

Oregon will lift mask mandate March 12

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon will drop its indoor mask mandate on March 12, more than a week earlier than announced last week.

Gov. Kate Brown said on Monday, Feb. 28, that Oregon, California and Washington would lift their mandates simultaneously at one minute before March 12 at 11:59 p.m. the night before.

The new date includes ending mask mandates in schools. The order will affect over 51.2 million people from the Mexican border to the Canadian border, about 15% of the national population.

The move comes on the two-year anniversary of the first case of COVID-19 reported in Oregon, on Feb. 28, 2020, in Washington County. Working with California and Washington was crucial to having a unified timeline for the change in mask policy, Brown said.

“As has been made clear time and again over the last two years, COVID-19 does not stop at state borders or county lines,” Brown said in a statement. “On the West Coast, our communities and economies are linked. Together, as we continue to recover from the omicron surge, we will build resiliency and prepare for the next variant and the next pandemic.”

The move by the three states comes after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention late last week called for new guidelines to determine risk that would allow for the loosening of restrictions for 70% of the country’s population where coronavirus is posing a low or medium threat to hospitals. However, the map released by the CDC showed much of eastern, central and southwestern Oregon remained in the 30% of population areas that remain at high risk.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee issued similar statements Monday morning with the same date and time for dropping indoor mask mandates.

The new date is the second time in two weeks that health officials have moved up the date for lifting mask mandates. Brown had originally said that the mask mandate would end March 31, about when Oregon Health & Science University projected the state would drop below 400 daily patients in hospitals who were positive for COVID-19.

The decline in omicron-related severe cases accelerated and the date was moved last week to March 19. But on Thursday, OHSU issued a forecast showing Oregon would dip below the 400 mark by March 12. The next OHSU forecast is due Thursday.

OHA said the lifting of the mask mandate did not include changes to federal and state rules on masks in health care settings, airline flights, public transit, and other specialized settings. Updates will be provided in coming days and weeks.

Brown’s statement on Monday did not change her plan to lift the state of emergency earlier than April 1, the date she announced last week. The emergency rules gave Brown wide powers to set public policy during the crisis, including the closing and reopening of in-person classroom instruction, business hours, mask usage and limits on event sizes.

The three West Coast states have sought to coordinate on COVID-19 response throughout the pandemic, though they have gone their own way at times, such as the vaccine priority list in early 2021. Brown said the governors believed the mask mandate change was best done at the same time for the stretch from the Mexican border to the Canadian border.

“Our communities and economies are linked,” Brown said.

Brown underlined that the move did not mean the pandemic was burning out or nearly over.

“We will build resiliency and prepare for the next variant and the next pandemic,” she said. “As we learn to live with this virus, we must remain vigilant to protect each other and prevent disruption to our schools, businesses, and communities — with a focus on protecting our most vulnerable and the people and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.”

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 Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff’s Office reported the following for the week ending Feb. 23:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 7
- Average inmates: 13
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 11
- Arrests: 4
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 5
- Civil papers: 5
- Warrants processed: 1
- Asst./welfare check: 1
- Search and rescue: 0

Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 143 calls during the week ending Feb. 25, including:

• Oregon State Police

Feb. 19

3:48 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 26 near milepost 175.

Feb. 21

7:19 p.m.: Advised of a vehicle stuck in the snow on the side of Highway 26 near Dixie Summit.

8:18 p.m.: Advised of a slide-off accident on Highway 395 North near milepost 93B.

Feb. 22

9:56 a.m.: Advised of an accident with injuries on Highway 26 near milepost 134.

• Grant County Sheriff’s Office

Feb. 18

8:01 p.m.: Traffic stop, West Main Street, John Day. Driver warned about improper lighting.

10:07 p.m.: Responded to Hotel Prairie, Prairie City, for a theft call.

11:26 pm.: Responded to North Canyon Boulevard, John Day, for a noise complaint.

11:31 p.m.: Responded to Highland Terrance, John Day, for a report of shots fired.

Feb. 19

10:17 a.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 395 South near milepost 5C. Driver warned for failure to maintain lane.

3:10 p.m.: Advised of an intoxicated subject at the Ugly Truth, John Day.

6:12 p.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 near milepost 149. Driver warned for

speeding.

6:34 p.m.: Responded to Park Avenue, Seneca, for a dog complaint.

10:02 p.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 near milepost 162. Driver warned for speeding.

