



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Masked and unmasked shoppers stroll Wednesday along Brooks Alley during the Bend Farmers Market.

Masks

Continued from A1

Q. Should I mask up at shops and grocery stores?

A. It depends. Some places still have mask mandates in place, including Fred Meyer. Other places are following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which permits customers to drop their mask if they have been vaccinated. According to Gov. Kate Brown's office and the Oregon Health Authority, you'll need to present your vaccination card to enter the store without a mask. Employees are supposed to check your card but in practice, this does not seem to be happening in many cases.

One easy way to deal with this is just to take a picture of your vaccination card with your phone and keep your original card in a safe place at home.

Aaron Price, store director at Food4Less, said rules are changing frequently and warns that what you hear today could be obsolete by next week. The confusion has angered customers in stores and led to verbal abuse.

"The ever-changing rules are causing hardship for retailers," said Price. "They frustrate customers and put store workers in dangerous situations."

Q. How about entertainment venues?

A. For now, most venues still require masks. Stephanie Johnson, events manager at Tower Theater, said masks are required inside the building but patrons may remove their masks while "actively" eating or drinking items from concessions. The theater is still following 6-foot social distance guidelines.

Fans of Bend Elks baseball should likewise pack a mask along with their foam finger when they head to the ballpark this summer. When seated, fans can enjoy the game maskless, but will be required

to mask up when heading to the bathroom, concessions or other areas of the stadium.

"We will proceed with an overabundance of caution to ensure our players, fans, and staff are safe at Vince Genna Stadium," said Kelsie Hirko, sales and marketing manager for the Elks.

Masks are still required at the High Desert Museum.

There's a slightly more relaxed approach at the Deschutes County fairgrounds, where general manager Geoff Hinds said pursuant to current Oregon Health Authority guidelines, members of the public are not required to wear a mask at the fairgrounds if they are vaccinated. Under that guidance, proof of vaccination must be presented before a person can enter the fairgrounds.

However, social distancing requirements remain in place. This includes home games for the Oregon High Desert Storm, a professional indoor arena football club.

Q. I am planning to go to Les Schwab Amphitheater for a concert this summer. Will I be wearing a mask?

A. It's still too early to tell, said Marney Smith, the amphitheater's director.

"We just don't know what the state requirements will be," said Smith. "If the choice is up to us, we will not require masks or proof of vaccination."

The key is the state's vaccination rate, she said.

"The state of Oregon has indicated that once Oregonians reach a 70% vaccination rate, most restrictions will be lifted, but we have been given no indication of what those lifted restrictions will be," Smith said.

Q. What about mask requirements at high school graduation ceremonies?

A. For outdoor graduation ceremonies — which is what most local high schools

plan to do this year — the state is not requiring face masks for students, staff, volunteers, and spectators. School districts may still enforce face masks if they choose, but of the five Central Oregon districts with outdoor ceremonies, all but Redmond, will not require masks, district representatives said.

Redmond will have its graduation ceremonies indoors at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds, where face masks are no longer required pursuant to state guidance. According to the guidance, organizations that choose to no longer require masks and physical distancing must require visitors to show proof of vaccination.

Q. I am going to the public pool and other Bend Park & Recreation District facilities. Do I need to mask up?

A. Face coverings are not required for outdoor activities including the district's youth and adult sports programs, outdoor swimming and roller skating, and when in parks and on trails. For river recreation, be prepared to social distance and to wear a mask on the Ride the River shuttle.

For indoor activities, face coverings are no longer required if full vaccination can be verified by staff at recreation facilities (Larkspur Community Center, Juniper Swim & Fitness Center, and The Pavilion).

For those who are unable or prefer not to verify vaccination, individuals can participate with masks. Everyone is asked to wear a mask when entering the lobby areas initially.

Patrons may bring a vaccination card (a copy or digital photo) when visiting a park facility and the front desk staff will register you as vaccinated so showing the card upon future visits won't be necessary.

Q. I have a hike planned for this weekend near the

Cascade Lakes. Mask needed?

A. "There is no mask requirement on trails or outside," said Jean Nelson-Dean, spokesperson for the Deschutes National Forest. "We do still have a mask requirement at some of our facilities as we look at the new CDC guidelines to follow them."

Nelson-Dean added that masks are still required at the Lava River Cave to protect bats from exposure to COVID-19.

