

County's coronavirus cases climb after seafood plant employees test positive

The Columbia Press

Clatsop County's number of positive coronavirus cases jumped this week after a worker at the Bornstein Seafoods plant in Astoria became ill and all workers there were tested.

At least 13 workers tested positive, with more tests pending.

The company alerted county health officials on Friday when the first worker, a man in his 40s, tested positive. On Saturday, Clatsop County Public Health Department met with all workers at the facility and tested 35 people who exhibited symptoms.

A second positive case, a woman in her 50s, was reported Sunday and the plant was closed for cleaning.

Results for the 35 tested on Saturday, which included the 11 positive results, were received Monday with five more pending.

The county now is testing the company's entire Astoria workforce and began tracing the contacts of those who tested positive.

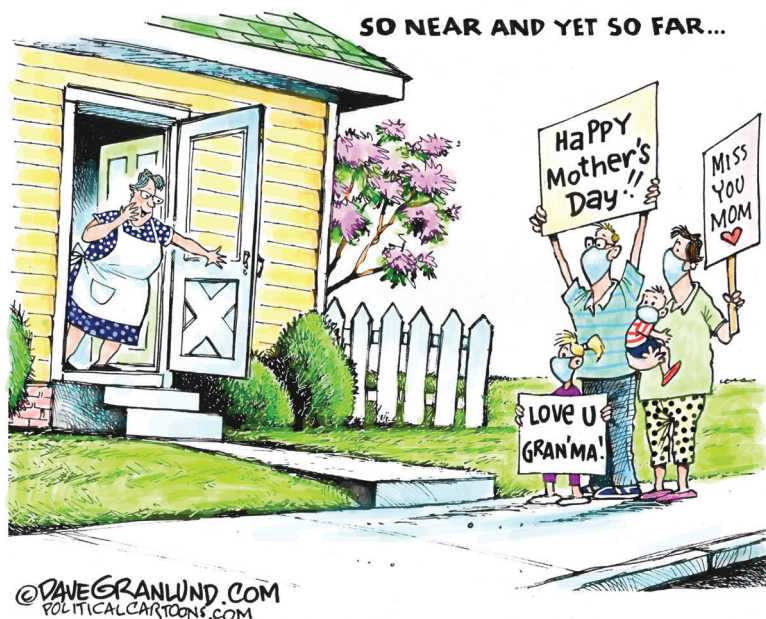
All the company's workers have been directed to shelter in place at home, Vice President Andrew Bornstein said, adding that the company is adhering to direction from Public Health.

The 13 workers testing positive include four women and two men in their 30s, three women and one man in their 40s, four men and one woman in their 50s, and one man in his 60s.

Until last weekend, six cases of coronavirus had been confirmed in Clatsop County. All six individuals have recovered and no longer are under quarantine.

FOOD AND CASH HELP

Oregonians facing money and food insecurity can apply for food, cash and childcare



assistance, the Oregon Department of Human Services said.

Residents can apply from home for benefits.

While many DHS offices remain open, members of the public are encouraged to apply online at govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits.

The online application does experience heavy traffic from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., which causes it to be unavailable intermittently. Applicants should try early in the morning or late in the day.

Local offices also can email or mail applications or take

information over the phone at 503-325-2021.

STATE PARKS

As the state prepares to slowly reopen the economy, a small number of state parks – none of them on the coast – opened to the public with limited services Wednesday, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department announced.

Those parks were Tryon Creek in Portland, Willamette Mission north of Keizer, Mongold boat ramp at Detroit Lake, State Capitol State Park in Salem, Cove Palisades boat ramp at Lake

Billy Chinook, Prineville Reservoir boat ramp, Joseph Stewart boat ramp on Lost Creek Lake near Shady Cove, and Pilot Butte to pedestrians only in Bend.

Limited day-use will slowly return to other state parks beginning Monday based on the readiness of the community around the park to welcome visitors, and how prepared the park is with staff, supplies, and equipment.

Not all restrooms will be open, and parking will be limited.

State park camping will return as soon as it can be safely managed, officials said.

High-density parks in Clatsop County, elsewhere on the coast, the Columbia Gorge, and other places likely will be

among the last to return with limited services.

SCAM PREVENTION

The U.S. Attorney's Office and Oregon Attorney General's Office formed a state-federal partnership to combat COVID-19 fraud. Together, the two offices will share information and resources.

"Some individuals are actively trying to profit off of the public health emergency," U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams said. "Scammers have devised numerous methods to defraud people, preying on individuals' fear, emotion, and desire to protect themselves, their families, and their communities."

The most prevalent scams:

- Testing – The sale of un-
- See 'Coronavirus' on Page 8

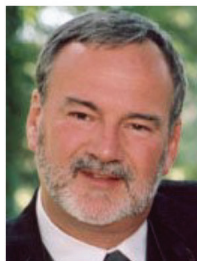
NEW! Telehealth visits

Many CMH providers now offer telehealth appointments. A telehealth visit is similar to an in-person wellness appointment with your own doctor. During the visit, you'll talk about your current health concerns and learn what to do. Your visit can take place from anywhere by computer, tablet or smartphone.

columbiamemorial.org/telehealth

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