

Navigating the DMV during the pandemic

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

A trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles in the COVID-19 era has become a daunting experience for anyone with limited time to sit on the phone or with little to no broadband access.

DMV spokesman David House shared three tips to ease

the burden as it appears the DMV will remain by appointment only for the time being.

Schedule an appointment at oregondmv.com:

He said he suggests people have a friend or a relative help them if they are not tech savvy or have limited broadband access.

According to the DMV website, anyone needing

to change or reschedule an appointment can click on "modify or cancel an existing appointment" and follow the prompts. An email address and appointment type (driver test, written test, license renewal) is required.

Drop by and knock on the door:

House said many offices on the west side of the state are

experiencing no-shows and last-minute cancellations. He told the Eagle these offices have gaps in their days to see someone that day depending on the business they need to conduct.

"If someone happens to be driving by or is in the neighborhood, they could knock on the door and ask if the staff can assist with what someone needs. That can work for some

people in some cases because you're doing errands you're going through town," he said. "I encourage people to check that out."

Call the local DMV office:

He said when all else fails, people can call 503-945-5000. This is the only number where one can reach the John Day office. House said it is likely people will experience long

wait times. House said people would likely need to call "several times a day" to get through to either an automated system or a live person.

"You may be on hold for a while. And, or you may get an automated answering service where you're going to answer a series of questions," he said. "If you stick it through, you'll get to a live person."

VA hospitals are offering COVID-19 vaccines for veterans

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

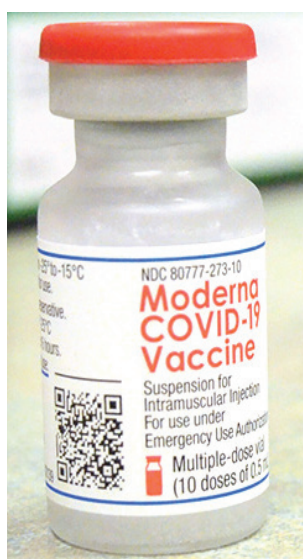
Veterans enrolled with the Veterans Health Administration and their caregivers may be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by appointment throughout the state and may be able to arrange transportation.

In a Friday press release, the Grant County Health Department said VA hospitals in Boise, Walla Walla and Portland are immunizing eligible veterans and caregivers.

The health department also said eligible veterans could make an appointment at VA health care clinics in Roseburg, Eugene and Bend.

Robert Van Voorhis of the Veterans Committee at the John Day Elks Lodge said three hospitals serving Grant County (Portland, Boise and Walla Walla) have different vaccine plans and websites.

Boise VA Medical Center's webpage is <https://www.boise.va.gov/ser->



Eagle file photo
A vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

vices/covid-19-vaccines.asp, and the phone number is 208-422-1499.

Portland's VA Healthcare System's website is portland.va.gov/services/covid-19-vaccines.asp, and the phone number is 800-949-1004.

The Jonathan M. Wain-

wright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla (Walla Walla VA Medical Center) webpage is wallawalla.va.gov/services/covid-19-vaccines.asp, and their phone number is 888-687-8863.

Van Voorhis told the Eagle that the Boise VA Medical Center director asked the John Day Elks Lodge if there is interest among veterans served by Boise in getting their vaccines at the Burns Elks Lodge. While it is only a proposal, the response from veterans has been "very positive."

Grant County Veterans may also be able to schedule transportation to those appointments through the Disabled Veterans Veterans or the People Mover.

The health department's press release said to reach out to Katie Hoffman, with the county's Veterans Services office at 541-620-8057 to coordinate with the DAV and 541-575-2370 to schedule a ride with the People Mover.

Grant County moving back to 'lower risk' as seniors over 80 receive vaccinations

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County put shots of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in the arms of a little over 100 people 80 years and older Monday at a closed vaccine clinic at the fairgrounds.

The county reported its first new case since Feb. 1 on Tuesday, with one resident in the John Day ZIP code testing positive. The reduction in cases will move Grant County back to the "lower risk" category Friday, according to a Tuesday press release.

With the state's supply exceeding its demand, about 60 people in the 80 and over group remain on the waiting list, Kimberly Lindsay, the county's public health administrator, said in a Monday phone call. She said those people would receive shots Feb. 16, and the county will begin to move into the 75 and older age group as vaccine supply allows.

Lindsay said the health department would be calling to schedule appointments in the order they received the email or called to be put on the list. Lindsay said several people were upset about not getting a shot on their first day of eligibility. She said others were not clear on the process.

"We are administering every dose that we have available," she said.

Lindsay said, if the person misses the health department's call, they always leave a voice mail letting them know they need to call back to make an appointment. The onus, she said, is on the person to call back.

"We are not able to hold slots as we need to get the vaccine out," she said.

However, she said the health department will



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Rebekah Rand, director of emergency services at Blue Mountain Hospital District, fills a syringe with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shot.

begin calling people who are due for their second shot and scheduling them for appointments Feb. 22 and March. 7.

She said the county should receive an additional 100 doses later this week but she does not know when the state will send more.

She said the state is now sending vaccine allocations for rural counties only to local public health departments.



Love

Your Community Shop Local



Grant County Chamber of Commerce

301 W. Main St.
John Day, OR 97845
541.575.0547
www.gcoregonlive.com

5230477-1

MOSSY OAK PROPERTIES

Copper Creek Land Company
America's Land Specialist

2017-2020 BEST BROKERAGES

Julie Mansfield Smith
Principal Broker/Owner
coppercreeklandco@gmail.com
coppercreeklandcompany.com



541-934-2946 Office
541-519-6891 Cell
41909 Copper Creek Rd. Kimberly OR 97848

WE HAVE QUALIFIED BUYERS LOOKING FOR LAND AND NEED MORE INVENTORY!



If you are looking to sell your property, give us a call. We will get it SOLD!



PENDING! KIMBERLY FARM on 276 Ac. (Certified Organic) ~ 250+/- irrigated ac., 1 mi. of NFJD frontage. Home, outbldgs. \$1,200,000



PENDING! 3802 Ac. in Land Ritter ~ 4 mi. of the MF & NF John Day River/ timber/recreation/ Borders BLM. LOP tags. NOW \$1,950,000

PENDING! 234 Ac. in Ritter ~ 7K grid-tied solar! 3/3 home, shop, office, creek, timber. \$749,900

PENDING! 1276 Ac. Hunting Land in Kimberly ~ Timber, creek, springs borders BLM. A frame cabin. \$1,170,000

SOLD! 274 Ac in Heppner. Timber, cabin, creek, views, plus utilities. \$335,000

SOLD! 585 Ac/Land in Ritter on the North Fork of John Day River \$495,000

SOLD! 206 Ac/Home with 3/3 Home in Kimberly on river, outbuildings. \$795,000

SOLD! 296 Ac/Ranch in Kimberly. Corrals, shop, water righters, pivots. \$975,000

SOLD! 2009 Ac/Ranch in Kimberly. 3 homes, outbuildings on river. \$2,100,000

Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Helping Ranchers & Farmers Grow Generations since 1945.

We offer Operating lines of credit and Term loans on Equipment and Land.

Call Laura or Bob for an appointment.
New Customers Welcome!

Come visit your Branch!

JOHN DAY
200 W. Main Street
(541) 575-1862
LOBBY 9-5 M-TH • 9-6 FRI

BURNS
293 N. Broadway
(541) 573-2006
LOBBY 9-5 M-TH • 9-6 FRI

PRAIRIE CITY
178 N.W. Front Street
(541) 628-7040
LOBBY 9-5 M-FRI



LAURA GEORGES
BURNS
Ag & Commercial Loan Officer



BOB QUINTON
JOHN DAY/PRAIRIE CITY
Ag & Commercial Loan Officer



Bank of Eastern Oregon

Rates & terms may vary. All loans subject to credit approval. NMLS #414459

Member FDIC

5228510-1