

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Port Townsend and vicinity on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

This week marks the start of broadcasting, in part, from KPTZ's new broadcast studios in building 305, part of Maker's Square in Fort Worden. The station's week-long fundraiser, Welcome Home, includes five keynote KPTZ DJ hosts who will broadcast live from our new station this coming week:

Tuesday Afternoon: Rhythm Connection with Robert Ambrose starts at 1pm, followed by Out of Nowhere with Peter Robinson, starts at 3pm.

Wednesday: Bring Your Records, with Larry Stein from 9:30 to 11am.

Thursday: Discovery Road, with Tim Quackenbush from 9:30 to 11am.

Friday: The Buzzy Donahue Show from 8 to 11am

The 7-day event signifies a huge benchmark, as they showcase our long-awaited migration from the tiny Mountain View Commons building to newly renovated Building 305 at Fort Worden. We turn now to you who listen, asking you to support and sustain KPTZ's continued home grown radio as a fixture that serves this community. You can donate to KPTZ by going to [KPTZ.org](https://www.kptz.org) and pressing the DONATE button.

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Meeting was yesterday, and Dr. Allison Berry, Public Health Officer for Jefferson and Clallam Counties and Willie Bence, Director of Emergency Management spoke to the commissioners during the Public Health Briefing.

In Jefferson County, the two-week COVID-19 case rate is 460 per hundred thousand, a definite rise from last week. No one is currently hospitalized. 108 new cases were added this week for a total of 5,961 cases. Jefferson County's total count of COVID-19-related deaths is still 31. Dr. Berry said the rise in cases is being driven by a rise in cases in schools at this point.

In Clallam County the two-week COVID-19 case-rate is 170 per hundred thousand, 59 new cases for a total of 15,636 cases since the pandemic began. 2 people are hospitalized at this time. Clallam County's total count of COVID-19-related deaths is still 124.

Everyone 12 and over who has had a booster shot more than two months ago is now eligible for the bivalent booster shot, and Dr. Berry says there is now ample supply. So now, even if you are not in a high-risk group you can and should seek out the bivalent booster.

Commissioner Eisenhower asked Dr. Berry what will happen on October 31, when the COVID-19 emergency declaration ends. Funding for Dr. Berry's work will decrease dramatically, so in November the cadence of the Public Health Briefings will change. The update will go to once a month.

If you have any lingering COVID-19 or monkeypox or any other public health related questions for Dr. Berry, you might want to send them in over the next four weeks. Submit your Public Health questions to Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence by emailing contactus@kptz.org by Fridays at noon, to be answered the following Monday.

(You can still order COVID tests from Washington State at: <https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org>)

Clallam County has extended the burn ban until further notice. While there is usually wetter weather by the first week of October in these parts, atmospheric conditions of reduced moisture levels, low humidity and warmer weather, combined with the reduced availability of fire-fighting resources the Clallam County Burn Ban was modified on September 13 to include all campgrounds within unincorporated Clallam County including county controlled campgrounds.

This modification prohibits all outdoor burning including campfires, bonfires, briquette BBQs, residential yard debris clean-up, trash disposal, land clearing, weed abatement and agricultural burning activity. As of the 29th of September the Fire Chiefs of East Jefferson County agreed to extend the debris burn restrictions per County ordinance. Also, based on the information obtained from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), they have agreed to lower other fire restrictions to a moderate level. This will allow for recreational campfires, BBQ briquettes, shooting, etc. The restrictions will be reviewed again on Monday October 10 based on current atmospheric conditions and possible rain accumulation.

There is currently smoky haze in the Seattle area, and still some active fires east of here. According to the data provided by BreezoMeter, our air quality in Port Townsend is teetering at the upper edge of good at the number 38. When the number goes above 40 – and it might this week, the air quality will turn to moderate. Most of this is because of very small particulate matter, such as ash, wood smoke, and dust.

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