

# SOLVE: Adoptive beach 'parents' sought

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get more focus now, include:

- Summer Beach Cleanup Series – This program has SOLVE staff helping families and small groups plan smaller cleanups. To participate, volunteers are given a beach, a good day and time when tides won't be a problem, and provided with supplies.

- Beach and Riverside Cleanups – These will be statewide and scheduled

Sept. 19 through Oct. 4 and focus on litter removal and habitat restoration in one of the state's watersheds.

- Oregon Adopt-A-Beach – Volunteers commit to cleaning "their beach" at least three times a year with SOLVE staff planning and supplying support.

Sixty of the state's beaches have been adopted, but there are gaps. No beach north of Del Rey in Clatsop County has been adopted, for in-

## How to help

To learn more, go to the nonprofit group's website, [solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org).

To apply to adopt a stretch of beach, go to the website, click on the "What We Do" tab near the top of the page and then click on "Oregon Adopt-A-Beach."



Schmidt

on state staff as they've recently had significant cuts to their staff," Schmidt said.

Kate Besse, who lives in Surf Pines, has participated in

the cleanups for four years and is beach captain for Sunset Beach volunteers.

"My motto that I tell children is, 'Even the tiniest piece of plastic has met the end of its journey when it lands in your bag,'" she said. "They are making a huge difference and saving the lives of wildlife."

Besse had 59 volunteers working her area on July 5, the only organized SOLVE beach cleanups this year.

One of her most interesting "finds": a Prince Charming toy. Others have found shoes, bicycle parts, and bottles and snack food wrappers from across the globe.

While this year is more challenging, SOLVE remains focused on its primary objective.

"We definitely were eager to clean the beach," Schmidt said. "But at same time, we're listening to the governor's advice and knew we couldn't bring people together. We knew we had to come up with a new plan."

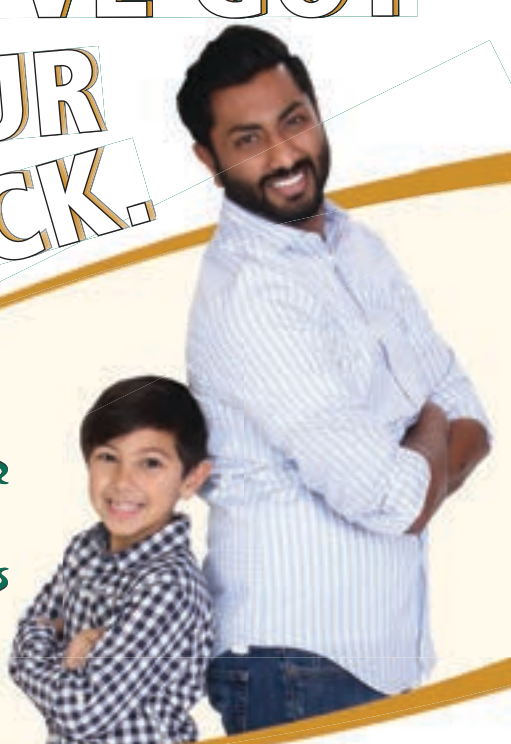
At least for now, the group will seek family-unit sized groups for cleanups instead of the thousands from previous years. And there will be more education shared about ocean and waterway conservation.

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stance.

"Fort Stevens, they've been amazing partners," Schmidt said.

In prior years, they've been involved with organizing cleanups and participating. This year, the park is unable to help as much.

"We are looking at ways we can reduce the impact

## Pandemic: Children 5 and older must wear masks

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were children younger than 10, two were women in their 30s, and one was a man in his 50s.

On July 20, three cases were reported. They are a woman in her 50s and a woman in her 40s, both living in north county, and a man in his 40s living in south county.

STATEWIDE

Statewide, there had been a

total of 15,393 cases with 271 deaths as of Wednesday.

The number of tests that have come back positive for COVID-19 rose to 6.6 percent, according to Oregon Health Authority. Large outbreaks are making up a smaller proportion of recent cases, while sporadic cases -- those not traced to another case -- have increased, consistent with diffuse community spread.

An outbreak of 23 cases have been linked to a Walmart Distribution Center in Hermiston. An investigation of cases there began June 30, but Oregon Health Authority didn't release news of the outbreak until Tuesday, when it reached the public disclosure threshold of 20.

### NEW MASK RULES

Face coverings, or masks, are required on children 5 and older beginning today, July 24. The previous rule had only required those 12 and older to wear masks.

The new order applies to all indoor public spaces and outdoors, when physical distancing isn't possible and it includes children in kindergarten and above when they return to school in September.

Oregon Health Authority has created a web page, [healthoregon.org/masks](http://healthoregon.org/masks), that aims to be a clearinghouse of information about face coverings and masks, from requirements to frequently

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