

Roundup

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in a “difficult spot” had there been an increase in cases.

“Staffing is further exacerbated when health care workers fall ill themselves or cannot work due to child care and home-schooling challenges,” Lindsay said in an email Monday.

She said the uptick in cases impacted Harney County’s hospital staffing levels as well.

“Occupancy does not get you there,” she said. “You need people to staff those (ICU) beds as well.”

She said the hospitals in the region had been sending people to Elko, Nevada, and Boise, Idaho, but those hospitals were maxed out last week.

Lindsay said, with winter driving conditions, hospitals are “one bad car accident” from a challenging situation when it comes to ICU beds.

She said the county needs to continue to ramp up its testing, including testing both symptomatic and asymptomatic people.

Lindsay said she disagrees with the belief that testing only symptomatic people will bring the positivity rate down.

“If you’re only testing people that are sick, and we know that COVID is raging across the country, you’re going to end up with more positive cases,” she said. “You have to test asymptomatic people too.”

The health department, she said, is not trying to “manipulate” the numbers. Lindsay said that the rate would be higher if they were only to test symptomatic people.

She said the only way she sees the county getting off of the “Extreme Risk” list is for people to do what she has recommended since the start of the pandemic: wear masks, maintain social distance and stay home when they are sick.

“Politics aside,” she said, “I believe in masks.”

Restrictions

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The number of travelers during the upcoming holidays is expected to be much smaller than last year, before the pandemic.

In November 2019, more than 55 million Americans traveled more than 50 miles during the Thanksgiving weekend, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

That was less than half of the 115 million people who traveled during the Christmas and New Year’s season last year.

While the total numbers are expected to be down, a doubling of travelers at Christmas would be troubling. Thanksgiving trips average three days between two points. The average Christmas trip is six days with multiple stops.

The increase of COVID-19 cases in Oregon reflects a worldwide rise in infec-

Disease Activity	Lower Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Extreme Risk
Rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 over 14 days (counties with 30,000 or more people)	<50.0	50.0 to <100.0	100.0 to <200.0	≥200.0
-or-				
Number of COVID-19 cases over 14 days (counties with less than 30,000 people)	<30	30 to <45	45 to <60	≥60
-and-				
Percentage test positivity over previous 14 days	<5.0%	5.0% to <8.0%	8.0% to <10.0%	≥10.0%

tions. In the U.S., 13.5 million have been infected and over 267,000 have died, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

Worldwide, 63 million have become infected and 1.4 million have died.

Though the United States accounts for only 4% of the world’s population, it has 21% of COVID-19 cases worldwide and 18% of all deaths.

Eleven countries have reported over one million cases: United States (13.5

million), India (9.6 million), Brazil (6.1 million), France (2.2 million), Russia (2.15 million), Spain (1.6 million), the United Kingdom (1.55 million), Argentina (1.28 million), Colombia (1.26 million) and Mexico (1.06 million).

Nations reporting over 100,000 deaths are the United States (267,635), Brazil (170,115), India (134,699) and Mexico (102,739).

The Institute for Health Metrics at the University of Washington in Seattle projects that, at current rates, Ore-

gon could top 3,100 cases per day by Jan. 1 and 6,300 cases by Feb. 1.

Brown’s two-week freeze order was followed by statements from some county sheriffs that they would not enforce the rules. Several local government leaders, particularly in southern and Eastern Oregon, voted to either condemn or ignore the rules.

The Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association sought a restraining order in federal court against the

freeze. U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut rejected the request, saying that while she recognizes “the heavy burden” Brown’s order placed on the association’s members, “those burdens are outweighed by the benefits to all Oregonians.”

The governors of Oregon, California and Washington issued a joint statement late last week that anyone traveling into their states should self-quarantine for two weeks.

Three major pharmaceutical companies have announced they could have a vaccine approved for use by the end of the year. Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca say that, with federal approval, they could begin shipping the first doses immediately.

The initial batches in the low millions would go to states based on their population and used on front-line health care workers who are the most likely to either be exposed to the virus or carry the virus into a facility with older and at-risk patients.

Allocations

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for each city council member and their city employee to meet remotely.

“It helps to be portable,” Delano said.

Delano said the city also purchased personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies for the city’s businesses. He said they did not start a grant program because they are available through Business Oregon.

He said they will give what cannot be spent before Dec. 31 to the county to go toward food insecurity.

Monument

Monument City Recorder Dorothy Jordon said the

council discussed on Nov. 18 the importance of updating their technology for video conferencing.

“We don’t know how long this is going to go,” Jordan said. “Right now our technology for video conferencing is outdated.”

The city will also be purchasing electronic equipment such as laptops so work and meetings can be conducted remotely.

The city will also use the funds to make sure the city has the personal protective equipment they need and to cover the expense from the PPE purchased earlier this year.

“The funds should be used for anything to relieve the financial impact to us from COVID-19 and help

keep employees safe,” Jordan said. “At the beginning of the year when you put your budget together you had no idea that you’re gonna go through three times the Clorox wipes that you go through in the past and those types of things.”

Dayville

Dayville City Recorder Ruthie Moore said the city is currently working on improving its technology capabilities and conducting virtual meetings.

“Right now that’s a little bit difficult with what we have now,” Moore said. “That’s the route we’re going, and technology is where we’re going to start at this point, and then we’ll explore other

areas in the near future.”

Seneca

Amanda Born, Seneca city manager, said the city is still figuring out its allocation. She said they are checking with the city attorney on how they can help the school.

Born said Seneca also purchased COVID-19-related cleaning supplies for the city, and they have not requested reimbursement yet.

Born said they have discussed sending the money to the county if they cannot spend the money by the end of the year.

Long Creek

Long Creek Mayor Don Porter said the city is looking into a utility relief grant like the one Prairie City is

offering its residents. Additionally, he said, the city purchased roughly \$800 in personal protective equipment for its first responders, and he wants to see about getting reimbursed.

He said early in the pandemic the city did not know what it could be reimbursed for.

“We did not know what we did not know,” he said.

He said the city also sent small crews of people to the food bank in John Day to pick up meals for up to 25 families in Long Creek.

Canyon City

Canyon City City Recorder Corry Rider said the city does not have a plan with the COVID-19 relief funds as of Nov. 19.

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