

## SignalViewpoints

# In-person learning, but COVID precautions remain

### SEEN FROM SEASIDE

R.J. MARX



The Oregon Health Authority and Centers for Disease Control continue to monitor individual counties on their community levels, Seaside School District Superintendent Susan Penrod said at the district's August board meeting. Clatsop County is at a low level, she said, enabling a continuity of in-person learning in the Seaside School District.

"This year we will remain mask optional and mask friendly," she said.

During the two-week period from Aug. 7 to Aug. 20, test positivity was 10.9%, down from 13% in the previous two-week period, the health authority reported.

To date, Oregon has seen more than 870,000 cases and 35,000 hospitalizations, the Oregon Health Authority reported on Aug. 24. The state has had more than 8,300 deaths. Of reported cases from Aug. 10 to 24, 1,191 cases, or 10%, were children 17 years or younger.

"As school begins and fall weather means people are spending more time indoors, individuals are encouraged to get up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and loved ones," the health authority said in their biweekly report.

At Seaside schools, masks will be on hand, as well as hand sanitizer. COVID tests are available upon request.

The district is following similar protocols and procedures from last year, Penrod said.

Frequently touched surfaces and shared objects like toys, games and art supplies will be cleaned daily and during any major transitions, Penrod said. Ventilation systems will be checked and maintained monthly by maintenance staff. Air purifiers will be provided to all staff with students in classrooms.

Isolation policy is consistent with how

it was in the spring, she said. "If somebody tests positive they are still required to be isolated for five days or longer if their symptoms have not reduced."

Masks are recommended for five days when students or staff return, though not required.

Students and staff testing positive for COVID after an exposure, having symptoms or contacts must isolate for five days or longer. Unvaccinated students or staff no longer need a period of quarantine if they test negative or do not show symptoms, Penrod said.

The district received close to 2,000 take-home COVID tests in the spring, she said. "We continue to be in that home COVID testing program and I'm sure we'll get more tests."

If 30% of students in school are absent, or 10 people absent at the same time, or 20% of the students in a single classroom, the Clatsop County Public Health Department must be notified to determine next steps. "That does not mean our local health authority will necessarily ask us to go back to virtual learning but we are required to get their thoughts on that," Penrod said.

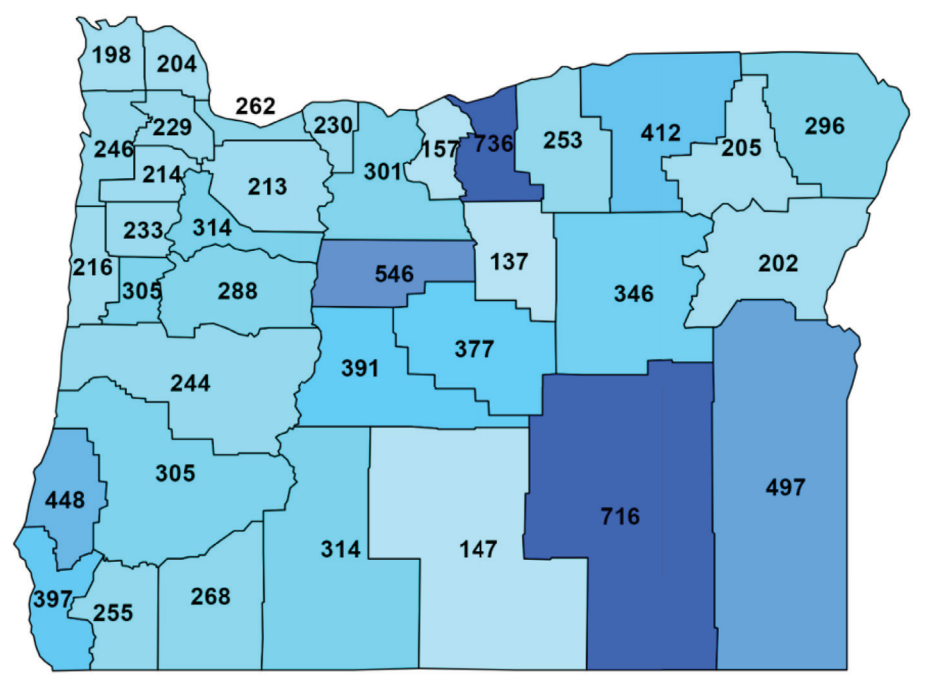
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week recommended the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 12 to 17. The vaccine is available now for this age group in Oregon, according to the state health authority.

Clatsop County superintendents, directors of special services and district health Specialists attend bimonthly meetings with the health department and representatives from the Oregon Authority, Penrod said.

Regional superintendents from the Northwest Regional Education Service District, which includes Clatsop, Columbia, Washington and Tillamook counties, meet monthly to discuss this and other issues in Hillsboro, she said. Superintendents across the state meet monthly as well.

Seaside High School and Middle School Principal Jeff Roberts said he sees it as a return to "business as usual."

"There's a sense of returning to normalcy," he said. "It's so awesome."



Oregon Health Authority

Cases in Oregon counties, Aug. 7-Aug. 20.

