



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Signs advise people arriving at the hospital not to enter the parking lot unless they are seeking medical services.

Hospital

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getting low, but not critically low," she wrote, adding that they could draw on the state's emergency stockpile if needed.

In addition to protective equipment, one of the concerns of a COVID-19 outbreak is that a wave of critically ill patients will overwhelm resources such as ventilators, as has happened in epicenters such as China and Italy. Burke said the hospital currently has nine respiratory therapists and 15 ventilators, but could end up getting more from other hospitals in the state if Hermiston became a major hot spot for the virus, or, by the same token, Hermiston could lend its equipment if things got bad in another part of the state.

The Oregon Health Authority is gathering information on what resources hospitals across the state have on hand to be ready to mobilize those resources depending on how the outbreak spreads.

In addition to canceling some procedures and appointments, the hospital has also changed its visiting policies to reduce potential exposures.

No visitors are allowed other than one parent accompanying a minor child

in need of care, one care partner for the duration of a mother's stay at the Family Birth Center, one care partner for patients requiring one for "self management" or to make medical decisions on their behalf, and no more than two visitors in a 12 hour period for patients receiving end of life care where a physician has determined death is "imminent." Visitors in all of those situations must be over 18 and free from fever or other flu and cold-like symptoms.

Patient access to the hospital and clinics is limited to specific doors, with all doors other than the emergency room entrance locked between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. All patients and vendors are directed to enter the campus through the Elm Street entrance and will be screened briefly for symptoms, including having their temperature taken.

Cozad said if a patient "meets criteria" they are tested for COVID-19, with specimens sent to their contracted laboratory or the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory. She didn't specify how many tests had been conducted so far, but said it takes three to five days for results to return.

She said the hospital supports the efforts of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems to urge the governor to take stronger social distancing measures.

Home

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Although people are still welcome to use city trails and the open spaces in parks, Smith said playgrounds and basketball courts where people are more likely to come into contact with germs will be closed off with caution tape.

In answer to a question about how Hermiston police might enforce the governor's order to stay home unless necessary, Smith said enforcement will "come as we can."

"We're not going to send police out specifically to look for that," he said.

Chief Jason Edmiston said he was encouraging his officers to be "reasonable" in their enforcement, with a focus on educating people.

Drotzmann said he had been on multiple calls with the governor and he appreciated her willingness to listen, engage and ask questions of Eastern Oregon public officials as she tries to protect public health.

During the meeting, the council passed a resolution allowing the city to reimburse itself for expenses related to building a new city hall, should the city end up going forward with a plan to sell bonds for money to build the project. Smith said the resolution did not mean the city has to sell the bonds. But if it does, the money can be used to pay the city back for costs it has already incurred for design work.

Effect on businesses

A week after the state closed dine-in restaurants and two weeks after the governor closed schools, local businesses are trying to adjust to the new requirements.

Cherice Clayton was putting the final touches on Lisa Hagerman's freshly colored magenta hair on Monday afternoon at Ellig'ance in Hermiston.

Hagerman's original appointment was Tues-

BUSINESSES CLOSED

Effective Tuesday, Gov. Kate Brown has ordered the following businesses to close. Other businesses must operate remotely or within social distancing guidelines.

Amusement parks
Aquariums
Arcades
Art galleries, except by appointment
Barber shops, hair salons
Bowling alleys
Cosmetic stores

Dance studios
Esthetician practices
Fraternal organization facilities
Furniture stores
Gyms and fitness studios, including climbing gyms
Hookah bars
Indoor and outdoor malls except for businesses allowed to remain open, including food (takeout or delivery), grocery, health care, medical, pharmacy or pet store services.
Indoor party places, including jumping gyms and laser tag

Jewelry shops and boutiques unless exclusively through pick-up or delivery
Medical spas, facial spas, day spas and non-medical massage therapy services
Museums
Nail and tanning salons
Non-tribal card rooms
Skating rinks
Senior activity centers
Ski resorts
Social and private clubs
Tattoo/piercing parlors
Tennis clubs
Theaters
Yoga studios
Youth clubs

day, but Clayton was able to squeeze her in Monday because come Tuesday, the salon would be closed per the governor's orders.

"It's a little scary," Clayton admitted about closing her salon for an undetermined amount of time. "When you are self-employed, you don't get unemployment. I'm fortunate my husband works at the prison, so we still have an income. But others don't."

