

UNIFIED COMMAND WALLA WALLA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Walla Walla County PIO, 509-524-2916, EOCPIO@co.walla-walla.wa.us

Walla Walla County COVID Vaccine Update <u>Reminder to Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Keep our Community Safe</u>

WALLA WALLA, WA — Walla Walla county health officials and Providence St. Mary Medical Center have been working to vaccinate <u>Phase 1A-eligible</u> residents for the past four weeks with Pfizer COVID vaccine, which requires two doses. An estimated 80 - 90% of 1A eligible residents have been vaccinated with the first dose, and 35 - 40% have been vaccinated with the second dose. Efforts will continue over the upcoming weeks to include more Phase 1A-eligible residents.

With support from Walla Walla County Commissioners, Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) is actively planning logistics for a mass vaccination clinic that will be located at the County Fairgrounds. With various partners, including Providence St. Mary, Providence Medical Group, Walla Walla Clinic, Family Medical Center, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services, health officials plan to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with Washington State Department of Health (DOH) guidelines. This vaccination clinic is projected to be up and running by the first weeks of February and is expected to continue for several months.

Although DCH has experience and knowledge gained from previous mass flu immunization clinic, there are several unknowns that may impact the clinic, such as the number of doses available from state and federal partners. DCH will continue to communicate vaccine allocation information including our current vaccination phases, clinics offering the vaccine, and how to sign up when eligible.

"The strong relationships between our local medical and emergency services community ensures a unified effort to vaccinate our county residents quickly and efficiently," said Public Health Officer Dr. Daniel Kaminsky. "We are aware of the public's interest and concern that this has not rolled out as fast as we all want it to. We also feel the urgency."

How residents can help

Please be patient as staff is focused on the logistics of the plans and procedures of a mass vaccine clinic. We ask that individuals who are not part of Phase 1A of the DOH guidelines not call DCH. Due to the all-hands-on-deck approach, our ability to cover and return calls is very limited. For the latest information, please visit our <u>website</u> and social media channels.

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Always working for a safer, healthier and thriving Walla Walla County