

Mask burnings in Idaho are latest protest against virus restrictions

BY THERESE BOTTOMLY
The Oregonian

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — More than a year into a pandemic that has claimed 523,000 lives in the United States, right-wing protesters in Idaho, including a handful of elected officials, set protective masks aflame, claiming face coverings stifle their personal liberties.

Although local, state and federal health officials are clear that masks are crucial in the fight against COVID-19, helping to prevent the disease from spreading, 70 adults and children — none wearing face coverings — stepped forward on a downtown street corner in Coeur d'Alene and dropped masks into a symbolic burn pot containing dry ice. "U.S.A., U.S.A.," they chanted.

The protesters held

mask-burnings Saturday in locations across the state, where masks are strongly recommended but not required by Idaho Gov. Brad Little. At a gathering of more than 100 in the state capital, protesters tossed coverings into a flaming barrel and cheered at supportive remarks by Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin, a far-right militia supporter whose relations with Little, a fellow Republican, are strained.

"If a woman can kill an unborn child and it's her body and her choice, I can decide whether to wear a mask," a man shouted at the rally in Coeur d'Alene, a hub of the conservative northern Idaho panhandle.

The protesters appear to inhabit an alternate reality, one in which they claim that the coro-

navirus is no more dangerous than the flu and that public health directives based on science are dictatorial.

On Saturday, they planned burnings in two dozen Idaho cities, equating them to the Boston Tea Party despite the fact that tea dumped into the harbor by colonists to protest British taxes in 1773 did not, like masks, help protect others from a deadly disease. Experts on extremism say that dismissing the rallies simply as antics of a fringe movement would be a mistake, much like overlooking signs of an imminent attack on the U.S. Capitol.

"The denial of the reality of the pandemic and the denial of the legitimate results of the election are not too far apart from each other," said Lindsay Schubiner, a program director

at Western States Center, an organization that tracks extremist groups. "It's hard to have a functioning democracy if we don't live in the same shared reality, and that's one reason why spreading conspiracy theories has been so damaging and such a useful tool for the far right."

The Portland organization had been monitoring activists planning Saturday's rallies in private Facebook groups and other online forums that fall below the radar of everyday social media. Such groups include People's Rights, an organization founded by Ammon Bundy, who led the 2016 occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and Idaho G-416 Patriots, described as an anti-Muslim hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

What the CDC says you can do once vaccinated

BY LENA H. SUN AND LENNY BERNSTEIN
The Washington Post



President Joe Biden, left, visits a COVID-19 vaccination site Monday and watches as Dr. Navjit Goraya gives a vaccine to Air Force Col. Margaret Cope.

Federal health officials released guidance Monday that gives fully vaccinated Americans more freedom to socialize and pursue routine daily activities, providing a pandemic-weary nation a first glimpse of what a new normal may look like in coming months.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said people who are two weeks past their final shot face little risk if they visit indoors with unvaccinated members of a single household at low risk of severe disease, without wearing masks or distancing. That would free many vaccinated grandparents who live near their unvaccinated children and grandchildren to gather for the first time in a year.

The CDC also said fully vaccinated people can gather indoors with those who are also fully vaccinated. And they do not need to quarantine, or be tested after exposure to the coronavirus, if they have no symptoms.

Peter Hotez, co-director of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development, welcomed the advice, but said it has taken too long for the CDC to tell an exhausted public when their masks can come off.

"The sooner we move to telling people if you're fully vaccinated, you don't have to wear masks, that will be an incentive for people to get vaccinated," Hotez said.

The five-page guidelines offer a road map of sorts to those who have made it through the rocky vaccine rollout to resuming aspects of daily life that have been on hold for more than a year. They come as the government and public health officials are racing to vaccinate people as fast as possible to outpace highly transmissible versions of the virus spreading in the United States. Coronavirus cases have plateaued at a dangerously high level.

After a slow start, the pace of inoculations is accelerating, with more than 60 million people in the United States having received one shot and nearly 31 million people now fully vaccinated, or about 9% of the population, according to CDC. President Joe Biden has vowed to have enough supply for every adult who wants a shot by late May, raising hopes of a return to normal life.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said the recommendations sought to balance potential risk to those who are unvaccinated, and impacts on community transmission, against the benefit of "getting back to some of the things that we love in life" for those who are inoculated. She and others warned that millions more peo-

ple need to be vaccinated before everyone can stop following COVID-19 precautions.

CDC will continue to update this initial guidance, perhaps loosening travel restrictions if new infections continue to decrease as vaccinations increase, Walensky said. But with more than 90% of the population still unvaccinated and levels of virus high, even those who have received the shots "might get breakthrough infections with lesser amounts of virus," she said, referring to a fully vaccinated person getting infected.

For now, officials are continuing to discourage travel because "every time that there is a surge in travel, we have a surge in cases in this country," Walensky said. "We know that many of our variants have emerged from international places, and we know that the travel corridor is a place where people are mixing a lot."

The guidance outlines several ways that fully vaccinated people can return to their old routines, although it is more general than what some people might have hoped for. It doesn't explicitly say, for instance, whether vaccinated grandparents can hug and kiss their unvaccinated grandchildren, but appears to endorse such behavior by saying vaccinated people can safely gather indoors with those in one unvaccinated household without masks or physical distancing, as long as no one is at risk of severe disease.

A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to spread the virus to others, the CDC says. While some prevention measures continue to be necessary, the benefits of reducing social isolation "may outweigh the residual risk of fully vaccinated people becoming ill with COVID-19" or transmitting the virus to others, the guidance says.

In addition, relaxing certain measures for vaccinated people

"may help improve COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and uptake," CDC says. "Therefore, there are several activities that fully vaccinated people can resume now, at low risk to themselves, while being mindful of the potential risk of transmitting the virus to others."

