

## Risk

### Continued from A1

In the Portland metro area, Multnomah County showed enough improvement to join Washington and Clackamas counties at moderate level. Lane County, which includes Eugene, dropped to moderate level.

In Northwest Oregon, Clatsop and Columbia counties continued to show low enough rates to continue their current risk status. Yamhill County's case rate dropped low enough to qualify for moderate risk status.

Tillamook County, however, showed increases that put it back into the moderate risk category, bucking the north coastal trend of lowered infection rates.

In Eastern Oregon, Umatilla County showed improvement, but not enough to move out of the high risk level.

Harney, Hood River, Morrow and Lake counties all moved to lower risk from moderate risk.

Baker moved to a moderate level, up from lower, because of infection trends going up.

Curry County showed rising rates that moved it to the higher risk level, and Josephine County moved from high to moderate.

Brown said two counties that had moved higher in risk during the past two weeks would be given a two-week grace period to try to correct their trends instead of being required to go to tighter restrictions.

Two counties fell into that category this week:

Malheur County qualifies for high risk level, but will remain at moderate risk level restrictions until the next analysis is announced March 23.

Jackson County qualifies for extreme risk, but will be given the same chance to improve before new risk levels are announced.

The improved overall risk level picture came a day after the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced it would award \$110 million to bolster Oregon Health Authority in operating dozens of vaccination centers around the state.

OHA said the FEMA support would enable the agency to administer 2 million shots during a 90-day period. The FEMA program will send funds to the Oregon Emergency Management Department to then reimburse expenses by local, tribal and

### Risk levels as of March 12

#### Lower risk (13)

- Clatsop
- Crook (moved from high)
- Gilliam
- Grant
- Harney (moved from moderate)
- Hood River (moved from moderate)
- Lake (moved from moderate)
- Lincoln
- Morrow (moved from moderate)
- Sherman
- Wallowa
- Wasco
- Wheeler

#### Moderate risk (12)

- Baker (moved from lower)
- Clackamas
- Deschutes (moved from high)
- Klamath (moved from high)
- Lane (moved from high)
- Linn
- Malheur\*
- Multnomah (moved from high)
- Tillamook (moved from lower)
- Union
- Washington
- Yamhill (moved from high)

#### High risk (9)

- Benton (moved from extreme)
- Columbia
- Curry (moved from moderate)
- Jackson\*\*
- Jefferson (moved from extreme)
- Josephine (moved from extreme)
- Marion
- Polk
- Umatilla

#### Extreme risk (2)

- Coos
- Douglas

\*Malheur County qualifies for high risk level, but will remain at moderate risk level restrictions until the next analysis is announced March 23.

\*\*Jackson County qualifies for extreme risk, but will remain at high risk until new risk levels are announced.

state authorities.

Oregon Health Authority Director Pat Allen told a legislative panel last week that increased flow of vaccine doses and the availability of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine have state officials hoping to have 70% of residents inoculated by April 21.

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## COVID-19 | Vaccines

# Teachers move up on priority list

*White House guidance will shut out elderly Oregonians from some appointments*

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG

The Oregonian

Elderly Oregonians who tried to sign up for COVID-19 vaccinations at some pharmacies this week learned they are no longer eligible for appointments because of new national guidance from the White House that prioritizes teachers.

But Oregon already prioritized teachers, authorizing vaccinations Jan. 25 even as seniors were forced to wait until Feb. 8 through March 1 for their turns. Oregon is now significantly behind states like California and Washington in its rate of vaccinations among seniors.

The federal policy amounts to another setback for older Oregonians, who are among the most vulnerable to the virus. It has prompted Gov. Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority to urge local pharmacies to disregard the federal guidance and continue vaccinating seniors 65 and older.

"This was a decision made at the federal level without prior consultation with state leaders," Charles Boyle, a spokesperson for Brown's office, said in



Gillian Flaccus/AP file

Sara Plush, an employee of Fred Meyer, adds a sheet with information about how to get a COVID-19 vaccine to groceries ordered by a homebound senior citizen in Portland last month.

an email Tuesday. "Governor Brown is working directly with the White House to update this policy to allow pharmacies participating in the federal program in states like Oregon, which have largely vaccinated our educator workforce, to continue to schedule appointments for seniors."

President Joe Biden announced on March 2 that he would prioritize vaccinating teachers before the end of March, part of a national effort to safely reopen schools. To

do that, he said he would ask pharmacies participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program to set aside appointment slots for teachers beginning this week.

The new limits only apply to vaccine appointments at retail pharmacies participating in the federal program, which were tentatively scheduled to receive 35,000 doses across Oregon this week, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Other sites, including clinics and mass vaccination sites like

## Moratorium

Continued from A1

"From my point of view, we should have done it during the third special session to extend it. It's been well-worked," Kotek told reporters during her weekly availability on Monday.

"We are pushing Chair Holvey to move it as soon as possible. It is something people need certainty on in terms of how their mortgage payments will be handled in the situation we are in right now. We need to keep people housed, so it is a priority."

Kotek's call coincided with near-final congressional action on President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief plan, which includes \$10 billion nationally for homeowner assistance. The House is scheduled Wednesday to take a final vote on the Senate-amended plan before it goes to Biden for his signature.

Rep. Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, said she isn't sure what Oregon's share would be, although

it is likely to exceed \$100 million if it is distributed according to population. "That federal aid would be in addition to \$30 million for homeowner assistance contained in a \$500 million state plan unveiled Monday, March 8," Fahey said.

Fahey sits on the Business and Labor Committee and also leads the Housing Committee.

The state bill would allow one extension by Brown to Dec. 31, through an executive order, but only if she gives notice by Aug. 16.

Aug. 16.

Banks and credit unions oppose or question the need for state legislation, given that 70% of Oregon mortgages already fall under a federal moratorium that is scheduled to end June 30.

But housing advocates in support of the bill mentioned the Household Pulse survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, which ranks Oregon 17th among the states in terms of people reporting they are

behind on rent or mortgage payments and are at risk of eviction or foreclosure within two months.

Oregon's 38.1% of 153,402 surveyed online put it below Idaho (15th) but ahead of Nevada (19th). California and Washington ranked lower. The margin of error is 12.4 points, which means that the actual ratio of people at risk could be as low as 1 of 4 — or as high as 1 in 2.

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## Baker City will call on state to consult locally on restrictions

Baker City Herald

The Baker City Council is planning to send a letter to Gov. Kate Brown asking her to consider opinions from local residents when the state is imposing COVID-19 restrictions on businesses and other activities.

Councilors discussed the issue during their meeting Feb. 23. They asked Councilor Jason Spriet to draft a letter to the governor for the full council to review.

Councilors were expected to discuss Spriet's draft letter during Tuesday's meeting.

Spriet's draft notes that in 2020, the state "Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was directed to make Oregon a more equitable place for every Oregonian."

He goes on to write that one element of that strategy was to have state officials work with community leaders in making decisions.

"We do not currently feel that this element of the framework is being realized," Spriet wrote. "Our community is not currently being heard by our state leadership. We are asking for a seat at the table, a voice for our citizens, and an opportunity to provide input to restrictions that have a profound effect on our rural communities."

Find it all online  
bendbulletin.com

## DEATH NOTICES

**John P. Vanderheiden, M.D.** of Bend, OR  
May 6, 1937 - March 4, 2021

**Arrangements:** Baird Funeral Home of Bend is honored to serve the Vanderheiden family. Please visit our website, [www.bairdfh.com](http://www.bairdfh.com), to share condolences and sign our online guest book.

**Services:** A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, March 11 at 10:00 AM at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church at 2450 NE 27th Street Bend, Oregon 97701. A rosary will take place prior to Mass in the church. Graveside services will follow. The Mass will be livestreamed. A Celebration of Life for Dr. John Vanderheiden will be held at a later date.

**Contributions may be made to:** Partners in Care Hospice of Bend  
2075 NE Wyatt Court Bend, Oregon 97701  
<https://www.partnersbend.org/donation/>

St. Francis of Assisi for the restoration of the historic church  
2450 NE 27th Street Bend, Oregon 97701  
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/sain2450195>

Mt. Bachelor Sports and Education Foundation (MBSEF)  
2765 NW Lola Drive Bend, Oregon 97703  
<http://www.mbsef.org/>

**Richard "Dick" A. Davis** of Sisters, OR; Redmond, OR  
November 13, 1937 - February 19, 2021

**Arrangements:** Arrangements Entrusted To: Redmond Memorial Chapel  
[www.redmondmemorial.com](http://www.redmondmemorial.com); 541.548.3219

**Services:** A Graveside Service will be held at Redmond Memorial Cemetery on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 11:00AM

**Contributions may be made to:** Local Charity of Choice

**Sylvia G. Hatton** of Bend, OR  
July 2, 1933 - Feb 5, 2021

**Arrangements:** Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. 541-382-2471 Please visit the online registry for the family at [www.niswonger-reynolds.com](http://www.niswonger-reynolds.com)

**Services:** A Memorial Gathering will be held Monday, June 28, 2021 at 5:30pm at Awbrey Glen Clubhouse 2500 NW Awbrey Glen Drive | Bend, OR 97703

### OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines  
541-385-5809  
Monday-Friday 10am-3pm

Email: [obits@bendbulletin.com](mailto:obits@bendbulletin.com)

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