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Newsroom 541-383-0348
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Tuesday, Jan. 19:

Deschutes County cases: 5,036 (37 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 37 (1 new death)
Crook County cases: 623 (2 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 10 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,707 (2 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 134,468 (637 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,808 (5 new deaths)

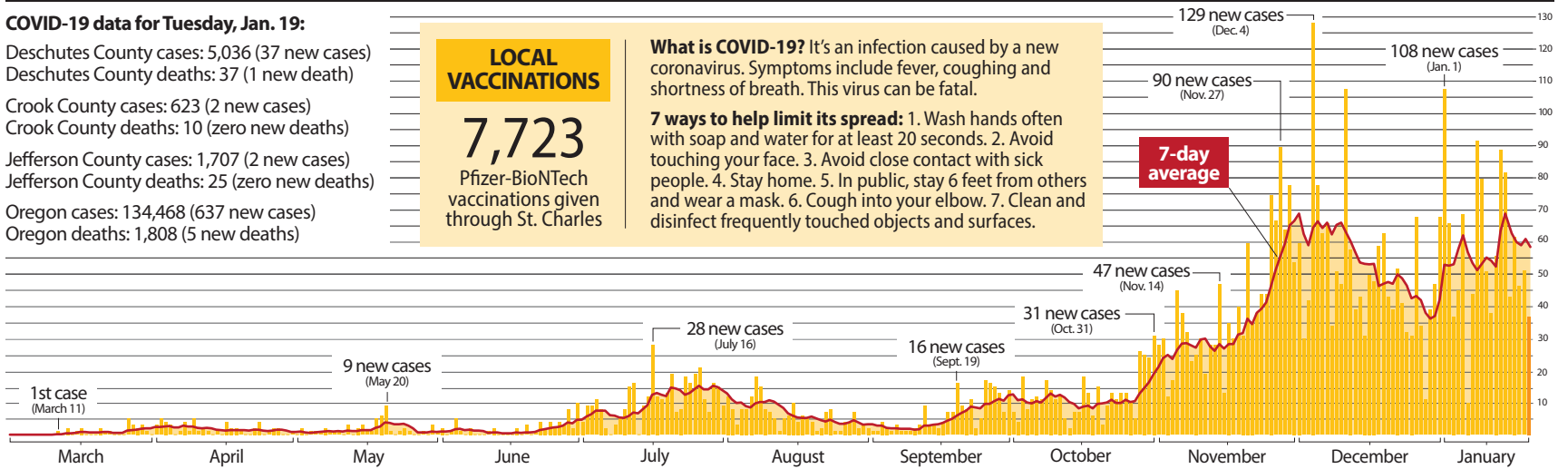
LOCAL VACCINATIONS

7,723

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccinations given through St. Charles

What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath. This virus can be fatal.

7 ways to help limit its spread: 1. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. 2. Avoid touching your face. 3. Avoid close contact with sick people. 4. Stay home. 5. In public, stay 6 feet from others and wear a mask. 6. Cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Oregon's vaccination program gets \$38M in federal stimulus

BY JES BURNS

Oregon Public Broadcasting
Oregon is expecting to receive a large chunk of federal stimulus money this week to help pay for its COVID-19 vaccination program.

Congress approved \$3 billion for states to use for vaccine activities under the supplemental pandemic stimulus bill passed in late December. Oregon's share of those funds is \$38.1 million, although only a portion of that is expected to be distributed this week.

"Particularly now, it is crucial that states and communities have the resources they

need to conduct testing, and to distribute and administer safe, high-quality COVID-19 vaccines safely and equitably," Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a statement by the agency.

The money can be used to promote and track as well as to distribute and administer the vaccines. The latter is where Oregon's vaccination program has bogged down.

The state has struggled to vaccinate large numbers of people, although by late last week it was able to hit the 12,000 doses-per-day vaccination target

put forth by Gov. Kate Brown. Oregon Health Authority Chief Medical Officer Dana Hargunani cited challenges with vaccine distribution as well as navigating scheduling, physical distancing at vaccination sites and the observation period required immediately after the vaccine is administered.

OHA Director Patrick Allen told Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Think Out Loud" on Friday that the federal money would go toward staffing and backfilling positions that have been reassigned to the vaccination effort.

"Much of that money gets

shared with local public health and community-based organizations and others to do that work," he said. "Hospitals have been doing a lot of work on their own dime that we'll need to be able to pay for."