10:47 p.m.: Building check at Grant Union High School, John Day.

Feb. 20

11:19 a.m.: Responded to Highway 395 North, Long Creek, for an abandoned vehicle.

5:19 p.m.: Responded to South Council Drive, Mt. Vernon, for a mental subject.

6:08 p.m.: Responded to Council Drive, Mt. Vernon, for a disorderly conduct report.

9:25 p.m.: Responded to Council Drive, Mt. Vernon, for a noise complaint.

10:13 p.m.: Responded to North Washington Street, Canyon City, for a civil problem.

10:32 p.m.: Responded to Southeast Council Drive, Mt. Vernon, for a noise complaint.

Feb. 21

3:33 a.m.: Responded to Meadowbrook Apartments, John Day, for a restraining order violation.

8:06 a.m.: Responded to Grant Union Junior/Senior High School for a juvenile problem.

3:01 p.m.: Responded to Chester’s Market, John Day. Crystal Marie Joslin, 42, of Granite was cited and released on a Marion County warrant.

3:30 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26, Mt. Vernon, for a suspicious person.

3:47 p.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a non-injury accident. A 16-year-old girl from Seneca was cited for careless driving.

5:55 p.m.: Responded to Council Drive, Mt. Vernon, for suspicious circumstances.

10:32 p.m.: Responded to Keeney Fork Road near milepost 15 to assist a motorist.

11 p.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a noise complaint.

Feb. 22

12:30 a.m.: Responded to Keeney Fork Road near milepost 15 to assist a motorist.

7:13 a.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 145 for a crash.

7:51 a.m.: Responded to Highway 19 near milepost 108 for a suspicious vehicle.

7:52 a.m.: Responded to a residence

on Northwest Second Street, John Day, for an unattended death.

9:09 a.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 152 to assist a motorist.

9:55 a.m.: Highway 26 near milepost 152. Glenn Wadley, 46, of Mt. Vernon was arrested on a Grant County warrant.

10:22 a.m.: Responded to Highway 26 just west of Picture Gorge for a multi-vehicle accident. OSP, ODOT and John Day Ambulance also responded.

10:27 a.m.: Responded to Keeney Fork Road near milepost 14 to assist a motorist.

11:50: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 182 for a truck on its side. OSP also responded.

3:15 p.m.: Responded to Southwest Kilbourne Street, Prairie City, for a fraud complaint.

5:08 p.m.: Responded to South Council Drive, Mt. Vernon, for a trespassing complaint.

Feb. 23

7:41 a.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 near milepost 155. Driver warned for speeding.

1:52 p.m.: Responded to Ace Hardware, John Day, for a shoplifting complaint.

3:03 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 155 for an abandoned vehicle.

3:10 p.m.: Responded to Dump Road for an unattended death.

5:22 p.m.: Responded to Elm Street, John Day. Ashlie Clark, 29, of John Day was arrested on a charge of third-degree theft.

Feb. 24

7:01 a.m.: Responded to Cottonwood Street, Mt. Vernon, for a fraud complaint.

1:58 p.m.: Responded to Moon Creek Road west of Mt. Vernon for a harassment complaint.

3:23 p.m.: Responded to Northwest Fourth Avenue, John Day, for a criminal mischief complaint.

5:11 p.m.: Responded to Dayton Street, John Day, for an animal complaint.

5:16 p.m.: Responded to Thadd’s Place, John Day, for a public assist.

5:55 p.m.: Responded to Thadd’s Place, John Day, for a public assist.

Feb. 25

10:21 a.m.: Responded to East Main Street, John Day, for a theft complaint.

12:58 p.m.: Responded to East Main Street, John Day, for a burglary complaint.

1:25 p.m.: Responded to Meadowbrook Apartments, John Day, for a domestic disturbance. Sunnie Jean Moore, 24, of John Day was cited and released on multiple warrants.

2:25 p.m.: Responded to East Main Street, John Day, for a stolen cellphone report.

• John Day Ambulance

Feb. 19

9:09 p.m.: Dispatched to Northwest Bridge Street for an 86-year-old male with a fall injury.

Feb. 20

3:40 p.m.: Dispatched to Riverside Mobile Home Park for an 88-year-old female with weakness and numbness on her right side.

9:28 p.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

Feb. 21

11:42 a.m.: Dispatched to Nugget Lane, Canyon City, for a fall injury.

11:53 a.m.: Dispatched to Riverside Mobile Home Park for a female with an oxygen problem.

1:10 p.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

2:42 p.m.: Dispatched to Highway 7 near Austin Junction for a rollover accident.

9:10 p.m.: Dispatched to Southeast Hillcrest Road for a 75-year-old male with chest pains and difficulty breathing.

Feb. 22

6:19 a.m.: Dispatched to East Main Street for a male with difficulty breathing.

8:47 a.m.: Patient transfer to St. Charles Medical Center, Bend.

10:14 a.m.: Dispatched to North Humboldt Street, Canyon City, for an elderly male who was not feeling well.

Feb. 23

1:10 a.m.: Dispatched to La Costa Road for a 68-year-old male with a fall injury.

8:10 a.m.: Dispatched to La Costa Road for a lift assist.

7:09 p.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

8:23 p.m.: Dispatched to Southwest Brent Drive for a semiconscious 60-year-old female.

Feb. 24

4:26 a.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

10:18 a.m.: Dispatched to Prairie City for a patient transport.

Feb. 25

8:51 a.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

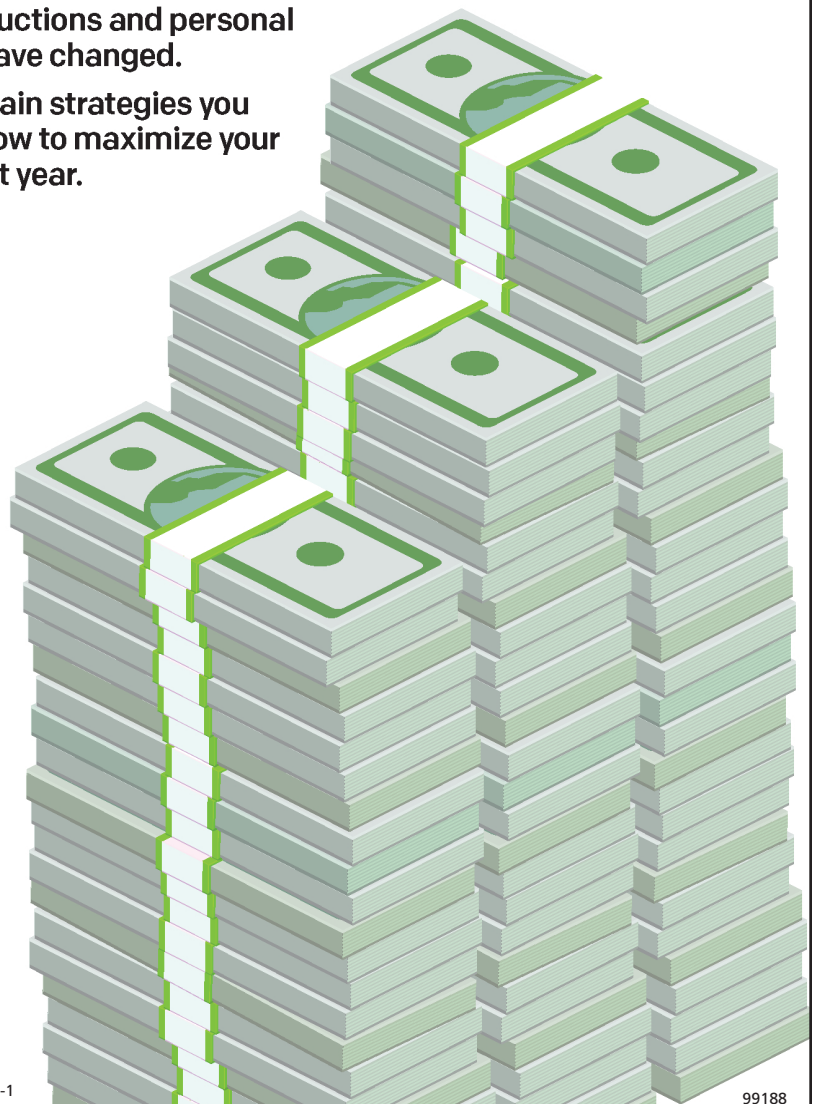


TAX REFORM QUESTIONS?

WE HAVE ANSWERS.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- 1» Virtually all taxpayers will be impacted, some more than others.
- 2» Standard deductions and personal exemptions have changed.
- 3» There are certain strategies you should take now to maximize your refund for next year.



HOW WILL YOU BE IMPACTED? WE CAN TELL YOU.

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