

Sign up for a vaccine

On Monday, all Oregonians 16 and older are eligible to sign up for a vaccine. Deschutes County Health Services is recommending that residents pre-register by going online to www.centraloregoncovidvaccine.com.

Free COVID-19 testing

The Deschutes County Health Services and the Oregon Health Authority will offer free drive-thru COVID-19 testing to anyone from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Bend-La Pine Schools Education Center, 520 NW Wall St.

Testing is available to anyone with or without symptoms. No identification is required to be tested. Participants are asked to wear a mask and register online at doineedacovid19test.com. Staff will be onsite to register those unable to preregister.

Vaccine

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Johnson & Johnson vaccines are no longer administered at the mass vaccination center at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

Mosaic Medical, which has 15 clinics serving 27,000 patients in Central Oregon, said in a statement it was temporarily pausing use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in alignment with OHA and CDC recommendations.

"We have received several calls from Mosaic patients who have received the J&J vaccine, and we are sharing with them the information that the events under investigation are extremely rare — out of more than 6.8 million people who have received the J&J vaccine in the U.S., six have developed a rare but serious type of blood clot," said pharmacy services director Albert Noyes. "If the patient has received the J&J vaccine in the past three weeks and is experiencing severe headache, blurred vision, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath we will connect them immediately with emergency medical services, or their provider when appropriate, for further evaluation."

Noyes also said mild headache and flu-like symptoms 24 to 48 hours after vaccination are common and expected symptoms related to immune response.

Cieslak said severe symptoms include pain in the legs — which could indicate a blood clot — severe headache and abdominal pain. Anyone experiencing the symptoms should contact a doctor or lo-

cal public health agency. Information is also available by calling 211.

There have been no reports of any similar severe side effects to the Moderna and Pfizer two-shot vaccines.

Federal health officials will begin meeting Wednesday to look at the data on the severe cases and see if there is a direct connection between the vaccine and the illnesses.

Dr. Janet Woodcock, acting commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, said Tuesday during a press conference in Washington, D.C., that a review of the vaccine would likely be "a matter of days."

Cieslak said the state would resume using the one-shot vaccine as soon as it gets "a green light" from federal officials.

The halt in using Johnson & Johnson vaccines will not change plans to open up vaccine eligibility to everyone age 16 and older on Monday. Availability has lagged eligibility throughout the vaccination priority phases and the same is expected to occur next week.

"People will have to wait a little longer" to get vaccinated, Cieslak said.

Oregon officials had already been bracing for a steep drop in available doses of the vaccine due to a botched batch of 15 million doses that had to be destroyed at a Baltimore facility.

Oregon received over 60,000 doses last week, but the breakdown in the supply chain due to the mishap in Baltimore reduced the flow to 8,000 this week and down to 2,000 next week.

OHA reported Tuesday that 928,874 Oregon residents have been completely inocu-

lated, mostly with the two-shot Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. Another 539,753 people have received their first dose of a two-shot vaccine. The second shots are given three to four weeks after the first.

OHA has estimated that up to 3.2 million Oregonians are 16 and older, the age group currently approved as safe to vaccinate. Several research efforts into a vaccine for children are underway, but none has been given federal approval.

Asked if the pause would fuel vaccine hesitancy among Oregonians, Cieslak said that those predisposed to not be vaccinated will likely latch on to the issue.

"There are some people who are going to decline vaccination regardless," he said. "If they were thinking vaccinations were harmful anyway, this will give them additional fuel."

But the pause was actually a way to show the public that serious reactions, no matter how tiny a percentage, will be investigated. He expects the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be back in use relatively soon. Whatever vaccine is available, he encouraged residents to sign up.

The vaccines are "effective on a disease that has killed a lot of people," he said.

Gov. Kate Brown was inoculated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine March 6 to show the state's confidence in the vaccine. She has reported no side effects. The vaccine was also given to several lawmakers and staff during an April 7 clinic in Salem.

COVID-19 has infected 31.2 million people in the United States and caused over 562,000 deaths, according to the Johns



Matt Rourke/AP

A member of the Philadelphia Fire Department prepares a dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in March at a vaccination site. U.S. health regulators recommended a "pause" Tuesday in using that vaccine to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots.

Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

Oregon has had one of the lowest infection and death rates in the country, with OHA reporting 171,398 positive cases through Tuesday and 2,446 deaths.

Infections have been on the rise again over the past few weeks after a long decline following the peak levels of January.

Most of the deaths throughout the pandemic have been in adults 70 and older. About 75% of that population in Oregon has now been vaccinated.

The high immunization level of those most vulnerable to severe illness and death from COVID-19 has slowed hospitalizations and deaths during the current rise in overall infections.

■ Suzanne Roig of The Bulletin contributed to this report.
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COVID-19

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Case counts were 432 for the week of March 28 to April 10. The state evaluates each county every week and places them on either a warning week or a movement week up and down the risk scale.

Over the past two weeks, St. Charles Bend had a low of three patients with COVID-19 to as many as nine, Johnson said.

A review of the case counts by ZIP codes prepared by the Oregon Health Authority shows that Redmond had 5,039.6 cases per 100,000 people as of April 7, compared to the southern ZIP code in Bend that had 4,233.3 cases per 100,000.

Data scientists use the number of cases per 100,000 residents in any size ZIP code to make that rate comparable

with other ZIP codes.

By comparison, the ZIP code data show a rate of 18,309.5 cases per 100,000 for the Warm Springs area where some of the members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs live. The ZIP code area for the Sunriver area shows a rate of 186.6 per 100,000 people.

In the past couple weeks, there has been a growth in cases from spring break travel and social gatherings, said Carissa Heinige, Deschutes County Health Services Case Investigation Branch director. Cases are stemming from barbecues where people aren't wearing masks or maintaining 6 feet of distance, Heinige said.

"The best thing our community can do to prevent cases is to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine," Heinige said in an email. "Outdoor events are less risky, but we encourage people to remain diligent about wearing a mask and distancing."

The one large unknown that's looming is how prevalent variants are in the community, Johnson said. The next four to six weeks could provide more information. St. Charles Bend, which cares for the region's COVID-19 cases, has been seeing lower numbers of hospitalizations despite more people testing positive for COVID-19, he said.

"I'm hesitant to say how bad it could be," Johnson said. "It won't be as bad as it was in mid-December, when we were in our peak. The models say that we could reach half as much as that. The hospital could see a daily census as much as 30."

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U.S. to withdraw troops from Afghanistan by 9/11

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR AND ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

President Joe Biden will withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America that were coordinated from that country, several U.S. officials said Tuesday.

The decision defies a May 1 deadline for full withdrawal under a peace agreement the Trump administration reached with the Taliban last year, but leaves no room for additional extensions. A senior administration official called the September date an absolute deadline that won't be affected



J. Scott Applewhite/AP Pool

President Joe Biden speaks during a ceremony Tuesday to honor slain U.S. Capitol Police officer William "Billy" Evans.

by security conditions in the country.

While Biden's decision keeps U.S. troops in Afghanistan four

months longer than initially planned, it sets a firm end to two decades of war that killed more than 2,200 U.S. troops, wounded 20,000, and cost as much as \$1 trillion. The conflict largely crippled al-Qaida and led to the death of Osama bin Laden, the architect of the Sept. 11 attacks. But an American withdrawal also risks many of the gains made in democracy, women's rights and governance, while ensuring that the Taliban, who provided al-Qaida's safe haven, remain strong and in control of large swaths of the country.

Biden has been hinting for weeks he was going to let the May deadline lapse, and as the

days went by it became clear that an orderly withdrawal of the roughly 2,500 remaining troops would be difficult and was unlikely. The administration official said the drawdown would begin by May 1.

Biden's choice of the 9/11 date underscores the reason that American troops were in Afghanistan to begin with — to prevent extremist groups like al-Qaida from establishing a foothold again that could be used to launch attacks against the U.S.

The administration official said Biden decided that the withdrawal deadline had to be absolute, rather than based on conditions on the ground.

OSU

Continued from A1

"There was an extensive amount of community engagement that helped to inform the board chair," said Clark.

Johnson has numerous qualities that made her stand out as a potential interim president, Clark said. One of them is her longevity with the university.

With the exception of a six-month sabbatical at Lincoln University in New Zealand, Johnson has continuously worked for OSU since 1984, according to her resume. That year, she began as an assistant professor for OSU's college of forestry, and she slowly worked her way up the university ranks until she was named vice president of OSU-Cascades in 2009.

