

TODAY

Today is Monday, March 29, the 88th day of 2021. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **March 29, 1974**, eight Ohio National Guardsmen were indicted on federal charges stemming from the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. (The charges were later dismissed.)

In **1638**, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In **1812**, the first White House wedding took place as Lucy Payne Washington, the sister of first lady Dolley Madison, married Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd.

In **1867**, Britain's Parliament passed, and Queen Victoria signed, the British North America Act creating the Dominion of Canada, which came into being the following July.

In **1936**, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler claimed overwhelming victory in a plebiscite on his policies.

In **1951**, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union. (They were executed in 1953.)

In **1973**, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In **2017**, Britain filed for divorce from the European Union as Prime Minister Theresa May sent a six-page letter to EU Council President Donald Tusk.

Ten years ago: A seriously ill 73-year-old British woman was accidentally dropped into the bitterly cold Norwegian Sea as rescue workers took her off the cruise ship Ocean Countess (Janet Richardson later died at a hospital).

Five years ago: Oscar-winning actor Patty Duke, 69, died in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

One year ago: President Donald Trump extended restrictive social distancing guidelines through April, bracing the nation for a coronavirus death toll that he acknowledged could exceed 100,000 people.

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Guest is 85. Former British Prime Minister Sir John Major is 78. Comedian Eric Idle is 78. Basketball Hall of Famer Walt Frazier is 76. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 74. Actor Bud Cort is 73. Actor Marina Sirtis is 66. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Jane's Addiction) is 62. Comedian-actor Amy Sedaris is 60. Model Elle Macpherson is 58. Rock singer-musician John Popper (Blues Traveler) is 54. Actor Lucy Lawless is 53.

—Associated Press

Coos

Continued from A1

Still, health officials cautioned that the county's modest improvements could easily be wiped away by additional virus spread.

"We're in spring break right now, so let's not forget what that could bring," said Becky Fairhurst, a CHW case investigator.

Travelers and gatherings during breaks have been attributed to county cases in the past, Gleason said.

"We always have seen spikes after large events, like large gatherings. Luckily we're not Florida, but it still could be pretty bad depending on who has done what and where," Gleason said. "So, fingers crossed that maybe we've learned something from that, that we aren't going to go and put ourselves in a position that sets us back."

Tourists and visitors from out of the area can be a particular challenge for county health officials.

"We do try to determine where people got the illness," Fairhurst said. "It's getting harder and harder because there's a lot of community spread right now, but if someone's forthcoming and they say, 'my relative or friend came from California and they went back and tested positive,' we might be able to reflect it there too, but we don't always know."

New restriction categories will be announced April 6 to take effect April 9. To leave the extreme-risk category, the county will need to reduce that per-100,000 number to 200 or fewer, and that test positivity below 10%.

Spread

Continued from A1

Worldwide, half a billion vaccine doses have been administered, according to Bloomberg's vaccine tracker. While shots have been given in some 140 countries, the vast majority have gone to developed nations that secured early doses by the hundreds of millions. That disparity risks prolonging the pandemic, even for places currently leading the vaccination race.

"We need to try to bridge the gap between the vaccine haves and vaccine have-nots to really meet the goals that we're seeking to achieve in ending this pandemic and getting our economies running again," Thomas Bollyky, director of the global health program at the Council on Foreign Relations, said in an interview.

Covax, a facility that aims to distribute doses equitably around the globe, has started delivering shots to lower-income countries like Ivory Coast and Ghana, but the WHO has said more needs to be done.

Here's a look at how vaccine disparities and a resurgent virus are playing out in half a dozen countries.

Israel

Israel's economy has mostly reopened now that half the country is fully vaccinated and new cases are plunging.

People are flocking back to the restaurants and bars that survived the pandemic, crowding the country's beaches and enjoying live concerts and football matches in the early days of spring.

Israel is still closed to foreign tourists out of concern the spread of variants could undermine its vaccination program. Still, some hotels say they're fully booked for the Passover holiday, which will be celebrated without new restrictions on movement. That's a switch from last year, when lockdowns were imposed over the period to avoid a spike in cases.

