

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with the local news for Jefferson and Clallam Counties on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

This afternoon, from 2 to 4 pm is the Envision Golf Course Project Launch. It's a Meet and Greet for the community to initiate the PT Golf Course and Mt. View Commons Concept Planning, and will be taking place at both the Mountain View Commons and the Golf Course simultaneously. You can find out more and comment online by going to the City of PT website and clicking on hot topics (<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/envision-port-townsend-golf-course-and-mountain-view-commons>).

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Meeting took place yesterday, and Dr. Tom Locke, who was in for Dr. Allison Berry, and Willie Bence, Director of Emergency Management spoke to the commissioners during the Public Health Briefing. This was the final weekly briefing in October, and for the foreseeable future. The 31st is the fifth Monday of the month, so the Board isn't meeting, and then the Public Health Briefings are going to go to one per month, on the third Monday of the month. So the next Public Health Briefing should be November 21.

In Jefferson County, the two-week COVID-19 case rate is 240 per hundred thousand, lower than last week, but still in the high category. Two people are currently hospitalized. 36 new cases were added this week for a total of 6,110 cases. No additional death was reported this week in Jefferson County. The total count of COVID-19-related deaths stands at 32.

Dr. Locke said we are doing okay now, but this lull we are experiencing locally will likely give way to another surge. He used the analogy of a three act play to describe the pandemic: He said "We are still in Act II, "and the beginning of Act III will reveal how prepared we are for the end of the pandemic.

The South and the eastern US are starting to see a rise in Flu cases early; European countries and Singapore are seeing another surge in COVID-19 cases, and here in the US there is a rise of respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults. Many Children's hospitals east of here are stretched to capacity with very young children hospitalized with RSV. These increases in Flu and RSV cases are not surprising, Dr. Locke said. After two years of mask wearing and quarantine there is not an abundance of community immunity to fend off these infections. The best course of action, he said, is to get the flu shot, get the COVID-19 bivalent booster before the holidays. Wear a mask in indoor settings and increase ventilation wherever possible in indoor settings. Avoid large gatherings.

The next two COVID-19 mutations of concern are probably coming our way in the next month to six weeks, and they are both immunity avoidant, that is they can get by even our double and triple boosted immunity, but having the vaccines, and even being exposed to COVID-19 in the community can help keep those cases mild and out of the hospital.

Willie Bence said 100 slots were reserved in a covalent booster clinic held this past Saturday, which was to be for children 5 to 17 years of age, but they opened it to all. An additional 60 people waited in line to receive their Covalent booster at Blue Heron School in Port Townsend. The covalent MNRA booster shot as well as the Novovax shot and booster are available at your local pharmacy. The Novovax booster is still based on the original virus, but is available to those who wouldn't or couldn't get the MRNA vaccine.

There is a mobile Vaccination & Booster Clinic (Moderna, Pfizer, Novavax) for anyone 6 months or older this coming Sunday, October 30 from 1-4pm at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2333 San Juan Avenue in Port Townsend. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/ptvaxclinic>.

Homebound? Receive a home visit for a COVID-19 vaccination by leaving a message at 360-344-9791.

Interested in receiving the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine? Click here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6b25b23cccc4812b49459172f7a14cd>

Submit your Public Health questions to Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence by emailing contactus@kptz.org by Friday November 18 at noon, to be answered the following Monday.

(Note, you can still order COVID tests from Washington State until the end of the year at:

<https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org>)

Upcoming night work is necessary for the Port of Port Townsend Point Hudson Breakwater Replacement Project. The project to rebuild the existing north jetty in the historic Point Hudson Marina is on schedule. However, working nights during low tides are required to complete excavation near the shoreline. Weather permitting, Orion Marine will perform the night work beginning the evening of this coming Thursday, October 27, and will continue until Saturday, October 29 (3 nights). Work will take place between the hours of 6pm to 4:30am. There may be minor noise and light disturbances associated with the work. If there are concerns, please get in touch with Port at 360-620-0079. For more information, please visit project page on the Port's website:

<https://portofpt.com/point-hudson-planning/>

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening!