

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, July 26, 2022.

Yesterday was the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Meeting and Dr. Allison Berry, Public Health Officer for Jefferson and Clallam Counties and Willie Bence, Directory of Emergency spoke to the commissioners. Nationwide, COVID-19 infections are up 19%, and hospitalizations are rising 15%. Deaths from COVID-19 are up 38%, so 400 people are dying every day across the USA.

In Jefferson County, the two week case rate is 786 per hundred thousand, an increase over last week. One person is currently hospitalized. 143 new cases were added this week for a total of 5,178 cases. No deaths this week so 30 people have died due to COVID-19 in Jefferson County since the pandemic began.

In Clallam County the two week case rate is 604 per hundred thousand, also a slight increase. 260 new cases, so the total cases now stand at 14,503. 3 people are currently hospitalized, and there was one death this past week, for a total of 118 deaths in Clallam County since the pandemic began. The latest death this past week in Clallam County was a previously healthy man in his 30s, who was unvaccinated.

Dr. Berry answered questions from the commissioners and KPTZ listeners about pediatric vaccines, monkeypox, the Novavax vaccine, breakthrough cases, returning to school, the myth of "sudden adult death syndrome," and other matters. Willie Bence said the heat we are experiencing here this week does not have a "heat dome" associated with it, so we will have cooling overnight every night this week. There is a heat advisory in effect in Jefferson County. You are reminded to stay hydrated and eat light meals, wear light, loose-fitting clothing, and do not leave children or pets alone in a vehicle. Warm air does not equal warm water; be careful of cold shock and hypothermia when recreating on the water. Use a life jacket or flotation device. There's increased fire risk due to high heat and low humidity. Use caution when grilling. See the Department of Emergency Management website (<https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=981>) for cooling station locations and hours. You can also go to <https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=150>.

Willie Bence spoke a little about the All County Picnic (ACP) coming up the weekend of August 20 and 21. The theme is resiliency and it's about emergency prep. On Saturday, August 20 from 11am to 4pm in HJ Carroll Park there will be Presentations and Demonstrations, Information Booths, and distribution of fresh corn on the cob and Emergency Prep Materials. That is followed on Sunday, August 21 by "Picnic in Place" Neighborhood Gatherings. ACP is a collaborative effort by the Production Alliance, Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management, and Local 20/20's NPREP Action Group. For more information, see <https://theproductionalliance.org/events/all-county-picnic>.

You can listen to Dr. Allison Berry's, and Willie Bence's full remarks on our website (<https://kptz.org/podcasts/virus-watch/>) and there are links here for the Clallam (<https://www.clallam.net/Coronavirus/>) and Jefferson County (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1429/COVID-19>) websites with the latest Coronavirus information:

Last week was not a good week for 2 drivers, 2 trees, a truck and a car. A Port Townsend woman on Saturday night sped through a stop sign at the end of Anderson Lake Road where it meets State Route 20. She crashed

through a guardrail and plunged fifty feet down an embankment and was stopped by a tree. She was airlifted to Harborview and was released Sunday. She is being charged with speeding and DUI.

Also, earlier last week, according to the Washington State Patrol and the *Peninsula Daily News* a Port Angeles man left the road at Highway 112 and Graul-Ramapo Road, two and a half miles east of Joyce, driving a full sized 1979 GMC TRUCK, and lodged the truck in a tree so completely that it took firefighters several hours to remove it Wednesday. State Patrol Trooper Katherine Weatherwax said the truck appeared to have come down Graul-Ramapo Road, gone airborne, and became lodged in a tree. The truck was registered to Brandon Dachs, 45, of Port Angeles, according to the State Patrol. He admitted to being the driver after he was contacted at Olympic Medical Center (OMC), where was listed in satisfactory condition earlier last week. Dachs fled the scene and somehow got himself to OMC, Weatherwax said.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Monday through Thursday and at noon on Friday and Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.