

Eligibility

Continued from A1

There are an estimated 2.8 million adults in Oregon out of a population of just under 4.3 million.

The numbers for the next eligibility groups have not been announced, but were provided by the Oregon Health Authority in response to a query by EO Media Group. OHA Director Pat Allen is scheduled to testify on the status of the state's vaccination program on Wednesday before the House Subcommittee on COVID-19.

The last change to the eligibility list was March 1, when everyone age 65 and older was approved to get vaccinated.

On March 29, eligibility will be extended to an estimated 530,000 more people, according to OHA. The group includes those 45 and older with medical conditions that put them at higher risk of severe illness or death, pregnant women 16 and older and homeless people.

On May 1, an estimated 550,000 more people will be eligible. The minimum age for those with medical conditions will be extended to those 16 and older. It also includes essential workers as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease

Vaccine eligibility

PHASE 1A (DEC. 2020): 400,000

Medical and health care workers, people and staff in nursing homes, home care workers, disabled receiving care at home

PHASE 1B (JAN. 25) — EDUCATORS: 153,000

Teachers, schools staff, day care workers

PHASE 1B (FEB. 8 — MARCH 1) — OVER 65: 795,000

Rolling eligibility that began with those 80 and older on Feb. 8 and dropped five years each week until everyone 65 and over was eligible.

COURT ORDER FOR CORRECTIONS FACILITIES (FEB. 2): 15,000

A federal court order added inmates and staff at correctional institutions to be retroactively added to Phase 1A eligibility.

PHASE 1B, GROUP 6 (MARCH 29): 530,000

Adults 45–64 with health conditions that put them at increased risk of severe illness or death from in-

fection. People 16 and older who are pregnant. Homeless people. Many food processing workers and farmworkers. Many senior housing residents not previously covered. People displaced by wildfires and wildland firefighters.

PHASE 1B, GROUP 7 (MAY 1): 550,000

People age 16 to 44 with underlying health conditions at risk of severe illness or death from infection. Front-line workers as defined by CDC. Multigenerational household members.

PHASE 2, GROUP 1 (JUNE 1) — NUMBER NOT YET RELEASED

Everyone 45 and older

PHASE 2, GROUP 2 (JULY 1) — NUMBER NOT YET RELEASED

Everyone 16 and older: TBD

FUTURE GROUP: CHILDREN — NO DATE OR NUMBER YET RELEASED

There are currently no vaccines approved for those under 16, though Moderna has begun trials on a version of its vaccine.

Control and Prevention and members of multigenerational households.

The final two groups are everyone else 45 and older on June 1 and everyone 16 and older on July 1.

President Joe Biden has set May 1 as the date when states should open eligibility to all those 16 and older. But Gov.

Kate Brown said the state would stick with its current priority system until there is a firm commitment from federal health authorities of a major increase in vaccine being sent to the state.

Oregon health officials felt burned in January when they announced eligibility for everyone over 65 based on what

turned out to be an erroneous statement by federal health officials in the Trump administration. Brown had to reverse the order and restore a tiered priority system.

Since the arrival of the first vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna in December, about 1.36 million people in Oregon are in the nine priority groups al-

ready eligible.

But the state reports total shots to date at 1,346,090. The vast majority of the shots are the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which require two shots spaced about a month apart.

That translates into just under 674,000 two-shot inoculations, enough for less than half of those eligible. The gap between eligibility and availability has resulted in widespread frustration over trying to book appointments with county health authorities, pharmacies or other medical providers.

Recently, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine that requires just one shot has arrived in Oregon.

Through March 15, a total of 1,642,505 doses of vaccines have been delivered to Oregon.

Oregon has averaged about 24,000 shots per day, putting it in the middle of states nationwide.

Because of Brown's decision to prioritize educators over seniors in January, the state is below the national average for seniors who have been inoculated. Though vaccine is provided through the federal government and the CDC has a suggested prioritization list, states ultimately have authority to decide who gets inoculated at what point.

Oregon has been one of the safest places in the country during the pandemic. The state has the fourth lowest number of COVID-19 cases per capita among all states, according to an ongoing count by the New York Times. Only Hawaii, Vermont and Maine have performed better since the first COVID-19 case was reported in Washington on Jan. 21, 2020.

Over the past week, Oregon has the second lowest number of cases per capita, with only Hawaii reporting fewer infections.

Oregon has the fifth lowest per capita fatality rate since the pandemic began, with Hawaii, Vermont, Alaska and Maine reporting lower.

Over the past week, Oregon has the third lowest per capita fatality rate, with only Alaska and Hawaii scoring lower.

OHA reported Tuesday that Oregon has had 160,050 cases of COVID-19 and 2,346 deaths since February 2020.

Nationwide, there have been 29.54 million COVID-19 cases nationwide, with 536,826 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. Worldwide, there have been over 120 million cases and 2.67 million deaths.

† gwarnar@omediagroup.com

Schools

Continued from A1

At the moment, many local schools don't have the space to accommodate the small class sizes that 6 feet of social distancing requires.

"I was definitely let down," Nordquist said. "For us, it was really critical that we get the 6 feet changed to 3 feet in order to get our kids all in." Removing cohort limitations will provide more options, said Charan Cline, Redmond superintendent, "but it's about how many students can we fit into a classroom, and that's completely governed by the distance between the students."

