

# Blue Mountain Hospital reports first suspected COVID-19 hospitalization

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, Blue Mountain Hospital reported to Oregon Health Authority that they hospitalized between one and nine suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients during the week of Nov. 30 to Dec. 6.

Rebekah Rand, Blue Mountain Hospital District director of emergency medical services, said the hospital reports its patient count daily and that OHA lists hospitals that report suspected or confirmed cases. The exact number of patients is only reported for hospitals with more than 10 patients.

Rand said the hospital is not experiencing a shortage of beds, intensive care or otherwise. Rand said there had not been an influx of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

Rand said because of patient privacy laws and the process of elimination, the hospital district cannot confirm if they are actively treating suspected or confirmed coronavirus patients.

St. Charles Bend, a major hospital in Grant County's Region 7, saw



Rebekah Rand

its hospitalizations steadily increase last month. In the first week of November, St. Charles reported 15 suspected cases and 13 confirmed.

The following week, St. Charles saw its hospitalizations increase to 17 suspected and 17 confirmed, while the hospital in Harney County reported between one and nine suspected or confirmed cases.

The cases doubled the following week, with 36 suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and 35 confirmed in Bend.

As of Tuesday, St. Charles reported on their website they were hospitalizing 32 confirmed COVID-19 patients.

Four of the COVID-19 patients are in the ICU, with three on a ventilator.

St. Charles has 24 ICU beds in Bend and six in Redmond for a total of 30 throughout its system.

St. Charles noted on its website that many patients need ICU care for other reasons like heart attacks, strokes or car accidents.

# COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Oregon

By Gary A. Warner  
Oregon Capital Bureau

The first of millions of expected vaccine doses needed to extinguish the COVID-19 virus arrived in Oregon Monday, starting a process that could last into fall 2021.

The Oregon Health Authority issued a statement that the first doses of the vaccine manufactured by Pfizer arrived in the state at 7 a.m. Monday. Four facilities in or near Portland, along with a medical center in Ontario in Malheur County, will each receive 975-dose packages by Tuesday.

Oregon is slated to receive 35,100 doses this week. The remaining 30,225 Pfizer doses will go to unspecified hospitals later this week. Another 10,725 doses will go to unspecified skilled nursing facilities for vaccinations beginning next week.

"Today, I can tell you that help is here," said Gov. Kate Brown in a statement.

The vaccine's initial arrival comes as the state, like most of the nation, has seen a steep rise in COVID-19 cases since September.

Through reports Sunday, there have been 93,853 positive cases of

COVID-19 in Oregon and 1,155 deaths. Nationwide, there have been over 16.3 million cases and 300,267 deaths.

While a sign of hope, getting the vaccine to most of the more than 2.6 million estimated adults in the state is still a distant goal.

"The vaccine is the light at the end of the tunnel, but we will be in this tunnel for several months," said Oregon Health Authority Director Pat Allen.

Allen urged Oregonians to wear masks, physically distance, avoid gatherings and stay home if sick.

The initial doses will go to what health officials around the country have said are the most important initial targets.

"Starting with the frontline health care workers who have been our first line of defense against COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, and the long-term care facility residents who are among the most vulnerable, each day," Brown said.

For the facility residents and staff, the pharmacy companies CVS, Walgreens and Consonus Healthcare will offer on-site, no-cost COVID-19 vaccines to more than 680 long-term care facilities in Oregon.

The next group to received vac-

cines will be "essential workers," followed by people with underlying health conditions, and those older than 65 are next in line as they are identified by OHA's Vaccine Advisory Committee.

Receiving the initial doses Monday were Legacy Health Holladay Park, Portland, and Legacy Health Meridian Park in Tualatin, just south of Portland. On Tuesday, doses will go to Oregon Health & Science University and Kaiser Permanente Airport Way Center, both in Portland.

St. Alphonsus Medical Center, in Ontario, will receive the first doses outside the Portland Metro area.

Most medical facilities that registered to be vaccine provider sites are slated to receive the Pfizer vaccine within two weeks. Oregon is scheduled to receive additional doses on Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.

Because the vaccine requires two shots given about 19 days apart, the initial doses will all be used as the first shot, with the follow-up doses later in the month being used primarily for second shots.

A similar vaccine made by Moderna could arrive beginning Dec. 22. It still requires final emergency use authorization by the FDA.

## COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

### Grant County Circuit Court

Jacob M. Derosier violated misdemeanor probation for use of intoxicants. On Dec. 14, he was sentenced to 60 days of jail. Derosier also violated felony probation for use of intoxicants, failure to pay financial obligations and failure to report as directed. On Dec. 14, he was sentenced to 42 months in prison and 72 months of post-prison supervision. The court found Derosier has a substance abuse problem that has contributed to his criminality and recommended drug and alcohol treatment.

Nicholas P. Gibson violated probation conditions on a count of failure to serve jail time. On Dec. 10, he was sentenced to 40 days in jail.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Dec. 9:

Concealed handgun licenses: 8  
Average inmates: 10  
Bookings: 3  
Releases: 6  
Arrests: 1  
Citations: 1  
Fingerprints: 0  
Civil papers: 9  
Warrants processed: 4  
Assistance/Welfare check: 1

Search and Rescue: 1  
Michael McLarty, 35, of Gladstone was cited for driving uninsured, failure to drive within lane and driving while suspended or revoked.

### Oregon State Police

Dec. 7: A trooper responded to a reported rollover crash near milepost 94 on Highway 395B. Investigation revealed the vehicle was southbound, pulling a small utility trailer at an estimated 40 mph, when the back end of vehicle started to slide. The driver attempted to correct the slide but was unable. The vehicle and the trailer slid across the northbound lane and into a ditch where the vehicle rolled onto its top. The driver was not injured. Frontier Towing responded and removed the

vehicle and the trailer.

Dec. 7: A trooper responded to a reported semi crash on Highway 395B near milepost 106. Investigation revealed the semi with double trailers was southbound at an estimated 35 mph when the driver lost control on black ice. The semi and both trailers slid approximately 200 yards, ending up sideways and blocking the entire highway. The semi was off the southbound shoulder and into a hillside. The trailers extended across the highway with the pup trailer hanging off the northbound shoulder. The driver was not injured. Frontier Towing responded and removed the semi and both trailers. The driver, James K. Caudill, 62, was issued a citation for failure to drive within lane. The highway was closed for about two and a half hours. OSP was assisted by the Grant County Sheriff's Office and Oregon Department of Transportation.

Dec. 8: A trooper contacted Steven M. Warrington, 31 of Granite at the entrance to West Main Street in John Day. OSP knew this subject had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. The trooper took Warrington

into custody without incident.

During a search prior to placing him in the patrol car, the trooper located a baggie and rubber container, both of which contained methamphetamine. The total weight of actual methamphetamine was one gram or slightly less. The trooper transported the subject to the Grant County Jail where OSP lodged him on the warrant and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Dec. 9: A trooper saw a man he knew had felony warrants for delivery and possession of methamphetamine at West Main Street in John Day. The trooper contacted Tyler D. Dehiya, 27, of Mt. Vernon and took him into custody without incident. Dehiya also had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. The trooper transported Dehiya to the Grant County Jail where he was lodged.

Dec. 11: A trooper noticed a vehicle partially blocking the westbound lane of travel on Highway 26 near milepost 185. After further investigation, Eric M. Kifer, 35, refused to provide his information and refused to move his vehicle from the roadway. After further investigation, OSP made entry into the vehi-

cle. Kifer still refused to get out of the vehicle. Kifer was taken into custody after resisting arrest. The vehicle was towed by Frontier Towing.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 122 calls during the week of Dec. 7-13, including:

• **John Day Police Department**

Dec. 7: Received a report of telephonic harassment on Brent Drive.

Dec. 12: Responded to a complaint regarding a bonfire and loud noise near West Main Street.

Dec. 13: Responded for a welfare check. Bryon E. Freniere, 37, of John Day was arrested for a parole violation.

• **Oregon State Police**

Dec. 7: Received a report of a noninjury crash on Highway 395B.

Dec. 7: Advised of a non-injury crash on Highway 395B near milepost 106.

Dec. 8: Received a report of a deer-versus-vehicle crash on Highway 395S near milepost 1.5.

• **Grant County Sheriff's Office**

Dec. 7: Received a report of theft on South Johnson Street.

Dec. 9: Received a report of a noninjury crash on Forest Road 52.

• **John Day ambulance**  
Dec. 7: Responded for a 76-year-old man with chest pains on South Canyon Boulevard.

Dec. 12: Paged for a 53-year-old man with a broken tailbone on South Canyon Boulevard.

Dec. 12: Responded for a 78-year-old man with heart problems.

*Your Rural Family Health Clinic*



**Grant County HEALTH**  
Department  
528 E. Main, St. E.  
John Day

Monday - Thursday  
7am- 6pm  
Friday 8am - 5pm

Appointments available

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- HIV Testing & Referrals
- Cocoon
- WIC
- High Risk Infants
- Maternity Case Management

Grant County Health Department does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

## Support Grant County!

The Grant County Chamber of Commerce reminds you to support these local chamber members!

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**Canyon Creek Clinic**  
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**Grant County Genealogical Society**  
**Grant County Heating & Cooling**  
**Grant County Library Foundation**  
**Grant County People Mover**  
**Grant County Snowballers**  
**Grant County OSU Extension Service**  
**Grant/Harney CASA**  
**Heart of Grant County**  
**John Day Farmers Market**  
**John & Linda Shelk Foundation**  
**John Day Elks Lodge**  
**John Day Golf Club**  
**John Day Trailer Park & Laundry Mat**  
**Juniper Press**  
**Land Title co Grant County, Inc.**  
**Little Canyon Food Cart**  
**Malheur National Forest**

**Malheur Employees Association**  
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**Mossy Oak/Copper Creek Land Company**  
**North River Electric**  
**Northfork John Day River Watershed Council**  
**Old West Federal Credit Union**  
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**Oregon Trail Electric Co-op**  
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**Prairie City Motors & Cycles**  
**Prairie Springs Fish Farm**  
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**Town of Canyon City**  
**Valley View Retirement Center**  
**Value Added Inc.**  
**Virginia McMillan D.D.S.**  
**Work Source Canyon City**

*The Chamber would like to thank The Blue Mountain Hospital, 1188 Brewing Company, Eastern Oregon Realty and Len's Drug for purchasing greenbacks for their employees this Christmas season. By doing this, they are keeping a lot of holiday dollars at home during a very trying holiday season!*



**Grant County Chamber of Commerce**  
301 W. Main St. John Day, OR 97845  
541-575-0547







**Robbins Farm Equipment**

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Burns  
541-573-6377

86812 Christmas Valley Hwy.  
Christmas Valley  
541-576-2160

## Thank You!

Recently we ran out of oil on a late Sunday afternoon. Having no alternate heat source I called Ed Staub & Sons and was connected with one of their drivers. I figured Monday at the earliest for a delivery of fuel. After explaining my situation, the driver said he would warm up a truck. Within the hour and near dark Ed Staub & Sons truck arrived - 2 1/2 miles out of Dayville. A Special Thank You to Ed Staub & Sons and to the Most Appreciated driver. We are all so fortunate to be residing in the Community of Grant County.