

COVID-19 vaccine open to all 16 and older on April 19

By Gary A. Warner
Oregon Capital Bureau

All Oregonians age 16 and older will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine on April 19, a week earlier than the previous earliest date, Gov. Kate Brown said Tuesday.

"We are locked in a race between vaccine distribution and the rapid spread of COVID-19 variants," Brown said.

The new April 19 target date is a new national directive announced early Tuesday at the White House by President Joe Biden.

Oregon originally did not plan on opening vaccine eligibility to all aged 16 and over until July 1.

Biden directed all states to lift any limits beyond the minimum age by May 1. After first saying the state would stick with its phased eligibility timetables, Brown soon announced the May 1 dates for open eligibility.

Brown had announced that counties that were ready to expand vaccinations could apply to move the date to April 26.

Now, April 19 marks the start of open eligibility.

The push to open up eligibility comes as Brown has announced a "fourth wave" of COVID-19 infections was hitting the nation and state, ending a long downward trend since Jan. 1. The state has been reporting over 400 cases per day and rising hospitalizations. An Oregon Health & Sciences University forecast released last week estimated the spike will lead to an average of 1,000 cases per day by next month.

Oregon will continue to use its current eligibility system until then. People with underlying medical conditions, essential workers and other groups are currently on the list. Anyone age 65 and older remains eligible.

"My office will work closely with the White House to ensure

VACCINE CLINICS PLANNED IN LONG CREEK, MONUMENT, DAYVILLE

The Grant County Health Department and Blue Mountain Hospital announced in a joint press release that residents in Long Creek, Monument and Dayville can roll up their sleeves Thursday, April 8, for the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine at various times and locations.

The health department and hospital will be at the Long Creek Community Hall from 9-10 a.m. and then the Monument Senior Center from 11 a.m. to noon. Later in the day, they will be at the Dayville Community Church from 2-3 p.m., according to the press release.

Those interested in making an appointment to receive the vaccine can email vaccine@ccsemail.org with name, date of birth, phone number, address, any chronic health conditions and which location they plan to attend. If unable to email, call 541-575-0429.

Oregon receives our fair share of federal vaccine supplies, so we can continue with a fast, fair, and equitable vaccine distribution process."

Later today, the Governor's Office and the Oregon Health Authority will announce county risk level movements based on the continued spread of COVID-19 in Oregon communities. The initial statistics issued Monday show a rise in the number of infections and the infection rate around the state. The White House is also set to announce Tuesday that 150 million shots have been administered since Biden took office on Jan. 20. He had promised to get 100 million shots into American's arms by his 100th day in office, April 30.

OBITUARIES

Margey L. Fisher

Sept. 28, 1932 – March 15, 2021

Margey L. Fisher passed away peacefully at her residence March 15, 2021, surrounded by love and caring hands of family.

She was the first of five children born to Robert and Odetha Morris on Sept. 28, 1932, in Raymond, Washington. The family soon moved to Willamina, then to Ritter, where she and her siblings grew up. She married B. Dean Fisher in Pendleton in the spring of 1952. The couple moved to Colorado where they raised a family. They enjoyed many journeys during their marriage — flying in Deans airplane, riding his motorcycle and family vacations. Margey moved back to Oregon after Deans passing.



Margey made friends easily. She relished dancing, laughing, a good argument and an occasional shot of tequila. Margey was a known for being a good cook. She also baked and decorated cakes, grew delicious vegetables and bright tulips, gladiolas, iris and a variety of other flowers. She delighted in spending time with family. She especially loved the Oregon coast and spending time with her kitty.

In 1949 Margey was a Grant County Rodeo princess and rode in the Pendleton Round-Up. She attended the Rodeo Princess and Fair Court 50th reunion and parade in John Day in 2009.

She always looked forward to catching up with longtime friends at the Ritter/3 Mile and Range School reunions.

Margey was laid to rest by her family at a small gathering at Ritter Cemetery.

She'll be missed by sisters, a son, a daughter, grandchildren and numerous other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a baby brother, Raymond; brother, Merle Morris; and husband, Dean Fisher.

Donations may be made to your local humane society.

A memorial picnic will be held this summer. To share a special memory, send to Margey Fisher, P.O. Box 416, Irrigon, OR 97844.

Martha Chavez Lepez

Aug. 10, 1949 – March 20, 2021

Martha Chavez Lepez, passed away on March 20, 2021, at Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day, Oregon, at the age of 71. She was born on Aug. 10, 1949, in Coalcoman, Michoacan, Mexico. She married Jesus Lepez, her husband of 56 years, on May 10, 1964. The couple immigrated to the United States in pursuit of a better life with their four children in tow in 1979. They lived in Madras, Oregon, for a short period before settling permanently in Kimberly, Oregon, in 1980. She worked for Thomas Orchards for 25-plus years.