In Bend-La Pine, grades 4-12 attend in-person school two days a week, with three days of learning from home, Nordquist said.

Redmond's middle schoolers have the same two-day-a-week schedule as Bend-La Pine. High school students are on campus for four half-days a week — they're in class in the morning, and home for the afternoon, or vice versa, Cline said.

Redmond fourth and fifth graders are in-person five days a week. But they're only with teachers part time and spend half their day working on assignments in a separate room with staff supervision, to allow for smaller class sizes, Cline said.

Both Cline and Nordquist told The Bulletin Tuesday that many experts have recommended shrinking the social distancing standard of 6 feet — currently recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — to 3 feet.

A March study published in the Clinical Infectious Diseases medical journal, in which more than 530,000 Massachusetts students were studied,

found that COVID-19 case rates were similar for schools with 6 feet and 3 feet of distance. The World Health Organization recommends separating students by one meter, or about 3.3 feet.

The CDC is looking into reducing its 6-foot guidance to 3 feet, according to NPR.

Marc Siegel, spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Education, told The Bulletin that the state didn't budge on 6 feet because more research into the issue was needed. Furthermore, the state looks to the CDC for guidance on the matter, he wrote in an email Tuesday.

Nordquist said she's confident that the state and the feds will shift the social distancing guidance from 6 to 3 feet. But she's worried that change won't happen until the school year is almost over.

"It will be very disappointing to me if our students have to go on a hybrid model for the next three months, and then guidance changes June 1," Nordquist said. "Every day our students aren't in class every day, they're losing."

For Redmond, the concern isn't a lack of space, but not enough teachers to lead smaller-sized classes, Cline said.

"It's more teachers that I need per kid, more bodies per student," he said.

Still, both Cline and Nordquist said the removal of the 100-student cohort rule will allow for more flexibility in their schools.

"There are early conversations about, can we find some more in-class, extended learning time for kids, based on the cohort learning schedule?" Nordquist said. "It is a piece of good news, it just doesn't fundamentally change the hybrid schedule."

† Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

Georgia massage parlor shootings leave 8 dead

BY KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Shootings at two massage parlors in Atlanta and one in the suburbs Tuesday evening left eight people dead, many of them women of Asian descent, authorities said.

A 21-year-old man suspected in the shootings was taken into custody in southwest Georgia hours later after a manhunt, police said.

The attacks began around 5 p.m., when five people were shot at Youngs Asian Massage Parlor in a strip mall near a rural area in Acworth, about 30 miles north of Atlanta, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Jay Baker said. Two people died at the scene and three were transported to a hospital where two of them also died, Baker said.

Around 5:50 p.m., police in Atlanta, responding to a call of a robbery in progress, found three women dead from apparent gunshot wounds at Gold Spa.

While they were at that scene, they learned of a call reporting shots fired at another spa across the street, Aromatherapy Spa, and found a woman who appeared to have been shot dead inside the business.

The killings came amid a recent wave of attacks against Asian Americans that coincided with the

spread of the coronavirus across the United States.

A man suspected in the Acworth shooting was captured by surveillance video. Baker said the suspect, Robert Aaron Long, of Woodstock, was taken into custody.

Baker said they believe Long is also the suspect in the Atlanta shootings.

Due to the shootings, Atlanta police said they dispatched officers to check nearby similar businesses and increased patrols in the area.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Prineville man electrocuted while working on wood

A Prineville man was electrocuted Tuesday at Lakeshore RV Park while he was using a homemade power supply box to burn decorative designs into wood, according to the Crook County Sheriff's Office.

A person called 911 around 3 p.m. to report finding a man unresponsive on the ground and not breathing. Sheriff's deputies arrived to find Kyle Johnson, 26, on the ground next to a camp trailer. After deputies disconnected power supplies to the trailer, Crook County Fire & Rescue medics used non-conductive tools to disconnect the remaining power cord and pronounced Johnson dead.

According to the sheriff's office, Johnson's wood burning tool was connected to an outlet in the trailer with an extension cord and he was in the process of burning wood when he was electrocuted. No ground fault circuit interrupter or power breaker had been tripped.

—Bulletin staff report

ENTER TO WIN THE HIGH DESERT STAMPEDE GIVEAWAY!



WIN TWO TICKETS

to the Friday, March 26 Rodeo

performance and a \$50 gift certificate to Carnaval Mexican Grill in Redmond, OR.

You can enter online, by email, or by mailing the form below.

HIGH DESERT STAMPEDE GIVEAWAY ENTRY FORM

First & Last Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Mailing Address

Date of Birth

Please check here if you would like to be contacted about subscribing to The Bulletin.

MAIL YOUR ENTRY FORM TO:

Enter to Win!
C/O The Bulletin
P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708

SEE CONTEST DETAILS AND ENTER ONLINE AT

www.BendBulletin.com/offers
Email your entry to
enter-to-win@bendbulletin.com
No purchase necessary to enter.
All entries must be received by
3/21/2021.

HIGH
DESERT
STAMPEDE

SPONSORED BY

The Bulletin
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

CARNIVAL
Mexican Grill

OVBC
Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

We want your voice to be a part of the conversations shaping Oregon's future.

Share your opinion. Earn money. Join the OVBC Panel.

panel.oregonvbc.org