

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

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## Gov. Brown ordering more Oregonians to stay home

Exceptions allowed only for groceries and other essential activities

By Dick Hughes  
Oregon Capital Bureau

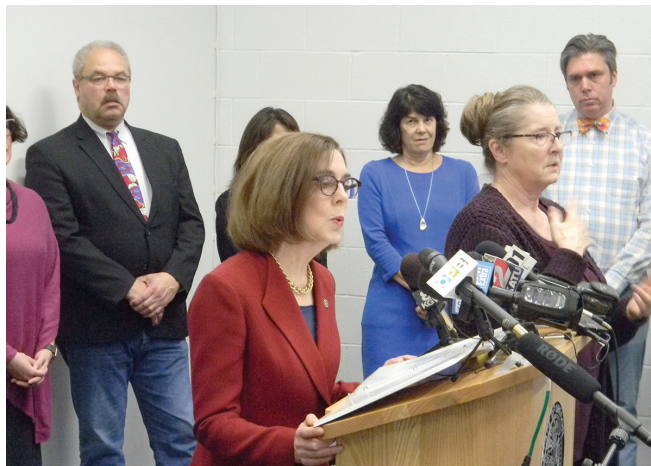
Gov. Kate Brown on Monday directed most Oregonians to stay home except for getting groceries, going to work or handling important activities that cannot wait.

Brown said she was acting because many Oregonians had failed to heed her directives to practice "social distancing" to decrease the transmission of COVID-19.

"I was very, very clear. I asked and urged Oregonians to stay home. On Friday night, I frankly directed them to stay home, and now I am ordering them to stay home," she said in a conference call with reporters Monday afternoon. "As I've said a zillion times in the last couple weeks, this is an instance where each one of us can make a difference, and each one of our actions can have an impact and truly save lives."

Brown ordered more than two dozen types of businesses to close as of Tuesday, primarily ones that cannot operate without close personal contact. Other businesses, including farmers markets and auto repair shops, may stay open if they maintain at least six feet of social distance between people, or if they can operate remotely.

She applauded stores that already have marked off spots six feet apart for individuals to stand in line or have converted solely to curbside pickup.



Oregon Capital Bureau/Jake Thomas

**Gov. Kate Brown details steps Oregon is taking to limit the spread of COVID-19 at a press conference in Portland on March 12.**

"I am not interested in taking someone's job or shutting down a business if they can practice social distancing at work," Brown said. "I've been really clear: If businesses are not complying with this order, we will shut them down."

Among businesses allowed to stay open are grocers, pharmacies, bars and restaurants for takeout or delivery, banks and gas stations.

Key provisions of Brown's far-reaching order include:

- Oregonians should stay home whenever possible.
- Violating the order could be a Class C misdemeanor.
- Except for members of the same residential household, all non-essential social

and recreational gatherings of individuals are prohibited immediately, regardless of size, unless people can stay at least six feet apart.

As of Tuesday, specific retail businesses are closed. They include arcades, barber shops, hair salons, gyms and fitness studios, skating rinks, theaters and yoga studios.

Businesses not on the closure list may operate via telework or by implementing social-distancing policies "consistent with guidance from the Oregon Health Authority." Brown said OHA still was working on those guidelines.

With the exception of businesses allowed to stay open, indoor and outdoor

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## Grant County restaurants adapt amid coronavirus closures

Takeout and delivery services still available at many locations

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The state's order to stop inside dining for four weeks has left Grant County restaurant owners both optimistic and uncertain about the future.

"It is what it is," said Outpost owner Tia Barrietua.

Barrietua said she went down to a five-person staff — down from 20 before the rule came down.

According to the state's directive, restaurants and bars are barred from offering seated dining, a measure intended to slow the spread of the coronavirus that state officials estimate to infect upwards of 75,000 people across the state. They're still allowed to offer delivery or takeout.

Grant County saw its first positive test Thursday.

Barrietua, who now works five days a week, can no longer tackle projects to grow the business.

"It feels like I am starting from scratch," she said.

Barrietua said she had planned to repave the back parking lot over the spring, but the prospect of completing the project is simply out of reach both logistically and financially.

Barrietua said the restaurant now delivers, but they are not very popular so far. She said the business could absorb the impact for two



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

**Brandon Elliott runs the grill at The Outpost Sunday.**



**Dairy Queen owner Benny Santos** and **owner Ali Lenz, owner of the Ugly Truth**

months at the most. "I don't think any of us could for much longer," Barrietua said.

Heidi Wolf, the general manager, said she thinks it will take time for business to pick up after the ban, and she's not holding out hope

for the tourist season to be what it used to be before the outbreak.

Dairy Queen owner Benny Santos said, despite the fact that it will take time to get back to normal, he is staying optimistic.

Santos, a franchisee, said Dairy Queen's corporate office has been supportive as has the community in Grant County.

"The corporate office told me that we're going to be fine, but we are changing the way we operate," Santos said.

Santos said one person is designated to handle

money, and every employee's headset has a timer with reminders to wash their hands.

Santos said he has not had to let anyone go due to the restrictions, and he assured his staff that he would do everything he can to keep everyone on.

Shift manager Sierra Jones said when she heard about the new restrictions she was worried the drive-through could get overwhelming or that customers would get angry, but so far it has been a smooth transition.

"We've gotten it down

pretty well," Jones said. "So far they have not been any complaints."

Jones, who handles the cash transactions, said her focus is to keep the money situated and keep everything clean and sanitized. "At the end of the day, it is about keeping our customers and our employees healthy," Santos said.

Santos, who immigrated to the United States from Brazil, said it is times like this that make him proud to be an American.

"I love America, and I

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## First COVID-19 case confirmed in Grant County

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County has confirmed its first positive case of COVID-19, the Grant County Health Department announced Thursday.

The health department is working closely with the Oregon Health Authority on investigative protocols.

The confirmed case is following all public health recommendations, including staying home and self-monitoring for symptoms, according to a health department press release.

Grant County Public Health Administrator Kimberly Lindsay said public health staff are working in partnership with the OHA and local health services to protect and inform the public.

"We recognize that we are in uncertain times," Lindsay said. "We want to express our sincere thanks to our community partners and community members for all the work they have done and continue to do to protect the health and wellbeing of folks who live and work in Grant County."

Health officials continue to urge Grant County residents to take steps to protect those who are most vulnerable to complications from COVID-19.

Those considered high risk include adults 60 and older or anyone with a serious health condition, including lung or heart problems, kidney disease or diabetes, or anyone who has a suppressed immune system.

People vulnerable to complications should follow OHA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to stay home as much as possible and avoid gatherings.

Every resident should take these basic steps to protect those most at risk:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

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## Schools making adjustments with extended closures

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The new corona virus may have put a pause on the school year, but schools in Grant County are hard at work providing food for students and planning for education after spring break concludes.

Gov. Kate Brown announced on March 17 that school closures in Oregon will be extended through April 28. When the announcement came out, Grant County schools began thinking on how to provide supplemental education and how to move forward.

"As soon as the



Bret Uptmor

announcement of school closures came out, we began the process of unpacking what that meant for us in the Grant School District," said Bret Uptmor, the Grant School District 3 superintendent. "We would love to say, 'Yep, we are going to do it online,' but really, we don't have the capacity to do that due to our technology infrastructure in our school and community."

Uptmor said that the initial plan for Grant School District is to provide



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

**A reminder from Grant Union High School to stay healthy as closures remain in affect until April 28.**

take-home packets, which will be delivered to students at bus stops or at school doors. On

March 30, school leaders in the county are planning

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