Including Clayton, there are five beauticians at the salon, and as many as 40 clients come through the salon on any given day. The salon is open six to seven days a week depending on appointments.

"I worked Sunday because I knew this was coming," said Clayton, who has been in the business for 38 years.

Governor's orders

Brown on Monday directed most Oregonians to stay home except for getting groceries, going to work or handling important activities that cannot wait.

She said she was acting because many Oregonians had failed to heed her directives to practice "social distancing" to decrease the transmission of COVID-19.

"I was very, very clear. I asked and urged Oregonians to stay home. On Friday night, I frankly directed them to stay home, and now I am ordering them to stay home," she said in a con-

ference call with reporters Monday afternoon.

"As I've said a zillion times in the last couple weeks, this is an instance where each one of us can make a difference and each one of our actions can have an impact and truly save lives."

Brown ordered more than two dozen types of businesses to close as of Tuesday, primarily ones that cannot operate without close personal contact.

Other businesses, including farmers markets and auto repair shops, may stay open if they maintain at least six feet of social distance between people, or if they can operate remotely.

She applauded stores that already have marked off spots six feet apart for individuals to stand in line or have converted solely to curbside pickup.

"I am not interested in taking someone's job or shutting down a business if they can practice social distancing at work," Brown said.

"I've been really clear: If businesses are not complying with this order, we will shut them down."

Among businesses allowed to stay open are grocers, pharmacies, bars and restaurants for takeout or delivery, banks and gas stations.

Key provisions of Brown's far-reaching order include:

- Oregonians should stay home whenever possible.
- Violating the order

could be a Class C misdemeanor.

- Except for members of the same residential household, all non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals are prohibited immediately, regardless of size, unless people can stay at least six feet apart.

- Businesses not on the closure list may operate via telework or by implementing social-distancing policies "consistent with guidance from the Oregon Health Authority." Brown said OHA still was working on those guidelines.

- Playgrounds, sports courts, skate parks and some other outdoor recreation facilities are closed. Facilities allowed to remain open, including golf courses, must strictly follow social distancing guidelines.

- Child care facilities are restricted to "stable groups of 10 or fewer children," meaning that the children must be in the same group each day.

- Public and private campgrounds are closed, although veterans and camp hosts can remain in state parks. RV parks and other housing may remain open.

- State agencies generally are closed to the public, except by appointment in some circumstances, and state employees should work remotely if possible. Brown urged local, tribal and federal offices to do the same.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Eastern Oregon students leading school district's effort to cut energy use



Umatilla School District Superintendent Heidi Sipe accepts a check from Energy Trust of Oregon

Students in eastern Oregon are learning energy management skills through a hands-on program that prepares them for jobs in the future economy and helps their school district save thousands of dollars per year.

In the Umatilla School District, students take an active role in making their schools more energy efficient. The students are part of the district's energy team, which works with Energy Trust of Oregon, a nonprofit created to make sure Oregonians have access to clean, affordable energy and renewable power.

Through an effort called Strategic Energy Management, Energy Trust provides energy coaches who work with Umatilla students and staff to find no-cost or low-cost ways to cut energy usage. Eastern Oregon customers of Pacific Power, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista can access these energy coaches and the Strategic Energy Management effort.

The students are working on other major efficiency improve-

ments as well. With an approved \$10 million bond measure, plus \$70,000 in incentives from Energy Trust, the Umatilla School District recently completed renovations and energy upgrades at each of its three schools.

These upgrades are now saving the school district an estimated \$30,000 per year in energy costs. And because students are leading the energy efficiency work, the superintendent says they get to weigh in on where the dollars go.

"If funds can be freed up from energy expenditures and invested in learning, that's a huge gain for students."

— Heidi Sipe, Umatilla School District Superintendent.

"We're always looking for ways to increase opportunities for learning," said Heidi Sipe, the district superintendent. "Energy efficiency dovetails with this objective and if funds can be freed up from energy expenditures and invested in learning, that's a huge gain for students."

Students and teachers are realizing that these improvements reach beyond savings. For example, the new heating and cooling systems and new LED lighting create a more comfortable learning environment.

To see more ways energy efficiency and renewable energy are creating better futures and communities across Oregon, visit energitrust.org/this-is-oregon.

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