Britain

The U.K. remains in a lockdown, but the government's roadmap to reopening the economy has offered a pathway to normality for a population that's being vaccinated faster than any of its European neighbors.

The country recently passed the milestone of giving a first dose to



Palmiro Tami, 82, holds hands with his wife, Franca Persico, in the garden of the Fondazione Martino Zanchi nursing home in northern Italy on March 22 after he received his second shot of the Moderna vaccine. Italy's nursing homes have been declared an initial success in an otherwise lagging vaccine campaign.

Luca Bruno/AP

more than half its adults. It set a daily record on March 20, inoculating almost 1.3% of the population on a single day. Hospitalizations also fell by more than a fifth from the week before, bringing some relief to the National Health Service.

Schools have reopened and some employees are starting to return to offices in London's financial districts, but residents won't be able to eat at restaurants or buy non-essential goods in stores for another two weeks. Still, the government hopes to remove all lockdown restrictions, including allowing nightclubs to reopen, by June 21.

United States

The daily death toll has fallen steadily since mid-February as states pushed to speed vaccinations and balanced medical concerns with protests by anti-lockdown groups.

Yet disparities remain. While New Mexico has given at least one dose to over a third of its population, Georgia has just managed a fifth. The inequities are also present among racial groups: in 16 U.S. states and Washington, D.C., less than 10% of the Hispanic population has been vaccinated — a milestone most states reached with white populations weeks ago. Still, more than a quarter of Americans have received their first vaccine dose.

Restaurants in New York City — once the pandemic's American epicenter — can now operate at 50% capacity indoors, with many diners taking advantage of covered sidewalk seating in Manhattan. The

city's mayor has announced plans for a vaccination center on Broadway to inoculate theater-industry workers in preparation for a planned re-opening in September.

The U.S. is now averaging nearly 62,000 cases a day, up from 54,000 two weeks ago, according to The Associated Press.

Brazil

About a year after the virus first arrived and two months after vaccinations began, Brazil is going through its worst stretch of the pandemic yet.

The vast Latin American nation reported 3,650 deaths on Friday, its highest daily toll. On Wednesday, it became just the second country after the U.S. to record 300,000 fatalities. Since starting inoculations in mid-January, just 6% of the population has received a dose. The crisis has prompted neighbors to close borders, impose travel bans and require forced quarantines.

President Jair Bolsonaro, who long downplayed the coronavirus, has now promised to speed up vaccination efforts. The pathogen's resurgence follows months of relatively lax rules, which included New Year's celebrations and clandestine parties in Rio de Janeiro.

India

India, a vaccine-making colossus key to supplying much of the world with low-cost shots, has struggled to immunize itself. Now the country of almost 1.4 billion is slowing exports to keep more doses at home after

new infections climbed sixfold since February to more than 60,000 a day.

Last week, the government expanded the rollout to everyone over the age of 45 and has allowed its huge network of private hospitals to charge a subsidized rate for the vaccines. Those moves have boosted immunization rates and may help Prime Minister Narendra Modi reach a target of inoculating 300 million Indians by August.

While India has been reluctant to reimpose lockdowns after a costly shutdown last year did little to halt the spread of the virus, there are increasing concerns that tighter restrictions may be needed.

Italy

A year after it became Europe's first virus hotspot, Italy has again been forced to impose a costly lockdown.

In the nation with the highest death toll in the European Union, daily fatalities have been climbing since the start of the month as a highly contagious strain spreads across the country. Prime Minister Mario Draghi has been pressing the EU to lean on pharmaceutical companies to respect vaccine delivery commitments while warning that Italy will block exports by firms that breach contracts.

A general has been appointed as a new virus czar to speed up the vaccine rollout and make sure that all Italian regions keep up the pace. Draghi hopes to gradually ease Italy's lockdown after the Easter holidays and to vaccinate 80% of citizens by the end of September.

Redistricting

Continued from A1

Only about half the states have laws or constitutional provisions explicitly requiring them to use census data, according to the NCSL.

Oregon's deadline: July 1

In Oregon, the state constitution requires lawmakers to draw legislative districts "according to population" by July 1. If they fail to do so, then the secretary of state is to complete maps by Aug. 15.