Small gatherings likely represent minimal risk — with the safest situations being for the fully inoculated to get together with one another in private settings, such as a dinner among vaccinated friends in your home, the CDC says.

But risk increases as gatherings get larger, take place outside the home and include more unvaccinated people because they may come from places with high rates of transmission.

For the fully vaccinated, decisions about social interactions come down to how much risk they are willing to take.

The level of caution people need to exercise should be determined by the characteristics of those who are unvaccinated, the CDC says. Unvaccinated people from a single household, or people living under one roof who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease, for instance, can visit with vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks, such as grandparents visiting their grandchildren. But if the unvaccinated neighbors stop by, the visit should take place outdoors or in a well-ventilated space, and everyone should mask because there is a higher risk of virus spread among them.

If a fully vaccinated person visits with an unvaccinated friend who is 70, and therefore at risk of severe disease, the visit should also take place outdoors, with masks and physical distancing, the guidance says.

Vaccinated people should also continue to follow CDC's travel recommendations, which include delaying travel while cases are extremely high. That means vaccinated grandparents

are advised against flying to see their grandchildren. Grandparents can visit with their unvaccinated children and grandchildren "who are healthy and who are local," Walensky said.

And vaccinated people must still follow the same requirements before, during and after domestic or international travel, including wearing masks. The CDC requires all international travelers to show proof that they had tested negative for the coronavirus before boarding flights to the United States.

In public settings, vaccinated people should continue to follow all public health precautions, including wearing a well-fitted mask, physical distancing and avoiding poorly ventilated spaces. The virus has been shown to spread in settings such as gyms and bars.

The CDC said fully vaccinated people who have been exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 do not have to quarantine or be tested if they remain without symptoms. But if the exposure takes place in certain crowded settings that increase the risk of spread, such as prisons and group homes, they must still quarantine for 14 days and get tested.

Advocates for older people embraced guidance that loosens restrictions on social interaction. Many older people, especially those who live alone, they said, have spent the past year in virtual isolation, hunkered down against a virus that mainly kills people over 65.

"If the CDC is offering new ways for older people to connect more in a way that's safe and healthy, this is really good news," said Katie Smith Sloan, president and chief executive officer of LeadingAge, which represents 5,000 nonprofit organizations that provide services to older people. "I think clarity is so important, and good communication around that. So we welcome this. It takes some of the mystery out of it."

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In observance of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, I am writing a book about the Flight for Freedom, the trip 1,000 Oregonians made to New York City in October 2001 to support New Yorkers after 9/11. This was an effort unequalled by any other constituency in the country. I am trying to locate them so I can speak with them and document their memories. I can be reached at this email address: sbourrie@verizon.net. I've also started a @FlightForFreedom-Book2021 Facebook page.

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Legal Notice
CROOK COUNTY, OREGON INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS
Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIP)
Sheriff's Office - Community Corrections Division
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Crook County, through its County Court, is seeking a qualified contractor for the array of services associated with Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program services. Sealed proposals will be received until 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 2, 2021. Each proposal must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, marked "Proposed Crook County Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program Treatment Provider," and delivered on or before the deadline to Crook County Community Corrections, 301 NE 3rd St., Prineville, OR 97754. Final award will be announced during County Court at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Complete bidding documents and any addenda are available for download from the County's website at <http://co.crook.or.us/rfps> or from Lieutenant Brett Lind, Community Corrections, 301 NE 3rd St., Prineville, OR 97754.

Legal Notice
LEGAL NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
Donna M. Hines has been appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Emily Mabel Smith, Deceased, by the Deschutes County Circuit Court, State of Oregon, Case No. 20PB07305. All persons having claims against the estate must present the claims to the Administrator at C/O McCord & Hemphill, LLC, 65 NW Greeley Ave., Bend, OR 97703, within four months after February 23, 2021 which is the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. Additional information may be obtained from the Court, the Administrator, or the attorney for the Administrator: Brian T. Hemphill.

Legal Notice
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
Gary K. Lovegren has been appointed Personal Representative (PR) of the estate of Jeffrey Randall May, deceased, by the Circuit Court, State of Oregon, Deschutes County, Case No. 21PB00264. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the PR at 204 SE Miller Ave, Bend, OR 97702, within four months after the date of March 2, 2021, the first publication of this notice, or the claim may be barred. Additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the PR, or the lawyer for the PR, Patricia Nelson.

Legal Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF DESCHUTES

No. 20PB05682
In the Matter of the Estate of CAROL CHAPPELL Deceased.
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY

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GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative c/o Lawrence W. Erwin, Attorney at Law, 221 NW Lafayette Avenue, Bend, OR 97703, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, Connie Smith.

Dated and first published March 09, 2021.
/s/ Connie Smith
Personal Representative

Legal Notice
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
GIVEN that Dorothy Roth under the Robert and Dorothy Roth Joint Trust, dated February 9, 2009, as amended on February 4, 2020, has petitioned the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Deschutes, under Circuit Court Case No. 21PB01241 to determine the claims of the creditors of the trust settlor, Robert Rene Roth, who is now deceased.

All claims against the trust estate must be present with vouchers attached, to Dorothy Roth, c/o Lisa Andrach, Fitch & Neary, P.C., 210 SW 5 th Street, Suite 2, Redmond, OR 97756, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Trustee, or the Attorney for the Trustee.

Dated and first published March 9, 2021.
(Publish 3 times)
ATTORNEY FOR TRUSTEE:
Lisa Andrach
210 SW 5 th Street, Suite 2
Redmond, OR 97756
P: (541)316-1588

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