Johnson's lengthy tenure with the university, plus her 12 years leading one of OSU's campuses, gives her the needed experience to run OSU, said Clark.

"Here is someone who's had leadership responsibilities of one of our two campuses, who's engaged in fundraising and community relationships in Central Oregon, and (has built) legislative relationships," he said of Johnson. "All of these are important qualities for an interim president."

If Johnson is chosen as interim president, it is too soon to tell whether the board of trustees would later hire her permanently as OSU's presi-

dent, Clark said.

University leadership would then find an interim OSU-Cascades vice president, and then undergo an extensive outreach process to select a permanent replacement for Johnson at OSU-Cascades, Clark said.

On Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m., the board of trustees will host a community forum with Johnson, which will be live-streamed at OSU's website, according to Clark. Johnson will talk a little about herself, then answer questions from those

watching at home, he said.

Christine Coffin, OSU-Cascades spokesperson, said she and other university staff are excited for Johnson to potentially lead the entire university system.

"We are incredibly proud of the impact Vice President Johnson has had at OSU-Cascades for more than a decade," she wrote in an email.

Johnson declined to be interviewed for this article.

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

Find it all online
bendbulletin.com

DEATH NOTICES

Leroy E. Hall
of Redmond, OR
June 1, 1930 -
November 20, 2020

Arrangements:
Arrangements Entrusted To: Redmond Memorial Chapel
www.redmondmemorial.com; 541.548.3219
Services:
Graveside Services are Scheduled for 12:00 pm, Sat., April 24, 2021 at Redmond Memorial Cemetery. A Memorial Service will follow at the Redmond VFW Hall at 1:00pm
Contributions may be made to:
Local Charity of Your Choice

Phyllis Arlene Lapora
of Redmond, OR
Nov 6, 1922 - April 7, 2021

Arrangements:
Autumn Funerals, Redmond 541-504-9485 www.autumnfunerals.net
Services:
No Services will be held at this time.

OBITUARY DEADLINE

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

Email: obits@bendbulletin.com

OBITUARY

Jared Alexander Walker
August 17, 1980 - March 26, 2021

With deepest sorrow, we announce that Jared Alexander Walker, our most beloved son, brother, family member, and friend passed suddenly, March 26, 2021, at the age of 40, in Houma, Louisiana.

A Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, April 13th, 2021.

Jared was born in Dubuque, IA, on August 17, 1980. He grew up living most of his life in Bend, OR and Kailua-Kona, HI. He loved baseball and the beach life of Kona as well as biking and snowboarding in Bend. Jared graduated from Mt. View High School, in Bend, OR, class of 1998.

Jared always filled a room with laughter and made sure everyone around him felt comfortable. Growing up he loved going to the movies, playing baseball, and hanging out with his family and friends. He enjoyed all sports, but especially baseball. As he grew older, Jared's love of baseball, grew into a love of life. He embraced his family and friends and always had a way of making a person smile. His sense of humor was infectious. Jared will, most certainly, be remembered for his quick wit and fun-loving attitude.

Jared will be missed everyday by his father, John Walker, of Kailua-Kona, HI, mother, Debrah (Tad) Walker and sister, Cameron Walker, of Bend, OR, his loving aunt, Dianna Calhoun, of Lakewood, WA, uncles Douglas Walker, of Steilacoom, WA, Bruce Walker, of Shelton, WA and Charles Busch, of Lakewood, WA, cousins, Michelle, Greg, Ethan, and Aiden Christenson, of Lakewood, WA, and Samantha (Brandon) Russel, of Portsmouth, VA, step grandparent Claudine (Sue) Walker, of Bend, OR and Jared's adored friends, Christy Billiot, Jesse Whitfield, Rilyn Billiot, and Kobe Ford, of Houma, LA.

We know Jared is now with his beloved paternal grandparents, Douglas and Jacqueline Walker and maternal grandparents William and Dorothy Busch and step grandparent, Clinton Walker.

We love and miss you so much my son.

Chauvin Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jared Alexander Walker.

<https://www.chauvinfuneralhome.com/obituary/jared-walker> In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Charles Hospice or to the Alzheimer's Association, Central Oregon Chapter.

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