

Vaccination

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Like most states, Oregon is left with a remaining eligible population who either haven't found the time and opportunity for vaccination, or are hesitant for personal reasons.

As yet unknown is how many eligible adults are opposed to inoculations — what OHA once termed “vaccine belligerent.” County vaccination rates for getting one shot into eligible arms range from 34% in rural Lake County to nearly 71% in the tech hub areas of Washington County near Portland.

Umatilla County has officially put shots in just under 39% of eligible adult residents as of Friday. Some county officials have argued the count is too low because it doesn't include people who were inoculated in nearby Washington and Idaho or at federal and other facilities that don't show up in OHA counts.

Public health officials are using flexible hours, drop-in sites, outreach to remote communities, lottery prizes and other rewards to attract more arms for now readily available vaccination needles.

Brown and state officials presented a mix of optimism, frustration and concern over the COVID-19 situation in Oregon.

While recent legislative action allowed her to announce an extension of a mortgage foreclosure moratorium through the end of September, Brown said she had not yet received legislative authority to extend the rental eviction moratorium set to expire June 30.

With the Legislature set to adjourn no later than June 27, Brown said she hoped there was still time to act and give renters “safe harbor” for July. But she advised renters to take steps now and not assume the law would be extended.

“Please apply today for rental assistance to pay your July rent,” Brown said.

The backlog of earlier unpaid rent is covered by a schedule in prior legislation, but as of July 1, there is no special dispensation for rental payment or eviction proceedings.

“I'm calling on landlords across the state to work with tenants to avoid evictions,” she said.

Information on programs for both renters and landlords can be found online at oregonrentalassistance.org, lcf.oregon.gov, or by calling 2-1-1 to ask questions.

“We have made it through this pandemic by looking out for one another,” Brown said.

Current COVID-19 infection trends are good, according to Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state epidemiologist.

Oregon reported 1,720 new COVID-19 cases in the most recent week, the lowest since September 2020, before the autumn and winter spike. Hospitalizations and deaths are also trending lower.

The current rate of spread is 0.66, meaning each infected person spreads the disease to less than one person. That will ensure a continued decline that could push daily totals to about 100 cases per day and five hospitalizations.

Even the most pessimistic forecast has overall cases declining, but to 135 per day and seven hospitalizations.

Sidelinger emphasized that the numbers combined what infectious disease experts see as two different pandemics.

People who have been vaccinated make up a tiny fraction of new cases. Guidelines



Gov. Kate Brown, at a May 2020 press event, wears a face mask to protect against the coronavirus. Jaime Valdez/Oregon Capital Insider

to loosen restrictions on interactions with others show inoculation is the key to safely returning to a lifestyle close to normal.

“If you are not vaccinated, the virus still rages,” Sidelinger said.

Brown said she had complete confidence that the state would reach the 70% goal for one shot in eligible adults by the June 25 goal date.

She noted the \$1 million state lottery prize that those vaccinated are automatically entered to win. Another \$10,000 prize can be won in each county.

Brown urged those who were vaccinated by the federal Veterans Administration or in another state to register for the lottery at takeyourshot.oregon.gov.

Health officials say they are concerned that once the 70% mark is met and restrictions are relaxed across the state, clusters of new infections could arise in areas where vaccination rates have been low.

Many of the areas are in less populous parts of Central and Eastern Oregon, where medical care and hospital beds are less available. More remote areas could experience overtaxed emergency response and medical care systems.

Brown singled out the St. Charles Health System. It's main COVID-19 care facilities are in Bend, where vaccination rates in surrounding Deschutes County are among the states' highest. But the facilities are also where infected patients from a wide swath of the state with much lower vaccination rates would most likely be sent.

Brown said hospitals are woven into a network of emer-

gency COVID-19 care.

“We have a well-developed system that works on the local level and with neighboring states,” Brown said.

But specific points in the system can quickly become overwhelmed and moving patients takes time.

Sidelinger said unvaccinated Oregonians are also potential hosts for new variants of the virus, which could spread faster and be potentially more severe.

Saying the pandemic would have “no easy exit,” Sidelinger urged the unvaccinated or those with compromised immune systems who might not receive the full benefit of inoculations to continue to wear masks and socially distance, even when the time comes that the state lifts mandatory restrictions.

The recovery does not equal “going back to life as it was in 2019,” Sidelinger said.

Brown rejected the suggestion from some in the business community that Oregon

should cut unemployment benefits as a way to get more people to search for work. Some conservatives say higher benefits during the pandemic have served as a disincentive to people on unemployment to accept work at the lower end of the wage scale.

Brown said she believed that the hesitancy to go back to work was due to a number of factors, including fear of the virus, the costs associated with a return to working and the lack of affordable, dependable and convenient child care.

Brown said Oregon had low infection and death rates throughout the pandemic and was doing “substantially better” on most public health measurements than other states.

While the pandemic is far from over, she said hitting the 70% mark for one shot of vaccine in adults would be a major step.