Democratic legislative leaders cited "constitutional turmoil" caused by late census data in asking the state Supreme Court to extend redistricting deadlines until three months after the figures are received. But Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, a Democrat, contends that could trigger a chain reaction that could delay the state's May 2022 primaries.

"The resulting cost, confusion, and instability to Oregon's electoral process could be staggering," Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum argued in a court filing on Fagan's behalf.

Fagan suggests the Legislature could use population estimates from Portland State University to draft maps by the constitutional deadline and revise them during a likely legal challenge as the 2020 census data becomes available. Officials at the university's Population Research Center told The Associated Press that their statewide estimates were off by just 0.2% — fewer than 8,000 people — during the 2010 census.

Other states

The Oklahoma Constitution requires the Legislature to redraw its districts within 90 working days of starting its regular session.

With the clock ticking, lawmakers have decided to use population estimates from 2015 to 2019 to redraw legislative maps. After the 2020 census data is released, the Legislature may reconvene in a special session if adjustments

are needed.

"There's an awful lot you can do with the data that are already available to start on a rough sketch" for redistricting, said Justin Levitt, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles who specializes in redistricting.

But relying on anything other than 2020 census data for the final maps poses a "substantial legal risk," Levitt said.

Lawsuits over redistricting are a near certainty in many states as political parties angle to get preferential maps. A decade ago, courts twice delayed the Texas primaries because of legal challenges to the maps drawn by the Republican-led Legislature.

Candidate filing for Texas' March 1 primary is scheduled to run from mid-November to mid-December. But Republican Rep. Phil King is sponsoring legislation that would allow the governor, lieutenant governor and House speaker to agree to delay the primaries to as late as July 1.

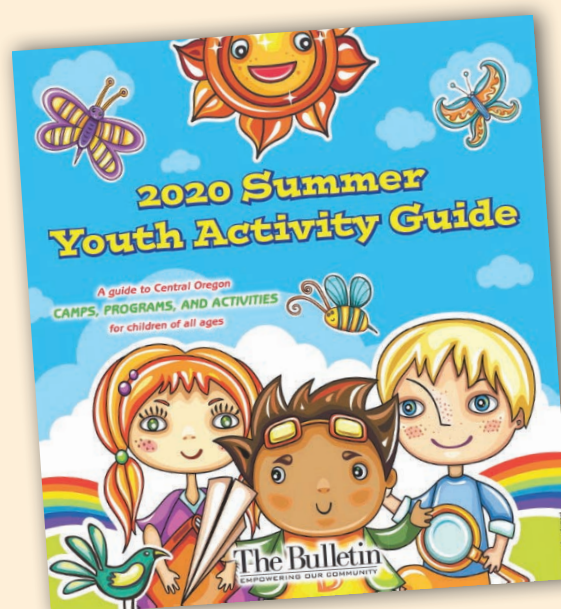
If census data isn't received until September, "it gets pretty tight," King said. "This is just a safety net in case we have to back it up a little bit."

North Carolina's top elections administrator wants lawmakers to postpone November municipal elections and March 2022 primaries. But Key Republican lawmakers say it's too soon to know whether that's necessary. Only about 60 of the hundreds of municipalities will need to redraw wards or districts.

It's not just potential candidates who are affected by the delayed census data. Election administrators need time to align new districts into voting precincts so each voter gets a ballot listing the correct candidates. And officials need to get that done early enough to mail ballots to military and overseas voters at least 45 days before an election.

"All these things, they're all asking for time, and it's all just getting crazy compressed because of this late census data," Mitchell said.

COMING SOON! 2021 SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE



- The perfect place to share your message with local parents, you don't have to be part of an activity to invite them into your business.
- Valuable tool for planning ahead and keeping kids busy all summer long.
- Includes detailed information on day and overnight camps, art, science and outdoor adventure programs and summer safety tips.
- Includes camps and other activities from out of the area.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE MONDAY, APRIL 5

Publishes in The Bulletin Friday, April 16



HALF OR FULL PAGE ADVERTISERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A 500 WORD STORY AND PHOTO ABOUT THEIR CAMP OR PROGRAM.

Contact Leanna Williams
at 541-617-7865 or
email: lwilliams@bendbulletin.com

The Bulletin
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY