

# Virus: County responds to global emergency

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in south county, one was in the Astoria area.

The good news is that Oregon received its shipment of personal protective equipment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

A distribution center in Wilsonville is doling out more than 1 million gloves, 10,000 face shields, 400,000 N95 masks and 50,000 surgical masks. The goods are headed to all 36 counties and the state's nine Indian tribes on or before Monday, state officials said.

"Having an adequate supply of PPE—masks, gowns, and gloves—is essential for the safety of first responders and health care workers," said Andrew Phelps, director of Oregon's Office of Emergency Management.

"We're currently in a global shortage, but Oregon is working to replenish our supplies ... through public and private



Warrenton City Commissioner Rick Newton tied bandannas onto the lion statues that stand guard outside his home on Ninth Street.

partnerships, distribute those supplies ... and ensure health care workers and first responders are protected."

Clatsop County has received its allocation, Public Health Director Mike McNickle said.

Clatsop has developed a COVID-19 task force with McNickle as the incident commander and Vincent Aarts as the planning section chief.

The team is working with hospitals, first responders and others to ensure restaurants and bars comply with closure requirements, and private child care providers meet requirements to care for the county's youngest charges.

Priorities include securing adequate medical supplies for hospitals, fire department and medics, better testing of vulnerable populations, managing volunteers, accommodating medical surge (finding places for all potential sick people), developing a plan for mass fatalities and enforcing maritime regulations for ships docked in the river.

"In many ways Clatsop County will be defined by how well we respond and support our community and partners during these unprecedented times," County Manager Don Bohn wrote in a letter to county employees this week. "While these are, admittedly, challenging and uncertain times, I continue to be gratified by the resolve, compassion and generosity of county staff."

## PPE DONATIONS

The county's COVID-19 task force is coordinating efforts to collect personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, gloves and goggles.

The agency will distribute them to "vulnerable health-care partners" including local clinics, long-term care facili-

ties and those first to respond in emergencies, such as medics.

Local and regional businesses and nonhealthcare industries are urged to consider donating any items that are disposable or reusable, unopened or opened, expired and not expired.

Donors will receive a donation letter that can be used for a tax deduction.

Donations will be accepted at the Emergency Management Office at Camp Rilea. Check in at the camp's entrance and you'll be directed to the office. The supplies will be redistributed based on priority need.

For questions and information, contact [donate@clatsopeoc.com](mailto:donate@clatsopeoc.com) or 503-325-8645.

## TAXES

The deadline for filing and paying state and federal taxes has been extended from April 15 to July 15.

However, those who'll make estimated tax payments for 2020 still must pay them according to the regular schedule.

The tax year 2019 six-month extension to file, if requested, continues to extend the filing deadline only until Oct. 15.

Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms to qualify for the automatic filing and payment extensions.

## SELF-SERVE GAS

The state temporarily suspended the ban on self-service gas stations.

It makes self-service optional, not mandatory.

The intent is to ensure fuel is available to essential personnel who need to travel, according to the state's COVID-19 Statewide Joint Information Center.

The gas station workforce has been reduced by as much as 50 percent due to illness, childcare issues and safety concerns.

Unattended self-service will happen only when a gas station owner exhausts all staff-

ing options, the association said. Stations without attendants are required to post safety signs for social distancing as well as instructions for operating a fuel pump.

## BUSINESS HELP

SAIF, the state's nonprofit worker's compensation insurance company, set aside \$10 million in the coronavirus worker safety fund available to the state's 53,000 SAIF policyholders to use in increasing safety, reducing injury and decreasing exposure to the virus.

Eligible expenses must have been incurred after March 1 and include worksite cleaning and disinfection supplies, resources to reopen businesses safely after a coronavirus-related closure, resources to redesign or modify workspaces to encourage social distancing, and mental health and wellness initiatives.

To apply for funding, go online to [saif.com](http://saif.com) and click on the safety fund link.

## BE PART OF HISTORY

Oregon Historical Society asks residents to consider sharing their coronavirus-related stories -- personal reflections on living through the pandemic and how isolation from friends and family has affected them. What stories of Oregonians from the past or present are giving you courage?

"Some of the most priceless treasures in the Oregon Historical Society collections are the handwritten diaries and journals of individuals who made their way across the Oregon Trail," Director Kerry Tymchuk said.

"As we persevere through this new uncharted trail, we invite Oregonians to document their thoughts and experiences and to share them with OHS, so we, in turn, can share them with future generations."

Submit a letter online at [ohs.org](http://ohs.org) and click on the link in the red strip at the top of the page or mail it to OHS Research Library, 1200 S.W. Park Ave., Portland 97205.

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