

Good afternoon. You are listening to KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Simon Jaynes with local news for December 9, 2021.

Jefferson County Public Health reported 8 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday. This brings our total case count, since the beginning of the pandemic, up to 1,343. There are currently 30 active cases in isolation, Jefferson County has a 2-week COVID-19 case rate of 214 per 100,000, and a population that is 72% fully vaccinated.

There are still appointment slots available for the Pfizer Vaccination Clinic for 5-11 year olds occurring on Saturday, December 18 at Chimacum High School. So if your child is still needing their first or second dose, please contact the Department of Emergency Management at 360-344-9791 or make an appointment online through a link that is available at the Jefferson County Public Health Website

(<https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=835>).

Public health officials on the North Olympic Peninsula continue to watch for a large surge in COVID-19 cases stemming from Thanksgiving gatherings. They, “anticipate some degree of a surge, but the size of it could be much smaller than anticipated due to how many of us are vaccinated,” said Health Officer Dr. Allison Berry. “Looking at early indications, we’re expecting to see a bit of a bump – at least in Clallam County. It does look like our numbers are going up she said, but we’re not seeing a significant spike yet.” She added that New COVID-19 cases in Clallam County are primarily tied to several Thanksgiving gatherings, while new cases in Jefferson County tend to be household contacts of known cases.

The weather outlook for the next 7 days on the North Olympic Peninsula is typical December stuff: On the chilly side, with rain predicted through the weekend, and Friday looking to be particularly wet all day. With the extreme weather and climate-related events throughout the Northwest last month in mind, a very interesting piece of investigative journalism was published this week by Investigate West, a non-profit newsroom out of Seattle. The story is part of a series entitled “Decarbonizing Cascadia” which explores the path to low-carbon energy for British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. The piece specifically grapples with the implications of the ambitious climate action goals for 2020 that politicians set a decade earlier, earning themselves accolades and admiration along the way – goals that we as a region have come nowhere near attaining. The latest official data shows that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases had risen steadily from 2012 to 2018, and that the region was never on track to make big cuts last decade. Since then, the emissions trend actually got worse. We now know that Cascadia’s greenhouse gas pollution continued to increase in 2019, according to data assembled and analyzed by InvestigateWest for their report. And, despite an encouraging string of early 2021 victories by local activists and politicians dedicated to addressing the climate crisis, big gaps remain in the region’s response. “It’s been the best year for action on climate in this region,” says Gregg Small, executive director of Seattle-based regional nonprofit Climate Solutions.

But activists, experts, labor leaders, government officials, and even business leaders interviewed by for the study still question whether we are on track to deliver on the make-or-break goals for 2030. Looking back on 2021 – our smoke-filled summer skies, tornado warnings in October, mudslides and rain washing away freeways last month, flooding homes and derailing lives in the Pacific Northwest – it seems an important question to ask: What might be the results of another lost decade on climate action in this region? You can find a link to the detailed article in the transcript to this broadcast under KPTZ Local News at kptz.org

(https://crosscut.com/environment/2021/12/how-cascadia-can-fight-climate-change-2022-and-get-back-track?fbclid=IwAR0MN6_VGhWh_vfOSLR5EGLP1fjNX-NPCY6k_zqhwTw0ahKXF5DTAUUKq-Q)

A reminder to local residents in need of low-cost dental care – the SmileMobile traveling dental clinic will be in Port Townsend and offering appointments through tomorrow, December 10. Apple Health or uninsured clients have the opportunity to schedule dental care through this mobile service, and appointments can be made by calling 888-286-9105. Services include dental exams, fluoride varnish, X-rays, simple extractions, temporary fillings, and more. Again the phone number is 888-286-9105.

And that's it for today's local news. 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. I'm Simon Jaynes. Thanks for listening and have a great day.