Q. My kids signed up for an after-school program through Bend Park & Recreation District. What are the rules now?

A. Mask rules are consistent with Bend-La Pine Schools. Masks are required indoors and participants can remove masks while outdoors and socially distanced.

■ Bulletin reporter Jackson Hogan contributed to this report.

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SAN JOSE

Shooter had 12 guns, 22,000 rounds of ammunition at home

Los Angeles Times

After a mass shooting left nine workers at a Valley Transportation Authority rail yard in San Jose, California, dead, authorities are trying to understand why — and how — the gunman committed the horrific attack.

Evidence has painted a picture of the assailant, 57-year-old Samuel Cassidy, as a disgruntled VTA worker who hated his job. Authorities on Friday said an initial search of his house — which was burned in a fire that coincided with Wednesday's shooting — uncovered multiple cans of gasoline, suspected Molotov cocktails, 12 firearms and approximately 22,000 rounds of various types of ammunition.

"It is clear that this was a planned event and the suspect was prepared to use his firearms to take as many lives as he possibly could had sheriff's deputies not made entry to stop his rampage," Santa Clara County sheriff's spokesman Russell Davis said.

Emerging reports Friday also indicated that Cassidy may have been facing a disciplinary hearing at the agency,

where he worked as a maintenance worker for the last eight years.

But representatives for VTA said he was not scheduled for a disciplinary hearing Wednesday "or any other upcoming or prior date." He was scheduled to report for a regular shift the day of the shooting.

The VTA is reviewing all records pertaining to Cassidy and whether he made other employees fearful or uneasy, the agency said.

Some who worked with Cassidy described him as a loner at the agency.

"Sam was definitely outside the group," said Kirk Bertolet, 64, a 12-year VTA employee who was on duty at the time of the shooting. "I never once saw him sitting at a table with co-workers talking or doing anything. He was always beside himself doing something, and never interacted."

Bertolet said the workplace was composed of blue-collar workers who were sometimes tough on each other.

"Sometimes, if you're a little thin-skinned, maybe you don't fit in," he said.



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Pandemic

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The changing guidelines have been dizzying. Just last month, the state moved Deschutes County into "extreme risk," and then last week the county moved to "low risk." The risk levels are based on the number COVID-19 cases, which spiked in recent months. Throughout April, cases rose in Deschutes County from 6,370 to 8,029.

Cases have since slowed but had still reached 9,564 as of Friday, including 79 people who have died from COVID-19.

The main reason Deschutes County is at "low risk" is due to at least 65% of its residents receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The growing number of vaccinated residents is encouraging, but people are still taking precautions.

Ken Ferrasci, a Bend cattle rancher and real estate investor, kept his mask on Wednesday as he took his daily walk through downtown.

He stopped by the Bend Farmers Market on Brooks Street Alley, where posted signs asked all visitors to wear masks. All vendors and most

"It's a small price to pay for your safety and somebody else's. I'm comfortable doing it for as long as it takes for this problem to end."

— **Ken Ferrasci, the Bend cattle rancher and real estate investor kept his mask on Wednesday as he took his daily walk through downtown. He stopped by the Bend Farmers Market on Brooks Street Alley, where posted signs asked all visitors to wear masks.**

visitors complied.

Ferrasci said he is being extra careful lately because he still needs his second COVID-19 vaccine shot.

He's optimistic that in a few more months wearing masks will be unnecessary.

But for now, he keeps his mask on.

"I'm still not real comfortable if it's crowded," Ferrasci said.

Ferrasci is staying patient and believes his precautions are keeping others safe.

"It's a small price to pay for your safety and somebody else's," Ferrasci said. "I'm comfortable doing it for as long as it takes for this problem to end."

Isak Ziegner, a woodworker from Los Angeles, spent the past week visiting a friend in Bend. Ziegner wasn't sure what the safety guidelines for COVID-19 were in Oregon, so

he carried a mask with him at all times.

"I tend to err on the side of personal caution," Ziegner said. Ziegner brought his 18-month old daughter, Juniper, with him on the trip. Juniper has never known a world without COVID-19 and she's never been inside a grocery store, Ziegner said.

Juniper is too little to properly wear a mask and too young for a vaccine.

"We don't go into any indoor spaces with her at all, except our home," Ziegner said.

Ziegner tries to avoid indoors spaces as well.

He plans to keep wearing a mask indoors throughout the year.

"I have know idea who's vaccinated and who's not," he said. "I'm able to protect myself by wearing a mask."

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