

Health officials urge parents to get their children vaccinated now

Just 26 percent of children ages 5 to 11 have received their first COVID vaccine dose, and pediatric cases are on the rise again, data from the Oregon Health Authority shows.

With the first cases of Omicron variant found in Oregon and winter weather and the holidays approaching, children are going to be spending more time indoors and at gatherings.

Physicians and health authorities urge parents to get their kids vaccinated immediately.

"I am a huge proponent of vaccinations for kids and adults," said Dr. Katie Sharff, Infectious Disease Specialist with Kaiser Permanente in Portland.

"Recent studies have demonstrated that children who receive the pediatric-size vaccine are much less likely to have symptomatic infection or become seriously ill," she said.

Delta remains the predominant strain in Oregon and, as of Wednesday, none of the Omicron cases were in Clatsop County.

A vaccine clinic for children will be from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, at Providence Warrenton Clinic, 171 Highway 101. Register by calling 503-717-7060.

Booster and other vaccine clinics for adults can be found on the county's website.

There were 39 new infections in Clatsop County reported last week (Dec. 4 through 10), with seven cases confirmed Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Clatsop has had a total of 2,703 infections and 35 deaths due to coronavirus since the pandemic began.

Port plans hangar expansion at Astoria Regional Airport

The Columbia Press

The Port of Astoria plans to build three more aircraft hangars and a landside building at Astoria Regional Airport.

The construction would increase the number of hangars from 50 to 53.

Currently, there are no vacancies and there's a waiting list for hangar occupancy.

"Additional hangars have long been discussed at the port, with the port's Airport Layout Plan showing development along these lines" said Matt McGrath, deputy executive director and acting airport manager.

Earlier this month, he brought the proposal to port

commissioners and asked them to approve a contract with Environmental Science Associates of Portland to conduct a delineation study for \$14,902.

Some commissioners were a bit surprised.

"How long has this been under discussion," asked Commissioner James Campbell.

"Have we gotten input from the Airport Advisory Committee on this," asked Commissioner Robert Stevens. "We have an Airport Advisory



Committee that has cancelled meetings saying there are no issues to discuss. ... I'd like to see their input on your proposal."

All commissioners except Dirk Rohne voted to send the plan to the port's committee before spending the money on a study. Rohne had urged commissioners to approve the plan.

"The wetlands delineation does not lock the port into any specific development," McGrath said. "Rather, it allows the port to move forward with the next development steps."

While most of the hangars are on the south portion of the airport, the new hangars would go between the terminal and the Coast Guard station, just west of the private hangar owned by Philip Bales on land he leases from the airport.

The site is about two acres and is near the tie-down apron.

Use of the landside building – "landside" referring to the side of the terminal to which the general public has access – hasn't been determined, McGrath said.

While the area where the proposed building and hangars would go is vacant now, buildings from the former World War II Naval Base once stood there.

The port acquired the airport after it was declared surplus by the War Assets Administrator in 1948.

Forestry: Provides economic boost

Continued from Page 1

& Wood Products Economic Development Committee.

The company harvests 25 million board feet of trees each year and uses the whole tree, he said.

The company's log chipper produces more than 5,500 loads of treetops and residue which are barged upriver for use by local papermills.

"Using this wood allows landowners to use the whole tree," Washington said.

"There's less waste, and reduced forest-fire fuel loading," he said. "They've created a whole industry around the residues and waste products. ... And some of those products were kind of hard to find in 2020."

County commissioners asked staff to include information with the budget packet about how the industry benefits county coffers.

Forest product producers provided \$23 million in tax revenue to the county, and its school, fire and other special districts.

"Having this sustainable

harvest helps pay for the recreational benefits of our visitors," Commissioner Courtney Bangs said.

"As someone who grew up here and recognizes or thinks he recognizes the impacts of the industry on the community, it's really helpful to hear this presentation," Commission Chairman Mark Kujala said.

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