

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with with local news and commentary for Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Jefferson County reported one new case of COVID-19 yesterday, a male in his 20s. This brings the county-wide total to 407, with ten cases in isolation. There are 69 people awaiting test results. The vaccination scope expands, with appointments available for county residents 12 years and older eligible to receive inoculation at Jefferson Healthcare. Currently appointments are available for May 19, next Wednesday. Second doses are automatically scheduled for June 9.

Children 12-17 years old are required to be accompanied by their legal guardian or have the original Patient Acknowledgement form signed by a legal guardian. No photographs, copies or over-the-phone verbal consent can be accepted. Jefferson Healthcare appointments can now be scheduled directly through the appointment website. All vaccinations are done at the Drive Thru Immunization Clinic adjacent to the hospital in Port Townsend. In a press release, the hospital underscored the importance of the second vaccine dose. Those who need to schedule second-dose appointment or would like to be added to a last-minute standby list to receive overflow vaccine can go to [JeffersonHealthcare.org](https://jeffersonhealthcare.org/covid-19-vaccine/) and click on the top yellow banner (<https://jeffersonhealthcare.org/covid-19-vaccine/>).

In the meantime, the hospital is handing off the major vaccination load to the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Public Health. A statement sent to KPTZ from spokesperson Amy Yaley points out that the hospital has so far administered almost 24,000 vaccinations to our community. The need for mass vaccination is diminishing as more people become vaccinated. This shift will allow Jefferson Healthcare to focus on the immediate and long-term medical needs of the community and bring critical staff back into our clinics and hospital to provide important medical care.

The hospital will continue to administer second-dose vaccines through the drive thru and will work to transition first-dose appointments into routine care during office visits. The COVID-19 Nurse consult line will remain in place as well as drive-thru testing for pre-procedural and medically necessary testing for those with COVID-19 symptoms. Yaley said that the hospital has worked closely with the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Public Health to create a solid transition plan. Smaller vaccination events in wider geographical areas will be the next model. For more information about clinic locations call 360-344-9791.

A safety tip, from the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation: Many people are misjudging the tides and have become stranded during hikes to Glass Beach, south of Port Townsend. When this occurs, rising tides can completely inundate the beach, forcing people to climb the unstable bluffs in order to avoid the cold water. According to a press release, several parties have experienced this not-exactly-fun situation during the pandemic. Search and rescue teams have spent time and resources including a helicopter and specialized technical rope teams plucking people from the sandy bluffs! New warning signs are in place but not everyone reads them.

For instance, two weeks ago the Port Townsend police were dispatched to a call of two women stranded in the area of North Beach while attempting to get to Glass Beach. The walkers contacted emergency dispatchers and said they could not get off the beach due to the high tide. Jefferson Search and Rescue was requested to assist, along with Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (with a drone to help locate the callers) and East Jefferson Fire

Rescue. So check the tides, or better yet go somewhere else. Even at the lowest tides, a good percentage of the three miles or so to the destination forces you to walk on fields of rock. Which isn't any fun, and you really need to crave small bits of colored glass to make it worthwhile.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at 5pm Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org.

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.