

# The Bulletin

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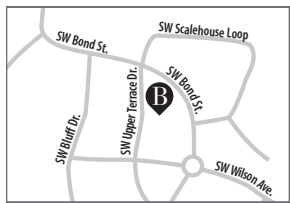
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# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

**COVID-19 data for Friday, Feb. 12:**

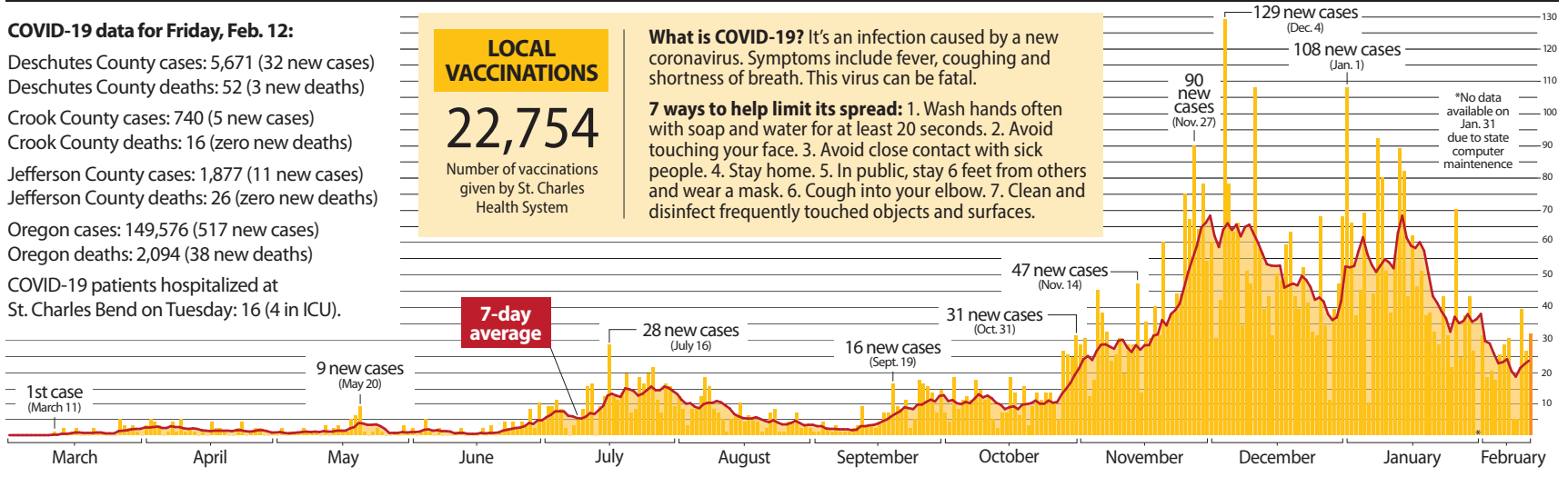
Deschutes County cases: 5,671 (32 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 52 (3 new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 740 (5 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 16 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 1,877 (11 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 26 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 149,576 (517 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,094 (38 new deaths)  
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 16 (4 in ICU).

**LOCAL VACCINATIONS**

**22,754**  
Number of vaccinations given by St. Charles Health System

**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.



## COVID-19 in Oregon



Brittney Caldera via AP

Oregon Health & Science University nurses Nick Greenwood, from left, Callie Harling, Derrell Wheeler and Orion Meredith eat a meal delivered to the hospital's front-line COVID-19 health care workers in a break room Jan. 10 at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

# Hard-hit restaurants feed doctors, nurses to survive

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

The Associated Press  
PORTLAND — It was the week after Christmas and coronavirus case numbers and hospitalizations were soaring in Portland.

At Oregon Health & Science University, the state's largest hospital, morale was low. Doctors and nurses caring for the most critically ill were burning out just when they were needed the most.

Then, the food started coming: hot and delicious individually wrapped meals from some of the city's trendiest restaurants, a buffet of cuisines from Chinese to Italian to Lebanese to southern comfort food. For staffers who only took off their N95 masks once to eat during a 12-hour shift, the meals were more than just food — they were emotional sustenance.

"It's almost like having a weight lifted. It's like getting a surprise dozen roses or something," nurse Alice Clark said. "We're so grateful."

But the meals, paid for by a wellness grant from the Oregon-based insurance fund SAIF, also served another purpose: They kept struggling restaurants afloat. As fall

and then winter set in, eateries were folding under the strain of a monthslong indoor dining ban. The hospital orders — sometimes 150 or 160 meals at a time — were a financial lifeline.

"It's kept the doors open and a small workforce employed. It's been the most heartfelt catering we've ever done," said Kiauna Floyd, third-generation owner of Amalfi's, a Portland institution that's been serving up Italian cuisine for 62 years.

Floyd's staff has prepared around 500 meals for OHSU, allowing her to keep a core crew employed after laying off three-quarters of her employees. The restaurant was limping along with seven tables on an outdoor patio in the height of winter, as well as takeout orders and pre-packaged meals-to-go.

"We want to do something as comforting as possible, so when they are on their break and do get that lunch, it warms their soul," she said.

For now, though, meal deliveries to OHSU have dried up with the grant funding, and the program ended on Jan. 19. Leaders are hoping for a new funding source to

get meals running again soon. The three-week effort paid local eateries a total of \$39,000 at a critical time.

A similar effort funded by private donations through a now-defunct nonprofit called Frontline Foods PDX connected restaurants with Portland-area hospitals and clinics early in the pandemic, but then donations began to fall off and the effort slowed and then stopped.

That effort provided about 13,800 meals over three months to six facilities, including a veteran's hospital and a homeless clinic, and was a major source of pandemic revenue for 14 restaurants — many of them owned by people of color.

"To be able to call and say, 'Hey, I have \$2,000 of business for you' is just the most incredible feeling," said Shannon Tivona, who coordinated meal orders and delivery for OHSU and volunteered for Frontline Foods in its earlier work.

"The times where we're not doing anything are really tough. The restaurant owners call me and say, 'Do you have anything yet? Do you have anything?' And it's heartbreaking to have to say, 'No, I don't.'"

## SALEM

# Inmates, others raise money to help school replace yurt

BY JAKE THOMAS

Salem Reporter

SALEM — Community support and a donation from inmates at the Oregon State Penitentiary will help a Salem school replace one of three stolen yurt coverings the school planned to use for classroom space.

Kaleidoscope Community School, which has about 40 students ages 6-9, ordered four yurts last year from Mongolia to use as classrooms and to accommodate more children. In January, three yurt coverings were stolen from the trailer of a contractor hired to assemble them.

News of the school's plight reached a group

of inmates at the state prison. They raised \$2,200 to replace the yurt coverings.

"I was like, 'are you serious?'" said Molly Brown, the school's director, who received a call from the Department of Corrections on Wednesday about the donations. "I was just blown away."

An employee with the department dropped off the check Thursday afternoon to the school, said Brown. Teachers have broken into tears at the news, she said.

With community donations and other funds, the school has \$8,000, enough money to order one replacement covering from Mongolia, she said.

## MANDATORY MINIMUMS

# District attorneys prepare for battle

BY NOELLE CROMBIE

The Oregonian

The Oregon District Attorneys Association is ramping up its political fight to preserve the state's longstanding mandatory minimum sentencing law as lawmakers prepare to take up changes to Measure 11 this year.

The organization, which represents elected district attorneys, on Wednesday issued its own report on what it views as the law's effectiveness.

Three district attorneys who campaigned as reformers — Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel, Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt and Wasco County District Attorney Matthew Ellis — recently announced they would split with the organization on the issue and will support changes to the law.

Schmidt has said he will lobby the Legislature and wants judges to have the flexibility to determine sentences.

Measure 11 applies mandatory minimum prison sentences to about two dozen crimes, including murder, the most serious sex abuse, robbery and other violent offenses. People serving time under the law are not eligible to have their sentences reduced.

According to the Oregon Department of Corrections, about 47% of the state's 12,586 inmates are serving sentences under Measure 11, which gets its name from a ballot initiative approved by voters in 1994.

The effort underway this session is the biggest reconsideration of the policy in a decade. Four bills before the Legislature seek to reduce mandatory sentences under the law — "many dramatically so," the group said in a statement. The proposals generally



Garrett Andrews/The Bulletin file

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel speaks to a crowd at a press conference calling for criminal justice reform outside the Deschutes County Courthouse in June 2020.

give judges far more leeway in sentencing.

Any change would require a two-thirds vote in each chamber.

Supporters of Measure 11 say that it protects communities and ensures justice for crime victims. The DAs association says mandatory minimum sentences are transparent and ensure that "the sentence announced in court is the sentence actually served by the offender."

"While I support responsible reforms, repealing Measure 11 will not bring more justice to victims, make Oregonians safer, or sentencing more equitable," Washington County District Attorney Kevin Barton said in a statement.

"The proposals as drafted would have devastating effects on victims and their families and our crime rates," Marion County District Attorney Paige Clarkson said in a statement. Clarkson is president of the association.

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