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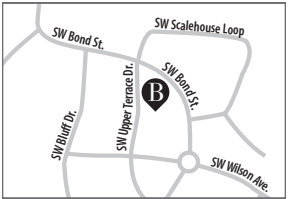
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

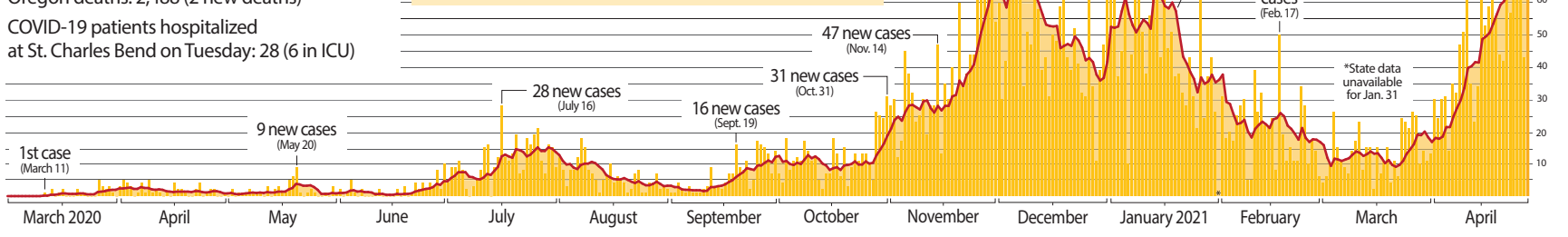
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

### COVID-19 data for Tuesday, April 27:

Deschutes County cases: 7,756 (80 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 73 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 957 (9 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 2,100 (3 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 182,040 (740 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,488 (2 new deaths)  
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 28 (6 in ICU)

**What is COVID-19?** A disease caused by a coronavirus. Symptoms (including fever and shortness of breath) can be severe, even fatal, though some cases are mild.

**Ways to help limit its spread:** 1. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. 2. Avoid touching your face. 3. Avoid close contact with sick people. 4. Stay 6 feet from others and wear a face covering or mask. 5. Cover a sneeze with a tissue or cough into your elbow. 6. Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces.



# Vaccine demand drops in Umatilla county

BY JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

As Umatilla County is likely headed back into the "high risk" category for COVID-19, the county is turning away vaccine allocations from the state because supply has outpaced demand.

Umatilla County Public Health Director Joe Fiumara said the county told the state it could send last week's allocation for Umatilla County to a county with higher demand and will likely do so again this week.

"Our demand level is dropping dramatically," he said. Fiumara said Umatilla County Public Health has about 6,000 vaccine doses on hand, but is hearing from partners in the county that they don't need more doses yet. Last week, the county itself administered fewer than 500 doses total, and most of those were second doses. At some points during their most recent free



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian file

Susan Hilliard, right, receives her second dose of the Moderna vaccine during a drive-thru clinic operated by the Umatilla County Public Health Department in Pendleton in March.

clinic, Fiumara said, staff were just sitting and waiting around for anyone to arrive — a stark difference from the long lines a few weeks ago. According to the Oregon Health Authority, Umatilla County is the least vaccinated county in the state, with 19% of its population

fully vaccinated (versus 27% statewide) and 23% partially vaccinated. The OHA vaccine dashboard shows an incomplete picture, however. Some Umatilla County residents have been vaccinated through federal vaccine allocations directly to the Confederated Tribes of

the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and information about those doses goes to the federal government before making its way to the state. Others have received the vaccine from the VA hospital in Walla Walla, Washington, which also takes longer to show up in the OHA database.

What public health officials do know is that the vaccination rate so far is nowhere near the point needed to stop transmission of COVID-19, as evidenced by Umatilla County's rising cases and hospitalizations. Umatilla County was placed on a two-week warning period after passing the 100 cases per 100,000 people over a 14-day period mark that would put it back into high risk. OHA reported 114 cases total for Umatilla County over the past two weeks, all but guaranteeing the county will return to high risk in another week.

The county did get some

good news over the weekend — Oregon counties were once again cleared to begin administering the Johnson & Johnson version of the vaccine.

The vaccine was paused temporarily in the United States after six women out of nearly 7 million people vaccinated experienced dangerous blood clots. Since then, panels of experts at the state and federal level has determined the benefits of continuing with the vaccine far outweigh the risks. Fiumara pointed out that many over-the-counter medications sold in grocery stores have higher risks of serious side effects.

"It's still, relatively speaking, a very safe vaccine," he said.

Before the pause, he said, the county heard from many Umatilla County workers, particularly in agriculture and food processing, that they would only take the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, because it only requires one dose.

## OREGON LEGISLATURE | ON THE MOVE

# Out-of-state drivers may no longer need knowledge test

BY CHRIS LEHMAN  
The Oregonian

People who move to Oregon from another state would not have to demonstrate knowledge of their new state's traffic laws in order to get a driver's license under a bill on its way to the governor's desk after final Senate passage Monday.

It's part of an effort to help the Oregon DMV clear out a backlog of paperwork that's the result of measures the agency took last year to slow the spread of COVID-19 among its customers and employees.

The DMV said it administers about 100,000 such tests a year, and waiving the requirement would free up appointment slots at its field offices. Currently, an appointment is required to conduct in-person business at the DMV.

Eight states, including Oregon, require someone with a valid out-of-state license to take a knowledge test to trans-

fer their licenses, according to testimony from DMV Administrator Amy Joyce.

House Bill 2137 would also extend a grace period for drivers with expired licenses or vehicle registrations. It would allow the use of such documents for up to six months after the expiration date.

The current grace period for expired documents ends Friday. The bill would extend it through the end of 2021. The reason for the extension is DMV's ongoing struggle to catch up with its backlog.

That only solves part of the problem, said Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, who represents a district that borders Idaho.

"This bill should have been amended to reimburse Oregon residents who receive a citation for expired credentials when traveling in other states," said Findley, who said it's happened to his constituents when they've ventured across the state line.

# Bill aims to help forewarn police of deaf driver during traffic stops

BY ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — A deaf driver is pulled over by the police. The officer approaches the car. The driver doesn't respond to commands. The situation escalates, sometimes with fatal results. It's something deaf people worry about.

"They are scared to communicate with law enforcement officers because they are worried they would be shot in case they 'act' as if they are not listening to the police officers' instructions," said Steven Brown, vice president of Oregon Association of the Deaf.

The Oregon Senate unanimously passed a bill Monday to keep such situations

from developing. It was earlier passed by the House, also unanimously. It allows a person who is deaf or hard of hearing to have that noted on their vehicle's registration and on their driver's license.

"The intent behind the measure is to provide law enforcement with this information before they come in contact with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing," Lindsay Baker, assistant director of the Oregon Department of Transportation, testified in support of the bill.

If Gov. Kate Brown signs the bill into law, law enforcement officers would be able to learn — before walking up to the vehicle — that a driver is deaf as they run the license

plate through their database.

The action by Oregon lawmakers comes amid heightened awareness in the nation of how interactions with police can go horribly wrong. In 2016, a North Carolina state trooper shot Daniel Harris, who was deaf, to death after an attempted traffic stop.

David Barovian, of Hillsboro, is deaf. He told lawmakers having a notation about his deafness will make him feel safer.

"This would help a police officer or an emergency person know that I cannot hear them," Barovian said. "It would make me feel less worried if I were stopped by a police officer for any reason."

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