

Most county virus cases began in processing plants

The Columbia Press

Clatsop County saw five more positive cases of COVID-19 during the past week.

The largest percentage of infections have come from seafood processing plants.

Cases at Da Yang Seafood in Astoria rose to four after all 160 employees were tested last week.

After a worker in his 30s showed symptoms in mid-July, he was tested and determined to be positive.

Both of Da Yang's plants were closed for deep cleaning at that time.

Three additional employees have tested positive in the past week. They are a man in his 40s, a woman in her 40s and a man in his 50s. All live in the north part of Clatsop County.



Allen

The Public Health Department is waiting for results from a few of the remaining workers.

On Wednesday, a woman in her 60s and a man in his 40s -- neither of them associated with Da Yang -- were reported positive for the virus. Both live in the north part of Clatsop County.

As of Wednesday, the county has had 73 total cases since March 23, with 65 of them recovered. The rest are convalescing at home.

STATE FIGURES

The state's death toll rose to 311 on Wednesday, with a total number of cases statewide of 17,721.

Patrick Allen, director of Oregon Health Authority, took the benchmark of 300 deaths as an opportunity to reach out.

"As we surpass 300 deaths related to COVID-19, includ-

ing the 14 deaths reported today (July 28), I wish to extend sincere condolences on behalf of everyone at OHA to the families who have lost a loved one to this disease," Allen said.

"It is a stark reminder of the work all Oregonians need to do to bring this pandemic under control. Together we can slow this disease and prevent this terrible loss of life."

COUNTIES DASHBOARD

Oregon Health Authority published an expanded version of its "outcomes by county" dashboard.

The dashboard includes more information on weekly trends in the percent of COVID-19 tests that have been positive by county and weekly trends in the total number of persons tested for COVID-19

by county.

It shows Clatsop, for instance, with a population of 39,332, zero deaths and a 2 percent positive rate on the 3,484 tests administered here.

The rate of infection (18 per 10,000 people) in Clatsop is higher than its two neighboring counties.

Tillamook has a 9 per 10,000 rate and Columbia a 13 per 10,000 rate.

The local rate of infection still is a far cry from Portland-area counties (51 for Multnomah, 31 for Clackamas, 72 for Marion).

A piece of good news is that the positivity rate for testing dropped in the past week.

During the week that ended July 26, 42,252 people were tested for COVID-19 and 5.1 percent had a positive result, down from 6.6 percent the

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County unveils plan for safety routes, relocations

Clatsop County is working on a plan to make it better equipped to respond to disasters.

The Resiliency Project calls for relocating the county's Public Works facility and establishing alternative routes for emergency evacuation and delivery of vital services.

The first of many opportunities for the community to learn about the project and provide input is during an information video conference at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13.

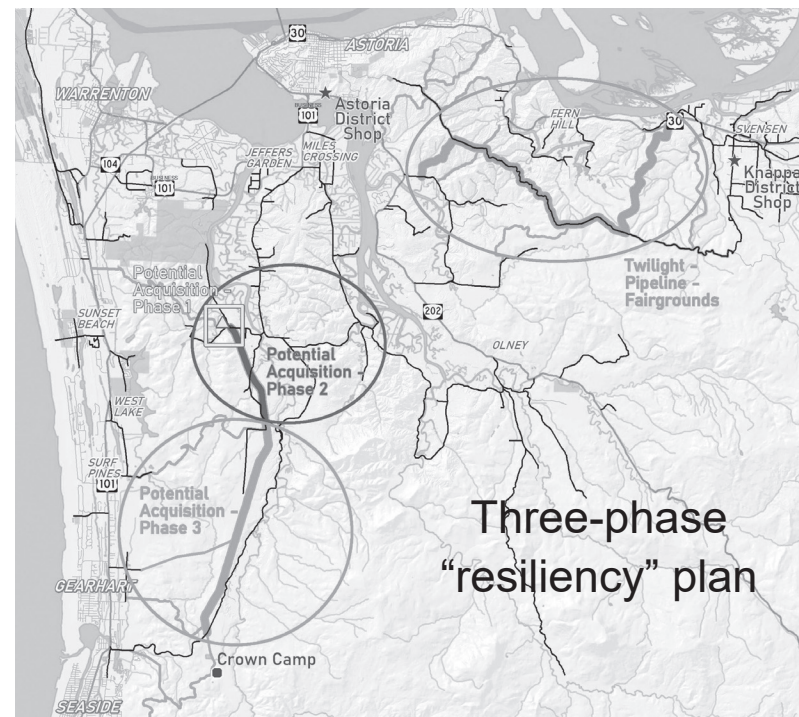
County commissioners prioritized the relocation of essential county buildings and infrastructure outside the tsunami inundation zone to optimize emergency response. A top priority is the Public Works facility, which sits on low ground at its current location, 1100 Olney Ave., Astoria.

In conjunction with evaluating the Public Works move, the county has studied potential evacuation and alternate travel routes. A major disaster could disrupt other roads and highways.

The result is a multi-phase preliminary draft plan that would move the Public Works shops, equipment and material storage to the former Lewis and Clark log-sorting yard on Fort Clatsop Road, about a mile south of the national park and outside the tsunami zone.

The relocation is expected to take three to four years.

The preliminary plan also considers using the Lewis and Clark Mainline road as a



Three-phase "resiliency" plan

potential emergency route.

Details on the Resiliency Plan are available on the Clatsop County website, co.clatsop.or.us. A questionnaire is being sent to county residents and will also be available online.

To register for the Aug.

13 video conference, go online to attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7431922756860051459.

A confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar will be emailed to those who register.

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