

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news for March 11, 2022.

KPTZ is asking for your support during a two-day FLASH FUNDRAISER that started yesterday. Do help KPTZ sustain and grow! Make a donation at kptz.org, mail a check, or stop by the station. KPTZ has received a matching donation offer of \$10,000, so your help will go twice as far. There are only a few hours left, so please help keep our community radio strong.

The county mandate requiring proof of vaccination in restaurants and bars will end at midnight tonight. But Dr Allison Berry, Jefferson County's Health Officer points out that right now "the risk of infection is high and wearing a mask is an act of community." A new gauge graphic on the Jefferson County Public Health website is designed to help the public know when wearing a mask in indoor, public places is recommended. The gauge is located at the top of the case information page at Jefferson County Public Health.org (<https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1466/Case-Information>).

A "high" case rate means it is greater than 100 cases per 100,000 residents. The two-week case rate is currently 385 per 100,000. When the case rate is below 100 per 100,000, it will be safer for lower-risk populations to unmask in indoor spaces. Those at high risk of severe illness, or those with household members at high risk, should wait until that rate falls below 50. Even after today, masking will still be legally required for staff and visitors in many high-risk areas and many businesses are continuing to ask for proof of vaccination evidence require masks. Please respect these precautions.

Yesterday 18 new cases were added to the Jefferson County count, bringing the total of cases since the beginning of the pandemic to 3,106. Updated statistics on county infection and hospitalization will be issued today. For all county Covid information go to <https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1466/Case-Information>.

Here's an urgent heads up from the styrocyclers who were in my newscast last week... All March styrofoam collections are CANCELLED because their truck to Kent will not be available! And storage is full so they cannot take drop-offs until April. Check their facebook page Port Townsend Styrocyclers (<https://www.facebook.com/PortTownsendStyrofoam>) for April dates. Please help spread the word.

Following on the good COVID-19 news, Port Townsend has issued a reopening plan that starts this coming Monday, March 14 when council business and workshop meetings will be open to the public again. These meetings take place on the first, second and third Mondays of the month. The public still has all the other options for attending meetings by computer, tablet or phone. For information on how to remote access meetings, go the City's website and click on meeting calendar (<https://cityofpt.us/calendar>). Council meeting archives can be found through the same link. Currently, City Council is the only body meeting in person, but there are more openings planned. If you do attend in person, you may provide comment at the appropriate point in the agenda, submit written comment ahead of the meeting, or just listen to the conversation. If you phone in, you will be

limited to three minutes. For all meetings, the City continues to accept written public comments up to two hours before the start of each meeting. Send those emails to: publiccomment@cityofpt.us. Staff will continue to include written comments into the public record.

Lawmakers in Olympia gave unanimous approval on Tuesday to a statewide supplemental capital budget that invests in communities and creates jobs. It provides \$140,000,000 for schools. More than \$440,000,000 will be spent on housing. And \$100,000,000 will go for statewide broadband infrastructure grants.

More good funding news: First Federal Bank, a subsidiary of First Northwest Bancorp, has pledged \$1 million to the Northwest Maritime Center to expand access to maritime education. The funding will be spread evenly across 10 years.

The Makah Indian Reservation at Neah Bay that includes Cape Flattery and Shi Shi Beach, has been closed to the public for nearly two years because of the virus. After careful consideration, the tribe has announced it will reopen to fully vaccinated visitors starting on Tuesday, March 15.

And that's it for today's local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. I'm Ann Katzenbach. Thanks for listening. Have a great weekend!