OHA will also use the money on public outreach to promote the vaccine.

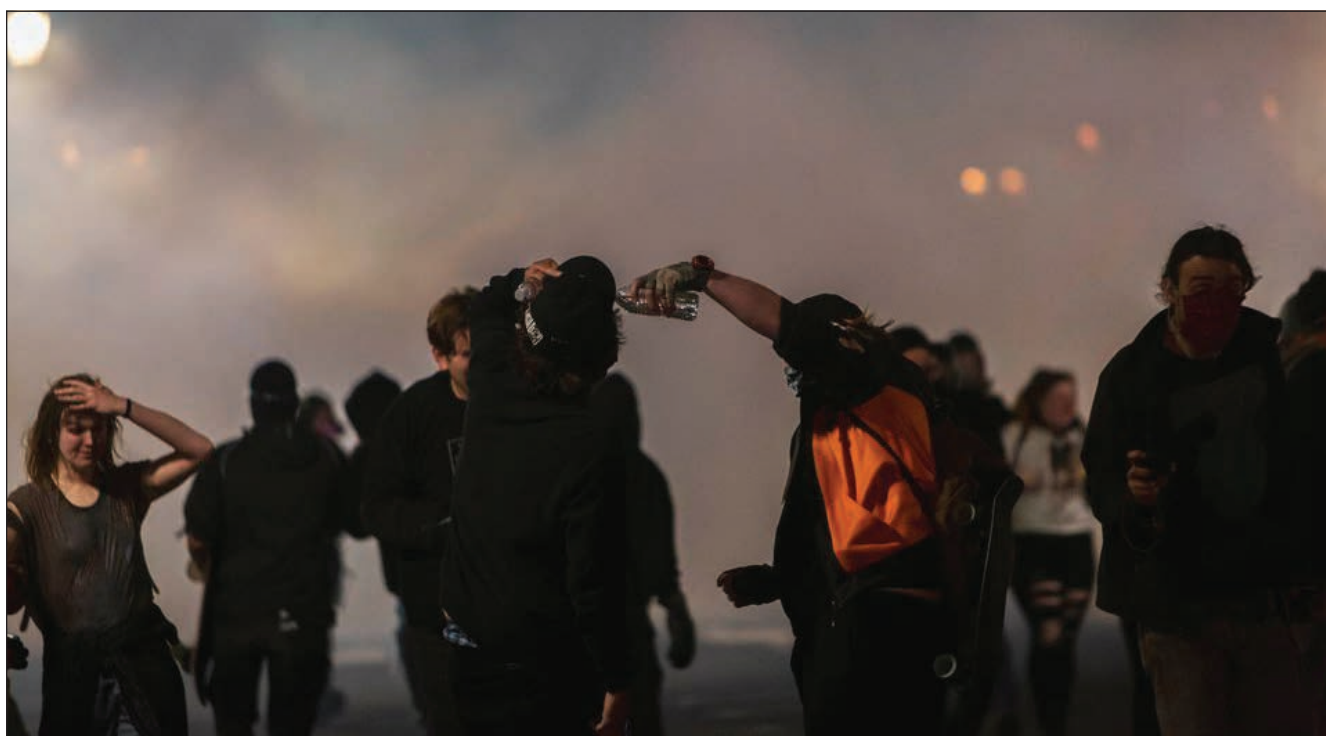
As of Monday, OHA reported 21,314 Oregonians have been fully vaccinated, receiving both necessary doses for maximum protection, with another nearly 171,235 people having received the first dose. But plans to expand the pool of Oregonians eligible for vac-

cination have been stymied by recent revelations that states would not receive an expected increase in vaccine shipments from the national stockpile — because there is no national stockpile. Oregon was expecting 200,000 additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Allen said the supply of vaccines from the federal government is now the biggest limiting factor to Oregon's vaccination push.

The stimulus bill also provides \$243 million to Oregon for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, surveillance and containment efforts.

2020 PORTLAND PROTESTS



Brooke Herbert/Oregonian file

A haze fills the air during one of the nightly protests in downtown Portland in June.

Researcher finds feds used toxic smoke grenades on protesters

BY KALE WILLIAMS

The Oregonian

Federal agents in Portland used toxic and potentially deadly smoke grenades more than two dozen times over the summer as they attempted to disperse demonstrators protesting for social and racial justice, according to a Portland-based researcher.

