



Community Health Beat



What's new at BMHD?

Same Day Appointments

Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic offers same-day appointments Monday - Friday during business hours to attend to your unexpected urgent medical needs that don't require emergency room treatment. Be sure to call early, slots fill up fast! 541-575-0404

Free Sports Injury Clinic

Tuesdays from 4pm-5pm at Rehabilitation Services (170 Ford Road, John Day, OR) Available for students ages 10-18 currently on a sports team in Grant County. Call to schedule: 541-575-4157



Upcoming walks:

Saturday September 18th 8:00am
Seventh Street Complex

Saturday October 16th 8:00am
Seventh Street Complex



Many hospital districts around the state are receiving support from National Guard deployments, and BMHD is lucky to have a team of 8 National Guard members that will be with us through September. They will be providing help with a variety of non-clinical roles including environmental services, patient registration, and support services out at the Blue Mountain Care Center. "This wouldn't be possible without the support of their loved ones and employers, and it's an honor to serve our communities." - Stephen Bomar, Director of Public Affairs - Oregon Military Department. We at BMHD are grateful for the extra help during this time, and if you see them - be sure to thank them for their service!

www.bluemountainhospital.org

Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation SUMMER RAFFLE

Congratulations to our winners!

1st Prize: Sherri Dowdy
\$400 Grant County Greenbacks + \$300 Beef Box

2nd Prize: Fran Bunch
\$300 Grant County Greenbacks + 1/2 Pig Cut & Wrapped to your choosing

3rd Prize: Jack Southworth
\$100 Grant County Greenbacks + Local Guided Fishing Trip for 2 (\$600 value)

4th Prize: Darol Craig
\$200 Grant County Greenbacks



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Members of the Oregon National Guard pose at Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day where they are assisting local medical personnel.

Only one county in Eastern Oregon has received National Guard support at hospitals during COVID surge

Blue Mountain Hospital boosted by citizen soldiers

By Alex Wittwer
EO Media Group

As cases of COVID-19 continued to rise in Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown on Aug. 13 issued an emergency order to deploy nearly 1,500 Oregon National Guard soldiers throughout the state to help support hospitals.

In Eastern Oregon, only the Blue Mountain Hospital District in Grant County has received any of those resources.

Several members of the Oregon National Guard have already begun assisting operations in Grant County. The hospital is among only 11 hospitals in Oregon to receive support from the nearly 500 national guard members currently activated. Officials with the Ore-

gon National Guard have indicated roughly 20 more hospitals will be bolstered by an additional 1,000 guard members by next week, with numbers varying based on need.

Soldiers' tasks include assisting in support roles, such as entrance screeners, janitorial services and security for the hospital, as well as providing logistical relief for overworked health care staff who have been on the front lines of the pandemic for nearly two years.

As of Friday, Aug. 27, several hospitals in Northeastern Oregon have not sent in a request for National Guard support, according to Oregon Health Authority officials. Those hospitals include CHI St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston and Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

COVID-19 wave could peak by Labor Day but not end until near Halloween

By Gary A. Warner
Oregon Capital Bureau

The steep rise in COVID-19 cases that began in July could peak on Labor Day and begin a two-month decline, according to a new state report.

The COVID-19 forecast released Thursday by the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland included an updated "Census Forecast Primary Scenario" of hospitalizations.

"The forecast shows a peak census level of 1,197 on 9/6," wrote Dr. Peter Graven, the chief COVID-19 analyst at OHSU.

Hospitalizations would make a painful retreat with earlier low levels of COVID-19 hospitalizations unlikely until late October — just before Halloween.

Graven said the toll on the state has been heavy and will continue for weeks ahead with levels of cases remaining high as the virus retreats. Oregon is currently experiencing the highest rate of COVID-19 cases of the 18-month pandemic.

The rapid influx of unvaccinated people arriving with severe infections has pushed the state's network of medical centers to the breaking point.

"We're seeing the number of people hospitalized going up at rates we've never seen before," Graven said.

Gov. Kate Brown's order for mandatory mask-wearing at public gatherings and events inside has not shown to have dented the arc of infections.

"We had hoped to see the

new statewide masking mandate make a difference in flattening the rate of infection, but we're not seeing that yet," Graven said.

Beginning Friday, Aug. 27, the mandated mask order has been extended to include outside public spaces where people congregate in close proximity. Any impact of that action won't show up until future forecasts.

While there is now hope that the spike driven by the highly contagious delta variant could be slowing its rocket-like trajectory, there will be a long, costly fall back to levels seen before the spike.

COVID-19 hospitalizations could fall to about 200 patients around Oct. 23. The decline would continue until reaching pre-spike levels around Nov. 6. The forecast shows hospitalizations could continue to near zero by Dec. 25.

The Oregon Health Authority has reported that 95% of hospitalizations and deaths during the last two months have been among unvaccinated people.

Among vaccinated people with "breakthrough cases," 5.5% have been hospitalized and 0.9% have died. The median age of the vaccinated people who died was 83.

Nationwide, over 38.3 million cases have been reported, along with 633,451 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. Worldwide, 214.5 million cases have been reported and just over 4.47 million killed by the virus.



22 new babies have been born at BMHD so far this year!

National Guard Support at BMHD



A MAN WAKES UP in the morning after sleeping on... an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas.

He will bathe in an ADVERTISED TUB, shave with an ADVERTISED RAZOR, have a breakfast of ADVERTISED JUICE, cereal and toast, toasted in an ADVERTISED TOASTER, put on ADVERTISED CLOTHES and glance at his ADVERTISED WATCH. He'll ride to work in his ADVERTISED CAR, sit at an ADVERTISED DESK and write with an ADVERTISED PEN. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE. *Then it's too late.*

AND THEY SAY ADVERTISING DOESN'T WORK? DON'T MAKE THIS SAME MISTAKE

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