

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walla Walla County Vaccination Updates <u>Reminder to Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Keep our Community Safe</u>

WALLA WALLA, WA – Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) is taking steps to provide equitable access for all county residents interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. To help achieve this goal, DCH has convened a task force to work with local community partners to reach those who do not have Internet access and those who face other barriers to getting vaccinated. DCH is also in the process of setting up a mass communication tool to provide regular updates to interested county residents. A weekly update will be provided via email, text messaging or voice notification.

The DCH will also make daily updates on the county's COVID <u>website</u>. Information about upcoming vaccine clinics, second vaccine doses, and weekly allocation numbers will be posted to the site's homepage.

There was some confusion about this week's vaccine allocation from the state and future allotments. To clarify, Walla Walla DCH did not receive any doses from the state this week. DCH anticipates news regarding next week's allocation on Friday, January 29. Those allocation numbers will be made available to the public through the county COVID website and social media channels.

"There is no timetable on when DCH will start receiving consistent allocation from the state. We just don't know," Public Health Officer Dr. Daniel Kaminsky said. "My impression is that if we can prove that we can do these mass vaccination clinics then we are going to get more reliable allotments." Kaminsky also said that the state's allocation from the federal government plays a factor in the county's weekly allotment.

For individuals who were vaccinated on Monday, January 18, your second dose clinic will be held sometime between February 4-8 at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds Pavilion. Confirmed dates and times will be announced on the county's COVID website.

DCH and health care partners are still navigating the complexities and logistics of running a mass vaccination clinic. Plans are underway for a standardized clinic schedule. We thank you for your patience and understanding and ask that you refrain from contacting county health officials and staff outside of business hours (Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

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