She was not only the matriarch of her family, but the very heart and soul of it. She found great joy in cooking meals for others, welcoming them into her home whether they were family, friends or strangers. Anyone who knew Martha probably has a memory of having a meal at her home on at least one occasion. Her cooking was traditional and authentic; recipes she had been taught by her mother and then passed on to her daughters and granddaughters — as is fitting in Mexican culture.

Martha's greatest joys in life were her family, friends and spending time in her flower garden. After retirement, she spent time tending her extensive flowerbeds and various vegetable plants; she viewed this work as a blessing.

Martha is survived by her husband, Jesus; their children, David, Jesse, Maria and Angie; 11 grandchildren, Christian, Bianca, Zavier, Cass, McKensie, Maya, Mattaya, Katie, Bailey, Kayla and Marcos; and four great-grandchildren, Ellie, Evie, Emma and Finn.

A tribute from her family: "She will be missed beyond measure. We don't say goodbye to her, but instead, we live with the knowledge we will see her again one day. It is comforting to know she was loved by so many."

Robert 'Bob' J. Hendriksen

Nov. 8, 1933 – March 18, 2021

Robert "Bob" J. Hendriksen, 87, a resident of Baker City, Oregon, died March 18, 2021, at his home in Baker City.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 9, 2021, at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Baker City, for Bob and his wife, Nita, who died April 28, 2017. The Rev. Suresh Kumar Telagani of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City, will officiate at the services.



Bob was born Nov. 8, 1933, a son of George and Bertha (Patteeuw) Hendriksen in Nebraska. He worked many years in the lumber industry and is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Nita.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions in his memory may direct them to cancer research. This maybe done through the Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave condolences, visit colestributecenter.com.

Kenneth P. Faught

Kenneth Preston Faught, age 87, of Mt. Vernon passed away March 15, 2021, at his residence with his family by his side.

Sharon L. Potter

Sharon Louise Potter, age 75, of Mt. Vernon passed away March 29, 2021, at her residence with her loving husband by her side. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel. To leave an online condolence for the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

About Obituaries

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Families of frontline workers can now get vaccinated

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Family members of grocery store workers, bus drivers, and other frontline workers now have the green light to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Grant County Public Health Administrator Kimberly Lindsay said Friday that Oregon also expanded the list of underlying health conditions for people over 16. As defined by the Centers for Disease Control, those underlying conditions include current and former smokers, those with

Type 1 diabetes and people who are slightly overweight and other health conditions.

During a Friday press availability session, Gov. Kate Brown said Oregon is facing a fourth wave of the virus.

"The fourth surge of this virus is at our doorstep," Brown said.

The announcement comes as new daily cases reported in the state and county continue to increase. State health officials noted that new daily cases reported in Oregon rose by 42%, twice the national rate, although Oregon remains the fourth-low-

est state in new infections in the country.

On the local level, the Grant County Health Department reported 15 new cases last week.

State health director Patrick Allen said Grant County is one of seven counties where fewer than 50% of seniors have received the vaccine. The other counties included Douglas, Morrow, Gilliam, Lake and Malheur.

Meanwhile, seven in 10 seniors in eight counties showed up for the vaccine. These included Deschutes, Hood River, Lane, Multnomah and Tillamook.

NATIONAL Sexual Assault AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH



START BY BELIEVING

What to Say:
"I believe you."
"I'm sorry this happened."
"I am here for you."

BE SUPPORTIVE

What to Say:
"You can tell me as much, or as little as you want."
"It's not your fault."
"I'm glad you told me. I'm so proud of you."

ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP

What to Say:
"What can I do to support you?"
"I can stay with you tonight. Would that help?"
"Do you want me to go with you to the hospital or police station?"

AVOID "WHY QUESTIONS"

What to Say:
Even with the best of intentions "why" questions can sound accusatory and make survivors blame themselves.

Help is available for victims of sexual assault in Grant County. If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, please call:

Heart of Grant County
541-620-1342

Grant County Victim Assistance Program
541-575-4026

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Last Week's Temps

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| John Day | HI/LO |
| Tuesday | 49/30 |
| Wednesday | 62/28 |
| Thursday | 72/39 |
| Friday | 71/34 |
| Saturday | 69/41 |
| Sunday | 64/37 |
| Monday | 49/31 |

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 7 - 13

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | |
| Sunny | Mostly sunny | Sunny | Mostly sunny | Sunny | Sunny | Sunny |
| 67 | 52 | 65 | 49 | 57 | 62 | 69 |
| 35 | 30 | 36 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 34 |