

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, August 2, 2022.

It is primary day, and there are several races in Jefferson County that need your input by 8pm tonight. This is a 'top two' primary so, even if there are only two candidates, such as in the Jefferson County Sheriff's race, they will both advance to the fall election.

In other contest – for the House of Representatives and the US Senate, for example – there are way more than two candidates, so if you'd like to get your favorite candidate onto the fall ballot, fill out your ballot, and make sure it's postmarked with today's date, August 2, if you're mailing it in. If you want drop your ballot into an official drop box, please do so by 8pm at the following locations:

- Jefferson County Courthouse
- Brinnon Community Center
- Quilcene Community Center
- Nordland Fire Station, on Flagler Road in Nordland
- Jefferson County Library, in Port Hadlock
- Olympic Peninsula Gateway Visitor Center, 93 Beaver Valley Road, Port Ludlow
- Hoh Indian Nation in front of Tribal Police Center, in Forks
- Quinault Indian Nation in front of Queets Tribal Office, in Forks

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 (Director of Emergency Management) spoke to the commissioners.

In Jefferson County, the two-week case rate is 690 per hundred thousand, a decrease from last week. One person is currently hospitalized. 143 new cases were added this week (the same number as last week, by the way) for a total of 5,271 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 decrease. There are 159 new cases, so the total cases now stand at 14,503. One person is currently hospitalized, and there was one death last week, for a total of 119 deaths in Clallam County since the pandemic began. The latest death this past week in Clallam County was a man in his 90s, vaccinated with a single booster, with multiple underlying comorbidities. He and his family had decided to transition him to "comfort care," another term for hospice.

Dr. Berry reminded everyone of the recommendations she has been repeating for some time now. So, wear a high-quality mask in indoor settings. Full vaccination with 3 doses for everyone under 65 years of age, and full vaccination with 4 doses for everyone over 65 and everyone who is immunocompromised.

Willie Bence said if you want to get into a Picnic in Place group ahead of the all-county picnic, you should reach out on The Production Alliance/All County picnic website (<https://theproductionalliance.org/events/all-county-picnic>). When they have better numbers of the people who will be involved, then they can order corn for the picnic. Registration deadline for "Picnic in Place" events and free "Go Bags" is August 5.

The 10th annual All County Picnic (ACP) invites East Jefferson County to strengthen neighborhood networks as part of a community-wide celebration of resilience and emergency preparedness.

You can listen to Dr. Allison Berry's answers to other questions, and Willie Bence's full remarks on our website, KPTZ.org, and there are links on the transcript of this newscast 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, There is also a link for the sayyescovidhometest.org (<https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org>) website.

After seeing lengthy delays Monday on US 101 near Discovery Bay during the Washington State Department of Transportation's chip sealing job, work hours have been adjusted for the rest of the project. Crews are now scheduled to work from 10am to 4pm on Tuesday, August 2, Wednesday, August 3, and Thursday, August 4. The work zone is from milepost 279.5 to 281 near Old Gardiner Road in Discovery Bay. This work requires dry weather and could be rescheduled due to rain.

While driving through the work zone, please slow down and avoid distractions to help keep everyone safe. Real-time traffic information is available on the WSDOT statewide travel map (<https://wsdot.com/Travel/Real-time/Map/>), the WSDOT app (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/travel-information-phone>) (very useful), and WSDOT regional Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/wsdot>).

The "Art Marker" sculptures – the five white-washed wooden pillars made of reclaimed timber that act as guideposts for Art and Culture around Port Townsend, located downtown, uptown, and at Fort Worden – are in the process of being repainted a dark forest green. This could be in response to some "re-decoration" or "vandalism" (depending on who you ask) of the sculptures in recent months and we will follow up and get back to our listeners as this story develops.

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.