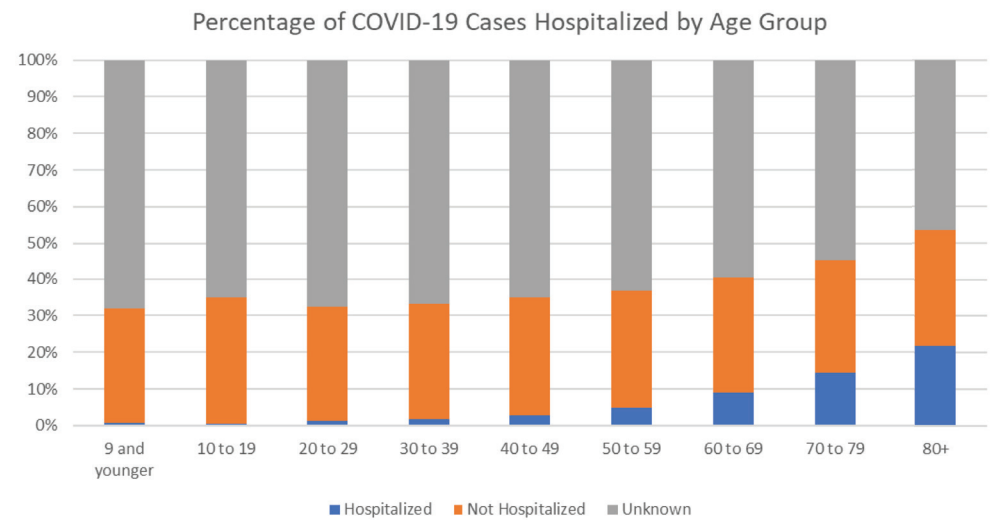
### Age

Table 3a. Severity and rates of COVID-19 by age, August 7 - August 20, 2022

Age group	Cases	% of total cases	Cases per 100,000	Hospitalized	% Hospitalized	Deaths
0-9	792	6.8	169.9	6	0.8	0
10-19	599	5.2	121.7	2	0.3	0
20-29	1,595	13.7	283.7	15	0.9	1
30-39	1,763	15.2	289.5	24	1.4	1
40-49	1,535	13.2	280.7	20	1.3	0
50-59	1,467	12.6	285.5	20	1.4	1
60-69	1,469	12.7	279.4	41	2.8	5
70-79	1,387	11.9	374.5	68	4.9	9
80+	922	7.9	511.9	88	9.5	19
Not Available	83	0.7	0	0	0.0	0
Total	11,612	100.0	272.2	284	2.4	36

Oregon Health Authority

Severity and rates of COVID-19 by age.



Oregon Health Authority

Percentage of COVID-19 cases hospitalized by age group.



R.J. Marx

Western entrance to the Seaside High School and Middle School.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Shocked

I was shocked while stopping by the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on Aug. 23 that the Oregon Association of Water Utilities was raffling off a rifle as a prize drawing.

I saw teenagers entering the area checking out the gun. And here we are having shootings everywhere, every day. Why can't these people do the right thing?

Alice Lane  
Seaside

#### Vote for Laity in House District 32

It will soon be November and time to elect our State Representative for House District 32. I ask that you vote for Logan Laity, a small business owner from Tillamook.

We have a long list of serious problems to solve, but two of the most important to me are the protection reproductive freedoms and the climate crisis. Democrat Logan Laity is on the right side of both of these issues.

Reproductive freedom is on every single ballot this fall. Republicans have abolished fifty years of settled law to rob women of their freedom to make their own personal reproductive choices, changing overnight what was a human right into a felony. The Republican's extreme forced birther movement is out of line with the wishes of the majority in our state and our nation. Given the chance, Republicans

will do the same in Oregon. Only Democrats will protect a woman's right to make her own private reproductive choices. The government should not be taking over our personal health decisions.

Global heating is upon us, and we must continue to act. Republicans in Oregon and around the nation have been climate deniers and obstructors, doing the bidding of the fossil fuel industry to impede action. Only Democrats have been consistently working to address this existential threat.

If you care about having a representative who understands the danger of the climate crisis and will protect the freedom of women to make their own personal reproductive decisions, vote for Democrat Logan Laity for House District 32.

Eric Halperin  
Gearhart

#### Thank you to Seaside

We wanted to say thank you to the city of Seaside for the hospitality over Hood to Coast weekend. From all the businesses to a really sweet gentleman who bought our whole van Dutch Bros. as we left Sunday, we appreciate the opportunity to have done the race over the past 11 years and to finish in a town we love to support.

We hope that all the participants of HTC/PTC take the time to say both thank you in person and financially for letting us take over the town for the weekend.

Libby Mongue-Wymore  
Vancouver, Washington

#### Vote for Laity

Midterm elections are quickly approaching, and virtually every major issue on the minds of Americans is "on the ballot," and not just at the national level. Education, health care, safety, and the economy are my biggest concerns for this election.

That is why I am voting for Logan Laity for House District 32. His track record of supporting healthcare and education legislation impresses me. Laity lobbied the Oregon legislature to protect the Oregon Health Plan, to help low-income Oregonians access needed health care. As a healthcare provider I'm looking for a leader who will work hard to protect and improve access to healthcare for families in our community.

My wife and I are raising two small children, and we depend on our local schools to provide a safe, quality education. Laity worked to support the Student Success Act, which will reinvest in early learning and K-12.

Many American families struggle to make ends meet, including mine. We depend on our leaders to work hard to boost our local economies. I support Laity because, as a member of the Tillamook Urban Renewal Agency Board of Directors, and a small business owner, he supports economic development projects to improve the lives of his neighbors. We need this kind of change that favors the middle class and that doesn't further damage the environment that our children will inherit.

For these reasons, I am supporting Logan Laity for House District 32, and ask that you do the same.

Marc Gendelman  
Astoria

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### TUESDAY, SEPT. 6

**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

**Seaside Library Board**, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7

**Seaside Improvement Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., www.cityof-gearhart.com.

#### THURSDAY, SEPT. 8

**Seaside Convention Center Commission**, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave., Seaside.

#### MONDAY, SEPT. 12

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

#### THURSDAY, SEPT. 15

**Transportation Advisory Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

#### TUESDAY, SEPT. 20

**Community Emergency Response Team**, 5 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, work session, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m. 2600 Spruce Drive.

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21

**Tourism Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Seaside Tree Board**, 4 p.m., 989 Broadway.



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