“We can return to some level of normalcy,” she said.

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Stimulus

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The proposed legislation lists 17 categories of eligible job categories, among them health care, law enforcement, education, agriculture, food, energy, transportation, communications, defense, residential shelter work and hygiene products and services.

Workers must have been within 6 feet of the public while on the job or cleaned public facilities. Those who worked remotely would not be eligible.

The legislation is sure to face intense competition for funding as lawmakers hash out budget priorities in the remaining weeks of the legislative session. But Democratic leaders, who control both legislative chambers, have indicated they are open to the idea.

“Legislators are prioritizing bills that help communities impacted by the pandemic. Essential workers are the people hit hardest,” Ben Morris, SEIU spokesman, wrote in an email this week. “So we are hopeful that the essential worker pay proposal will be among the bills that get prioritized.”

Dru Draper, communications director for Senate Republicans, said his caucus will oppose the bill because it leaves in place a \$300 weekly unemployment bonus. Some businesses say that federally funded bonus provides an incentive for prospective hires to stay home. The state's jobless rate remained elevated at 6% in April, even though many small businesses say they're struggling to find work.

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back-to-work payments, too, but generous unemployment benefits must also be addressed in any plan, which this bill does not,” Draper said.

Rep. Rob Nosse, D-southeast Portland, co-authored an opinion piece in The Oregonian last month pitching the value of stimulus money for front-line workers who staffed hospitals and clinics, kept the grocery stores open and continued harvesting food through the pandemic.

“For a lot of those workers, they didn't actually see any increase in their compensation from their employers,” Nosse said Thursday. “It's a way to say thank you. And candidly, the other reason to do it is there's a lot of essential workers that don't make a very rich living.”

While Nosse said the total payout might be trimmed during the budget process, he said he's hopeful lawmakers will ultimately reward front-line workers.

“There's still a chance this is going to happen. I doubt it's going to be a check worth \$2,000,” Nosse said Friday. “This is a pretty big swing.”

