

THIS IS KPTZ 91.9 FM IN PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON. I'M CHARLIE BERMANT, WITH A SPECIAL COVID 19 REPORT FOR TUESDAY MARCH 10, TWENTY TWENTY.

THERE ARE SEVERAL ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COVID 19 VIRUS, INCLUDING WEBSITES FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH. THIS IN ADDITION TO OUR OWN KPTZ DOT ORG. BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS A COMPUTER, SO WE WILL PROVIDE SOME ESSENTIAL PHONE NUMBERS LATER THIS BROADCAST. SO GET YOURSELF A PEN.

CURRENTLY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY THERE IS ONE POSTIVE CASE, WITH EIGHT NEGATIVE TESTS RECEIVED AND SIXTEEN TESTS PENDING, ACCORDING TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

WE'LL REPEAT THE STANDARD CAUTIONS OF HANDWASHING, FACE COVERING, CROWD AVOIDANCE, NOT TOUCHING YOUR FACE AND STAYING SIX FEET AWAY FROM EVERYBODY ELSE. THIS IS EASIER IN PORT TOWNSEND THAN IN A LOT OF OTHER PLACES.

BUT THIS MAY NOT BE ENOUGH FOR SOME PEOPLE. ONE PATH TOWARD RELATIVE SAFETY IS SELF QUARANTINE, A PREVENTIVE PROCESS WHERE YOU REMOVE YOURSELF FROM SOCIAL CONTACT, TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM EXPOSURE AND POTENTIAL INFECTION.

THIS IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH ISOLATION, WHERE SOMEONE WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS IS CUT OFF FROM ALL CONTACT WITH OTHERS UNTIL A TEST IS COMPLETED.

JEFFERSON COUNTY IS DEVELOPING WAYS FOR PEOPLE TO CONDUCT COUNTY BUSINESS WITHOUT HAVING TO VISIT THE COURTHOUSE. SUPERIOR COURT CLERK RUTH GORDON TOLD KPTZ THAT MOST FUNCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY PHONE, ONLINE EMAIL OR THE POST OFFICE.

AT PRESENT COURT FUNCTIONS ARE PROCEEDING AS USUAL. GORDON SAID THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROVIDES ANY EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY TRANSFER OF THE VIRUS. THE COURT WILL THEN MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AS NEEDED, KEEPING IN MIND, SHE SAID, THAT JUSTICE DEFERRED IS JUSTICE DENIED. HOWEVER, SEVERAL LESS TIME SENSITIVE ACTIONS COULD BE POSTPONED.

AT THIS POINT JURY TRIALS WILL CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED.

IF THE VIRUS IS TRANSMITTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, ARRAIGNMENTS WILL THEN OCCUR AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL AND NOT THE COURTHOUSE.

GORDON SAID THAT ANY HIGH RISK PERSON WHO HAS A SCHEDULED COURT ISSUE SHOULD CONTACT THE CLERK TO MAKE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS. NEARLY ALL CLERK

SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE BY PHONE, ONLINE. EMAIL OR REGULAR MAIL. THE CLERK'S WEB PAGE ALLOWS PEOPLE TO ORDER PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OR MAKE AN ELECTRONIC PAYMENT.

AUDITOR ROSE ANNE CARROLL RECOMMENDS THAT PEOPLE ACCOMPLISH THEIR CAR TAB TRANSACTIONS THROUGH REGULAR MAIL, AND TO CALL AHEAD IF YOU NEED A REPLACEMENT BALLOT—ALTHOUGH THAT ADVICE EXPIRES TODAY WHEN ALL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOTS ARE DUE.

PEOPLE CAN ALSO MAIL IN THEIR PASSPORT RENEWALS, ALTHOUGH NEW PASSPORT APPLICATIONS REQUIRE AN OFFICE VISIT.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION VISIT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY WEBSITE OR THE JEFFERSON COUNY WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT FACEBOOK PAGE.

HERE ARE THE PHONE NUMBERS. FOR STATEWIDE INFORMATION YOU CAN CALL THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AT 800-525-0127. JEFFERSON HEALTHCARE OPERATES A RESPIRTORY NURSE CALL IN LINE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT THE VIRUS, THAT NUMBER IS 360 344-3094.

IN OTHER NEWS, PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOTS ARE DUE BY EIGHT PM TODAY. THE SAFEST WAY TO SUBMIT YOUR BALLOT IS BY MAIL—WHILE NOT LICKING THE ENVELOPE—DROP BOXES ARE AVAILABLE BEHIND THR COURTHOUSE, AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY LIBRARY IN PORT HADLOCK AND AT LOCATIONS IN BRINNON, QUILCENE AND NORDLAND. THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS WILL APPEAR ONLINE AT ABOUT QUARTER PAST EIGHT.

AS OF YESTERDAY, FIFTY ONE PERCENT OF THE BALLOTS WERE RETURNED TO THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

KPTZ 91.9 FM PORT TOWNSEND BRINGS YOU LOCAL NEWS AT NOON AND FIVE P M ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR INFORMATION FOR THIS PROGRAM PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE TO NEWS AT KPTZ DOT ORG.

THIS IS CHARLIE BERMANT, FOR THE LATEST LOCAL NEWS ABOUT COVID 19 LISTEN TO KPTZ OR GO TO KPTZ DOT ORG.