

The Bulletin

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Oregon | State of the pandemic

ZIP codes with most new cases include Redmond and Bend

BY BRAD SCHMIDT
The Oregonian

Coronavirus cases climbed dramatically across Oregon for a fifth consecutive week, according to the latest state data, tripling from the levels of mid-March. The Oregon Health Authority reported 5,729 confirmed or presumed infections for the week ending Sunday, April 25, up 21% from the previous week. New cases slightly outpaced the increase in week-to-week testing, which stood at 17%. Oregon has recorded five consecutive weeks with at least 21% more cases over the previous week. That's led to significant growth, with the

most recent case count three times as high as the 1,920 cases recorded during the week ending March 21. If there's solace, it appears that the week that concludes Sunday, May 2, is not on track to see such a high growth rate. In fact, there's a possibility the weekly case count stays roughly flat or even declines. In the previous week, ZIP codes in Central and Southern Oregon recorded the most new cases, while parts of the the Portland area and Salem also posted high numbers. The Oregonian monitors state coronavirus data, reporting by ZIP code the areas with the greatest weekly changes. The analysis also

highlights the areas with the most new cases in relation to population. Here's a brief summary of the communities that added the most cases for the week ending Sunday, April 25: **97603: Klamath Falls** This Klamath County ZIP code added 173 cases, raising its tally to 1,977. That's the 20th most in Oregon and 38th most per capita since the start of the pandemic. **97756: Redmond** This Deschutes County ZIP code added 145 cases, raising its tally to 2,075. That's the 17th most in Oregon and 73rd most per capita since the start of the pandemic. See [Zip codes](#) / A4

Science behind the surge, new restrictions and vaccination guidelines

BY ERIN ROSS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — For five weeks now, COVID-19 cases in Oregon have been surging. On Friday, 15 counties fell under new social distancing restrictions to curb the virus' spread. Deschutes County was among them. Here's what you need to know about the coronavirus variants driving infection, new restrictions, updated guidelines for the vaccinated and unvaccinated, and the science underlying them. Much of Oregon is under new social distancing restrictions, and the CDC has released new guidelines. See [Science](#) / A4

What is the science behind these things?

Closing restaurants and indoor dining: Eating indoors has been consistently listed among the most COVID-19-dangerous activities. When you eat inside, you remove your mask. And depending on the air circulation in a room, tiny droplets of water and virus can remain in the air for a very long time, said Chunhui Chi, the director of Oregon State University's Center for Global Health.



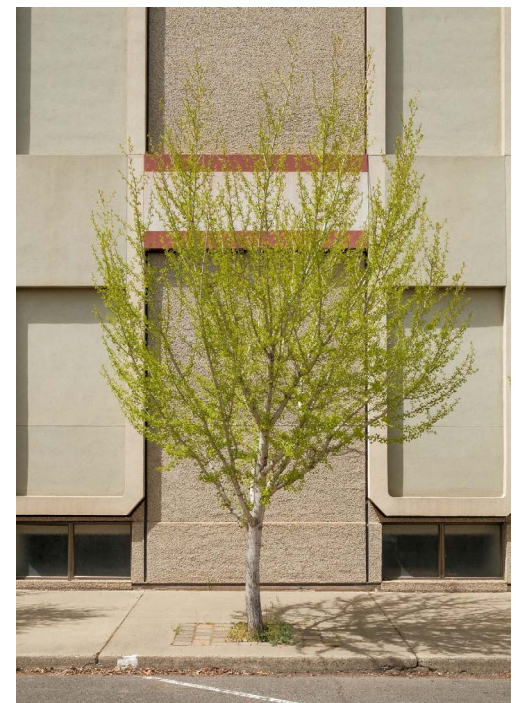
PLANTING 100 TREES A YEAR

Some La Grande-area residents consider this lone maple in a field north of the city off the Wallowa Lake Highway as a favorite tree.

La Grande continues a tradition of growing its urban forest

BY ALEX WITTWER • The Observer (La Grande)

The city of La Grande's urban forester Teresa Gustafson said her favorite trees are the Ginkgos that sit along Washington Avenue. During fall months they turn golden and shower the street with their petals. "Our goal is to plant 100 shade trees every year in the city," Gustafson said. The numerous trees, she also explained, make La Grande a vibrant place to live, with cooler streets and homes, habitat for wildlife, cleaner air and water, and other benefits. The city celebrated its 31st year as a Tree City USA member on Friday, Arbor Day. Last year, La Grande won a Growth Award for the 29th consecutive year, one of only a handful of cities to do so nationwide. The city hopes to win the award once again this year. Among the colorful flowering peach and plum trees that bloom in spring, the city is host to two Oregon Heritage Trees. Those are trees the Heritage Tree Committee, under the Oregon Travel Information Council, deem as worthy of state recognition. See [Trees](#) / A10



LEFT: A pair of flowering pear trees in blossom sit outside an office building on Washington Avenue in downtown La Grande. RIGHT: This ginkgo tree is outside the site of the former Maridell Community Center on Washington Avenue. La Grande is a Tree City USA member and aims to plant 100 trees a year. Photos by Alex Wittwer/The Observer

