

Oregon governor may restrict travel

August 7, 2020



There were relatively few new confirmed positive tests of COVID-19 reported locally in the last week. As of the Thursday morning deadline for this edition, Del Norte County reported two active cases in self-isolation and 88 inactive cases — a total of 90. Curry County reported five active positive cases and nine recovered cases — a total of 14.

No new cases of staff were reported at Pelican Bay State Prison and it appears that inmate testing thus far has not resulted in any confirmed positive cases. Curry County Public Health has not responded to our requests for information about the number of positive staff cases from Pelican Bay State Prison who are Curry County residents.

Public health officials in both counties continue to advise the public to practice social distancing, observe face mask requirements in public places, and wash hands frequently.

There were news reports this week that Oregon Gov. Kate Brown may be considering travel restrictions. In response to an inquiry, the governor's press office responded as follows:

“As mentioned in recent press availabilities, in recent weeks, doctors, health experts, and case investigators have reported seeing cases linked to interstate travel. The issue of travel restrictions was raised by members of the Governor's Medical Advisory Panel based on COVID-19 cases linked to travel in southern Oregon, which is troubling based on the spikes in case counts California is currently experiencing. County-level

COVID-19 data from across the country likewise shows increasing case counts between linked communities across state borders.

“We are asking the health experts at the Oregon Health Authority and the Medical Advisory Panel for more data on travel-related spread of COVID-19, as well as recommendations for health and safety measures to address such cases. In conversations with legislators today, our office also discussed the reality that many Oregonians in communities on the state’s borders often cross those borders for work, and that any restrictions must take economic and supply chain implications into account. As the Governor has stated previously, our focus is on restrictions related to tourist travel from hotspot states and communities. Conversations are ongoing about how those restrictions could work.”

California Gov. Gavin Newsom did not respond to our question about whether California is considering travel restrictions.

Online at pilot.com and triplicate.com we publish a local COVID-19 update at 6 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday.