



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Huffman's Select Market Manager Rebecca Camarena helps a customer load her car.

Normal

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Rebecca Camarena



Deziree Chobo



Robert Hunt



Bill Wyllie

Huffman's manager, Rebecca Camarena said the store's supplier said people tend to hoard necessities like toilet paper to maintain a sense of control during uncertain times.

Huffman said Prairie City is dense with senior citizens, a vulnerable population susceptible to contracting the virus.

At Chester's, Manager Deziree Chobo said their provider has been one to two days behind on making deliveries, but unlike Huffman's Market, they are not limiting customers on the quantities of items like toilet paper that they can purchase.

Chobo said one week after a meeting with local government and

health care officials at Blue Mountain Hospital, they have not been able to catch up with the run on products like toilet paper, hand sanitizer and flour.

Chobo, who lives with a family member with a compromised immune system, said the rule at home is to wash hands and change clothes when she gets home from work.

At Len's Drug, owner Greg Armstrong said, so far, every one of his staff is staying healthy, and for that he is grateful.

Armstrong said the

Subway store next door, which he owns, and Len's are down roughly \$2,000 in sales.

Armstrong said he attributes the dip in sales at the pharmacy to health care providers limiting routine patient appointments.

Armstrong said he is seeing an uptick in over-the-counter respiratory drugs, and so far, he has not had to allocate the amount that he can sell to each customer at one time.

He said he continues to hope we see less cases in the future.



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Empty shelves at Chester's Thriftway on Tuesday.

Virus

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Some hospitals are storing used masks in bags or bins until the coronavirus no longer is considered viable and then reusing the masks.

Irene Hunt of Springfield said she and other home-care workers have not

been provided with masks, gowns or other protective equipment. Neither can they find them in stores to buy on their own. They also worry about running out of gloves.

She has used a homemade mask, provided by her church, in an attempt to protect both herself and her clients. Worried about becoming infected, she has

sent her daughter to temporarily live with a relative.

A Fred Meyer worker in Salem said many customers violate social distancing requirements and don't cover their coughs or sneezes.

Rick Miller, head of the Avamere group of nursing homes and other care facilities, said his employees have resorted to using

bandanas as face masks and wearing ponchos or oversize men's shirts as gowns.

Sen. Jeff Merkley noted that Oregon has quickly gone from averaging 10 new cases a day to over 60.

On Monday, the Oregon Health Authority reported 58 new cases and three more deaths, bringing the state's death toll to 16. The three patients who died

Sunday were men in their 80s and 90s with underlying medical conditions.

Gov. Brown said Oregon has received 25% to 40% of the PPE requested from the federal government.

Phelps, the director of the Office of Emergency Management, said in a video press conference later Monday that the state was buying all the PPE it can find.

That included 135,000 N95 masks and 300,000 surgical masks being processed this week for distribution around Oregon. Hundreds of thousands more will be needed.

"We're expecting this pandemic to last for a very long time," he said. "We're in the first mile of what's going to be a marathon."

Hospital

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She said the number of testing kits can change by the day, depending on the usage and what gets shipped out to the nursing homes.

Lindsay said that Community Counseling Solutions operates the Rural Health Clinic, which has tests and PPE. She said the health department does not do the lab work itself.

"We just receive positive results," she said.

Rebekah Rand, director of Emergency Medical Services at BMH, said the hospital is inventorying its supply of PPE.

Rand said the worldwide shortage of PPE has put a strain on health care workers, but recently the Little Canyon Food Cart donated boxes of gloves and community member Phillip Wirth donated N95 masks.

Rand said anyone looking to donate gloves or masks could reach her at 541-575-4159. Also, anyone interested in helping pro-

duce masks can email Sylvia Ross at sross@bluemountain-hospital.org.

BMH CEO Derek Daly said, in preparation of getting more COVID-19 cases, the hospital has set up a tent in the Emergency Department parking lot.

"The tent will be used as an extension of the Emergency Room to triage patients having respiratory symptoms from those seeking other medical needs," said Daly.

Daly said the tent also allows the hospital staff to practice drills if there is an influx of emergency room patients.

Daly said the hospital, classified as a critical access hospital, is mandated to have 25 beds or less available.

"Typically, we have five or six patients in house daily," Daly said.

Daly said, over the last week, the hospital and the emergency room had seen less than regular averages in the emergency room.

"People seem to be hearing the messaging going out and about," he said. "When in doubt, stay home."



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A greeter is prepared at the Emergency Room entrance at the Blue Mountain Hospital.

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