



Linn County NEWS



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Linn County to resume vaccination clinics at fairgrounds Jan. 4

ALBANY — Linn County Public Health will resume large-scale COVID vaccination clinics January 4, 2022, at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center the Board of Commissioners agreed Tuesday.

Linn County had sponsored both in-house and drive-through vaccination clinics at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, but transitioned to mobile vaccinations throughout the county several months ago.

With the arrival of the omicron variant of COVID-19, commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker directed Public Health Director Todd Noble and Fair & Expo Center manager Randy Porter to develop a plan that focuses on where and when large-scale vaccination clinics can be held.

By the end of the work day Tuesday, Noble said clinics will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., January 4-7; January 10-14; and January 17-19.

All three vaccines will be available including first and second doses as well as boosters. Adults only, ages 12 and older. There will not be any vaccines for children ages 5 to 11.

Walk-ins are welcome, no appointments are necessary.

Noble reminds people to park in the main fairgrounds parking lot and walk back to

the Santiam Building.

Tuesday's actions came after Dr. William Muth, Linn County Public Health Officer, told the board the new omicron COVID-19 variant is highly transmissible — second only to measles — and like COVID-19, it can severely affect people who are not vaccinated.

Those who are vaccinated, may acquire omicron, but research has shown their chance of requiring hospitalization is reduced.

The number of omicron cases is doubling every two to three days nationwide.

Noble told the board that the Medical Reserve Corps, which was so vital during the first wave of vaccinations, is available and ready to be mobilized as soon as they are contacted.

The county also owns large tents and ancillary equipment, so a facility could be established in the fairgrounds parking area if needed.

Noble said the mobile vaccination clinics are averaging about 1,000 shots per week. A more permanent system at the fairgrounds could provide 1,500 to 2,000 shots per day.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Were told by County Attorney Gene Karandy that Linn County's share of a national opioid lawsuit could amount to about \$170,000 per year for 18 years, about \$3.2 million. The commissioners believe that money should be dedicated to addiction recovery programs.
- Learned from Environmental Health Director Shane Sanderson that there were 26 restaurant inspections in November and 88 year-to-date.
- Approved vacating Steckley Drive, county road 319, near Scrael Hill Road.
- Approved a Plan Map Amendment and a Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning Map for property owned by Ronald and Virginia Henthorne. The couple want to rezone 108 acres from farm/forest to non-resource, 5-acre minimum.
- Learned from Dr. Muth that there were 65 births (37 females and 28 males) and 138 deaths in November. Fifteen deaths were tobacco related, 3 were alcohol related, 12 were diabetes related and 2 were drug related.

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