Juniper Simonis, an environmental biologist and data scientist with The Chemical Weapons Research Consortium, which studies the effects of chemical agents on protesters, noticed mid-July that some demonstrators were complaining of unique and novel symptoms that sometimes lasted for days after exposure to chemical agents. Simonis had been to several protests in Portland over the summer.

"I have friends who are seasoned veterans (of the protests) and who have been gassed a ton," Simonis said. "All of a sudden they couldn't get out of bed the next day. Some of them were knocked out for a week."

Simonis, who is a plaintiff in a lawsuit against local, state and federal officers for violating the rights of people with disabilities through aggressive

police responses to racial justice protests, and a cadre of volunteers began collecting spent munition canisters from around the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse, the focal point of the nightly protests and where the majority of suppression efforts by federal agents took place.

Among the pepper balls and tear gas canisters, Simonis and the volunteers found several canisters marked "MAXIMUM HC SMOKE MILITARY-STYLE CANNISTER," manufactured by a company called Defense Technology, which sells crowd-control weapons to law enforcement. The "HC" stands for hexachloroethane, a common ingredient in smoke devices that the Environmental Protection Agency has classified as a likely carcinogen.

The smoke grenades were a new addition to the arsenal local police and federal agents had been using against protesters, and Simonis was concerned about the effects. Using firsthand accounts, video and photos from protests in July, Simonis found that federal agents used HC smoke grenades at least 25 times during downtown demon-

"This is a complete and utter misuse of a chemical weapon that could be lethal. We're talking about heavy metal poisoning."

— Juniper Simonis, who conducted the research, on zinc found on a canister at the protest site

strations and at least once at a protest outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in southwest Portland.

Simonis took spent canisters, clothing worn by demonstrators, a scrap of tent fabric from a medic tent near the courthouse and a soil sample to a lab in Clackamas County for analysis.

On the spent grenade, the analysis turned up known toxins like benzene and toluene, but, of more concern to Simonis, they also showed the grenades contained chromium, lead and zinc.

All three are heavy metals, which can be harmful to human health and the environment, but zinc, when it's superheated and turned into a gas, can be incredibly toxic, sometimes fatal.

"Exposure of unprotected soldiers to high concentrations of HC smoke for even a few minutes has resulted in

injuries and fatalities," reads a 1994 report from the U.S. Army Biomedical Research and Development Laboratory. "Therefore, it must be emphasized that this smoke should never be employed in enclosed areas."

Safety data sheets for the HC grenades listed zinc oxide as a "hazardous ingredient" in both 1994 and 2005, but a 2011 version of the document doesn't mention the heavy metal. Simonis worries that law enforcement may be using the devices without a complete understanding of the risk they pose.

"This is a complete and utter misuse of a chemical weapon that could be lethal," Simonis said. "We're talking about heavy metal poisoning."

Neither the Department of Homeland Security nor Defense Technology responded to questions about the use of HC smoke grenades, their components or their toxicity.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Fourth Deer Ridge inmate dies from COVID-19

A fourth inmate has died at Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras after testing positive for COVID-19.

The man, who was not identified by the Oregon Department of Corrections, died Saturday. He was described as being between the ages of 55 and 65.

He died the same day as the third reported death at the Madras prison. On Saturday, another man between the ages of 55 and 65 died after testing positive for the virus, according to the department of corrections.

The first two COVID-19-related deaths at the prison were in December.

The first was reported Dec. 9, when a man, between the ages of 75 and 85, died. The second death was reported Dec. 18, when a man, between the ages of 55 and 65, died.

Deer Ridge identified its first case of COVID-19 among inmates Nov. 13. The prison is currently housing about 675 inmates.

As of Tuesday, 33 inmates have died in Oregon prisons after testing positive for the virus.

Crook County court to close for potential unrest

Crook County Circuit Court will be closed Wednesday due to the potential of civil unrest in Prineville on Inauguration Day for President-elect Joe Biden.

The court at 300 NE Third St. sent the notice Tuesday afternoon, but did not say what the specific unrest could be and if it was directly related to the presidential inauguration.

Amy Bonkosky, court administrator, said she couldn't speak on court security issues, but said closing Wednesday was at the request of the court security officers.

"Our court security officers did make the request that we close tomorrow out of wanting to be cautious and out of concern for any of the public coming to the courthouse and the staff," Bonkosky said Tuesday afternoon.

All the scheduled hearings tomorrow will be rescheduled, Bonkosky said.

Deschutes and Jefferson counties' circuit courts plan to open Wednesday.

— Bulletin staff report