15 through June 5, the church required its members to wear face masks.

However, with larger groups allowed under phase 2, church elder Karl Wittich said the church will return to a single Sunday service. Face masks are optional, not required.

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church won't be fully opening, but the church will likely increase its capacity for services from 25 to 50.

"We've been sanitizing the pews and doors and doing 6-foot distancing," said Dawn Coles, parish secretary.

To comply with guidelines, the church has been skipping two pews for every full one, and has been careful to keep adequate distance between families.

Harvest Church, which usually has about 300 worshippers, has continued doing small group in-person services, but the bulk of its services have been online or parking lot services.

On Easter, the church drew on the idea of a drive-in

"People are really excited."

— Troy Teeters, head pastor, Baker City Church of the Nazarene, talking about worshippers returning to regular services

movie to create "parking lot services," where members tuned into a radio station, 107.9, and listened to the service while in their cars.

As phase 2 comes into effect, the Harvest Church plans to split services into two and hopes to be able to have around 150 people per service, if they can comply with social distancing guide-

lines.

Troy Teeter, head pastor at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, said "people are really excited" to return to regular services.

Teeter said the church plans on having two separate services for at least June 14, 21 and 28, one in the main church at 9 a.m. and one at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center, a separate building.

The church also plans to have a secure offering box instead of passing around an offering plate, and the Eucharist offerings will be individually wrapped.

The hardest part, Teeter said, is the coming and going of people through the doorways when the service begins and ends, but the church is asking its members to wear face masks during these times.

Teeter also said that while he understands people have different ideas and beliefs on the situation, he's trying his best to comply with what science and government health officials are saying.

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Betty Green

would like to thank everyone for their cards, food, donations to the quilt club and sincere sympathy that you showed to our families during the passing of our mother. She was truly a lady and a queen and even a little feisty. We would also like to express our gratitude to Memory Lane for the wonderful care that they gave our mom her last 3 years. They are like our extended family. A thank you to Stephanie at Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home for helping with moms final arrangements and for helping with her beautiful memorial stone. We are so proud to live in Baker City, Oregon where people really care about people.

Sincere thanks with His blessings,

Larry and Rocky Morris

Steve and Marilyn Jones