CENTRAL OREGON WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Adventist	Christian	Jewish Synagogues	Roman Catholic
<p>Cascade Seventh-day Adventist Church We seek to enhance quality of life for all people in our communities, adhering to the ideals described by the Bible. We seek to share both our faith in God and the church's commitment to the betterment of all human beings. Pastor: Jeffrey Coleman</p> <p>Baptist First Missionary Baptist Church 21129 Reed Market Rd. Bend, OR 97702 541-382-6081</p> <p>Thomas L. Counts, Pastor Bus available for Sundays Worship Opportunities (Nursery available)</p> <p>Sunday Sunday School - 9:45am (Bible Classes for all ages) Prayer Time - 10:40am Worship - 10:50am Evening Bible study - 6:00pm Evening Worship - 6:00pm</p> <p>Wednesday Ladies Bible Study - 10:00am Bible Study and Prayer - 7:00pm</p> <p>Advertise your worship listing today! New advertisers get 2 weeks free. Call Rachel Liening at 541-617-7823 to place your ad today!</p> <p>Highland Baptist Church 3100 SW Highland Ave., Redmond 541-548-4161 Barry Campbell, Lead Pastor</p> <p>Sunday Gathering Times: 8AM Blended, 9AM Blended, 10:30AM Contemporary 6PM Worship outside, acoustic, in the HBC field for the summer</p> <p>How can hbc pray for you? prayer@hbcmond.org</p> <p>For the most current information for Bible study and worship: www.hbcmond.org</p> <p>Foundry Church “A Heart for Bend in the Heart of Bend” 60 NW Oregon Ave, 541-382-3862</p> <p>Pastor Trevor Waybright</p> <p>In-Person Worship Services Sunday's at 10:15am Masks are Required</p> <p>Live-Stream Service via YouTube Channel Foundry Church Or on Facebook Foundry Church of Bend</p>	<p>Newport Avenue Church of Christ 554 Newport Ave. Bend, OR 97703 541-382-5242</p> <p>Services: Sunday Bible Classes: 10:00am Sunday Worship Service: 11:00am Wednesday Night Bible Study (on Zoom only): 6:30pm</p> <p>Facebook: Newport Avenue Church of Christ Web: churchofchristbendoregon.com Email: ChurchofChrist@bendbroadband.com</p> <p>Christian Science First Church of Christ, Scientist fccsbend@gmail.com</p> <p>We invite you to join our online church services at 10:00 am Sundays and 7:30 pm Wednesdays, via Zoom.</p> <p>In person services soon in our new location on the corner of 10th NE and Greenwood.</p> <p>For more information, visit our website: ChristianScienceChurchBend.org or email our Church Clerk at fccsbend@gmail.com</p> <p>CHECK YOUR AD On the first day it runs to make sure it is correct. Call 541-617-7823 for corrections.</p> <p>Evangelical The Salvation Army 541 NE DeKalb Ave. 541-389-8888 Ext. 200</p> <p>Sunday Worship: Sunday School at 10:00 AM Worship Service at 11:00 AM For Both Children and Adults</p> <p>Weekly Programs: Tuesday Youth Night at 5:00 PM Wednesday Women's Group at 9:30 AM Thursday Men's Group at 2:00 PM</p> <p>For more Information: www.facebook.com/ TheSalvationArmyCentralOregon Pastors Captain Michael & Captain Rachel</p> <p>Jewish Synagogues Congregation Shalom Bayit Jewish Community of Central Oregon (JCCO), an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism Welcoming newcomers, interfaith families, LGBTQ, and Jews by choice for 30+ years. Rabbi Yossi Feintuch</p> <p>Sun, Jun 13, 6 PM Backyard Picnic Sat, Jun 19, 10 AM Torah Service</p> <p>Active Torah Study group Most Saturdays, 11 AM Active Hebrew School</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, most events have been moved to Zoom. Visit www.JCCOBend.com for more information about joining these and other upcoming events. Or call (541) 668-6887 or email Secretary@JCCOBend.com</p>	<p>Temple Beth Tikvah Temple Beth Tikvah is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism. We welcome interfaith families and Jews by choice. Our monthly activities include: Services, religious education for children and adults, Hebrew school, Torah study, social action projects and social activities Rabbi Johanna Hershenson</p> <p>Saturday, June 12 at 10:00 am – Bat Mitzvah of Mya Frankl Sunday, June 13 at 9:00 am – Chevruta: The Masters of Chassidism Saturday, June 19 at 7:00 pm – Havdallah</p> <p>All Events meet via Zoom To join a specific event, please email templebethtikvah@gmail.com. 541-388-8826 www.bethtikvahbend.org</p> <p>Lutheran Concordia Lutheran Mission (LCMS) “The mission of the Church is to forgive sins through the Gospel and thereby grant eternal life. St. John 20:21-23, The Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII.8-9, 10.”</p> <p>Sunday the 13th “The Gospel is Salvation for All Men According to Prophecy.” Ezekiel 17:23</p> <p>The Rev. Willis C. Jensen, Pastor 8286 11th Street, Terrebonne. http://www.concordiamc.org Facebook: Concordia Lutheran Mission Phone: 541-325-6773</p> <p>Presbyterian First Presbyterian Bend Embodying Spacious Christianity & Welcoming All 230 NE 9th St. (Across from Bend High) www.bendfp.org Facebook & Instagram: @bendfp</p> <p>Speaking Sunday Rev Dr. Steven Koski</p> <p>Join us Sunday at 10am ONLINE at bendfp.org or on https://www.facebook.com/bendfp/</p>	<p>St. Francis Of Assisi Roman Catholic Church Rev. Jose Thomas Mudakodiyil, Pastor Rev. Steve Garza, Parochial Vicar 541-382-3631</p> <p>Church Locations Historic Church: Corner of Franklin and Lava Main Church & Office: 2450 NE 27th Street</p> <p>Weekend Masses: All Weekend Masses are at Main Church Saturday-Vigil: 5 p.m. Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 10 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Sunday: 12:30 p.m. Misa en Español</p> <p>Weekday Masses (M-F) 7 a.m.; Main Church 12:15 p.m.; Historic Church 8 a.m.; Saturday; Main Church</p> <p>Eucharistic Adoration (M-F) 7:30 a.m.-12 noon; Main Church 12:45 p.m.-6 p.m.; Historic Church</p> <p>Reconciliation: Main Church Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. Saturday: 8:30 a.m. Saturday: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>NOTE: Seating at Mass is limited due to social distancing requirements and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Masks are required. All Masses, except the 12:15 p.m. weekday Masses, are being live streamed and can be viewed at stfrancisbend.org.</p> <p>St Thomas Roman Catholic Church 1720 NW 19th Street Redmond, Oregon 97756 541-923-3390</p> <p>Father Todd Unger, Pastor</p> <p>Mass Schedule: Weekdays 8:00 am (Except Wednesdays) Wednesday 6:00 pm Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm First Saturday 8:00 am (English)</p> <p>Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am (English) 12:00 noon (Spanish)</p> <p>Confessions on Wednesdays From 5:00 to 5:45 pm and on Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm</p> <p>Unitarian Universalists UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CENTRAL OREGON “Diverse Beliefs, One Fellowship” We are a Welcoming Congregation</p> <p>June 13, 2021 My Muzungu Eyes Are Improving A Service from the UU Hysterical Society</p> <p>This a playful humor service about bravery and Unitarianism overseas sharing the story of Rev. Fulgence Ndadigimana's imprisonment for his work as a UU Minister. UUs around the world came together to get him released. Building relationships across diversity enriches us and opens the possibilities to make a true difference.</p> <p>To join us on Sunday via Zoom, click on the image at www.uufco.org 9:30 a.m. chat, 9:45 a.m. service ASL interpretation provided RE classes are on summer break. Bend, Oregon 541-385-3908</p>

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