

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news for Jefferson and Clallam counties for Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

Breaking News: A Nixle alert came in this morning. If you are in Jefferson or Clallam Counties and are considering a drive over to Silverdale or Bremerton this afternoon through tomorrow, you might want to change your plans. Travel can be very difficult this afternoon from 1pm to 4pm Wednesday. Heavy snow is expected, with total snow accumulations of up to 8 inches. This affects western Kitsap and the lowlands of eastern Jefferson and Mason Counties, including Brinnon, Seabeck, and Shelton; and Bremerton and vicinity, including Indianola, Bainbridge Island, Silverdale, and Port Orchard. Highest snowfall amounts are expected near Hood Canal and on the western Kitsap Peninsula.

Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management says that if you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. For the latest road conditions in Washington State, call 511 or go to the washdot website (<https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/>).

This just in: If you want to apply to get into the Caswell Brown Shelter on Mill Road, you must apply today – that's Tuesday – by 3pm at the OlyCAP office at 2120 West Sims Way (next to the Verizon Store). Bring ID if you can. If you don't have ID, come anyway and apply. Application does not guarantee acceptance. You will need to agree to a background check. Today by 3pm.

Washington State Patrol reported that yesterday morning just before 8:30am near milepost 3 On Highway 104, a Moses Lake man was driving a 1998 Acura Integra east on the highway when he crossed the centerline and hit a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck that was headed west. Snow and ice was on the road at the time of the wreck, and State Patrol said the cause of the crash was speeding too fast for conditions. The 26-year-old Moses Lake man was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. The driver of the truck, a 20-year-old man from Bellevue, was not hurt. The crash shut down both lanes of the highway and traffic was backed up on Center Valley Road for several hours. Highway 104 was fully reopened just after 11:30am. Both vehicles were totaled in the collision.

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) will decommission the Washington State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19) website coronavirus.wa.gov on December 1. Site visitors will be redirected to the DOH COVID-19 landing page. This streamlining of online resources reflects the end of the COVID-19 emergency order and a decrease in web traffic on the coronavirus.wa.gov website. As part of the decommissioning, the public health content on the site will move to the DOH website.

DOH remains committed to supporting all Washington state communities in the fight against COVID-19 and urges everyone to stay up to date on their vaccinations to prevent severe illness. Hospitals are operating at higher-than-usual capacity currently and it has become even more important to utilize preventive measures to make sure there is space for those with critical health needs. Washington DOH states that everyone six months and older should be vaccinated for influenza and COVID-19 to lower the risk of transmission and serious illness.

By taking just a few precautions, everyone can gather with their loved ones safely and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other serious respiratory illnesses throughout the holidays. The DOH website is your source for a healthy dose of information.

In Jefferson County, the two-week COVID-19 case rate is 206 per 100,000 people. One person is currently hospitalized. 44 new cases were added this week for a total of 6,288 cases. There was one more death this past week bringing the total count of COVID-19-related deaths in Jefferson County to 34. The woman who died was in her 90s with chronic health conditions. She had received one monovalent booster dose but had not yet received her updated, bivalent booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

The risk of COVID-19 transmission in public, indoor places is now high. At this level, it's strongly recommended everyone wear a well-fitting, high-quality mask in public, indoor settings. Submit your Public Health questions to Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence by emailing contactus@kptz.org by Friday December 16th at noon, to be answered the following Monday, December 19.

You can still order COVID tests from Washington State until the end of the year at <https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org>. If you order them now, you can order them again next week.

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!