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## Oregon News

### [Portland, Oregon, school board shut down amid vaccine debate](#)

*Seattle Times*

The Portland, Oregon, school board ended an in-person meeting amid controversy over a proposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate for children 12 and older after unmasked protesters showed up and refused to don a face covering.

The board that oversees Oregon's largest school district resumed its meeting with online streaming Tuesday after protesters refused to comply with requests from security guards to put on masks, according to a statement from Portland Public Schools.

Some of the protesters were not from Portland but traveled from elsewhere in Oregon and Washington state, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Wednesday. Earlier in the day, about 500 students walked out of class in favor of the proposed vaccine mandate.

Rules to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools, such as a statewide school mask mandate for all children, have generated protests in other school districts and school boards and superintendents are often the focus of such actions.

In Redmond, critics of state mandates have crowded board meetings and dominated public comment periods. In Adrian, school board members voted to fire Superintendent Kevin Purnell when he refused to buck state policy, the newspaper reported.

### [Lawsuit challenges residency requirement of Oregon's Death With Dignity law](#)

*OPB*

Oregon's Death with Dignity law allows Oregon residents diagnosed with a terminal illness that will lead to death within six months to access medical aid in dying. The advocacy group Compassion & Choices says that residency requirement is unconstitutional. The group filed a lawsuit Thursday on behalf of Nick Gideonse, a physician who specializes in end-of-life care. Gideonse says he wants to be able to work with patients in neighboring states and points out that no other medical treatment requires a patient to be a resident of a particular state. We hear from Gideonse about the lawsuit and his experience with medical aid in dying.

### [Oregon hires new paid family and medical leave program director, names law firm to investigate discrimination in program](#)

*The Oregonian*

The Oregon Employment Department said Wednesday it has hired a new director for its paid family and medical leave program in the wake of allegations of discriminatory behavior in the administration of the program.

Karen Humelbaugh will leave her role as the director of the Office of Workforce Investments at the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission to take over as director of program starting Monday.

### [Oregon's opioid settlement dollars at risk](#)

*The Oregonian \$\$\$*

Negotiations over Oregon's share of a national opioid settlement have reached an impasse, and it could cost Oregonians more than \$150 million.

Lawyers for local governments and Gov. Kate Brown are grappling behind the scenes over funding from a \$26 billion national opioid legal settlement that is intended to battle addiction and overdose deaths.

Oregon's share — to be paid by three large companies that distributed opioids as well as by the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical company — could reach \$330 million under the settlement's complicated structure. But only if all the lawyers work together.

### [Oregon's COVID-19 vaccine divide extends to the state's universities](#)

*OPB*

All of Oregon's public universities have COVID-19 vaccination requirements in place. But that doesn't mean everyone on those campuses is vaccinated.

Some universities located in more rural areas are seeing a larger percentage of allowable vaccine exemptions — but, they say campus is still one of the safest places to be considering the lower vaccination rates in the surrounding area.

Eastern Oregon University in La Grande and the Oregon Institute of Technology, with main locations in Klamath Falls and Wilsonville, have the highest percentages of COVID-19 vaccination exemptions out of the public universities: About 24% for students and about 18% for employees at Eastern, and about 22% for students and 17% for employees at Oregon Tech.

### [Jason Rantz: Portland's new anti-policing laws hamstringing law enforcement and putting lives at risk](#)

*Fox News*

While the nightly Antifa riots and marches have become more sporadic in Portland, residents and business owners are now in even more danger. Thanks to a recently implemented law, the Portland police are more hamstrung than ever in stopping the violence.

Oregon Democrats passed over a dozen so-called police reform bills during this year's legislative session, including House Bill 2928. This measure, recently implemented in Portland, bars officers from using nonlethal tools for crowd control, such as tear gas, rubber bullets, or a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD). Police may only use these non-lethal tools if the conduct they're addressing otherwise justifies the deadly use of force or if it qualifies under the specific definition of a riot.

### [Coronavirus in Oregon: 1,360 new cases, 16 deaths](#)

*The Oregonian*

Oregon health officials announced 1,360 coronavirus cases Wednesday and 16 deaths connected to COVID-19.

Meanwhile, officials released new information about how many fully vaccinated Oregonians have already received an extra dose of vaccine beyond the original regimen. Of the nearly 2.6 million Oregon adults fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, more than 256,000 have received supplementary doses, according to data the Oregon Health Authority published Wednesday.

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