

# SAFETY NOTICE

**TO:** All Spokane Transit Employees **Document No.:** S21-001

**FROM:** Nancy Williams, Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations  
Fred Nelson, Interim Chief Operations Officer  
Mike Toole, Safety & Security Manager

**DATE:** January 12, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation Update #10  
Immunizations**

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## Situation

STA leadership is working closely with local officials to provide timely information regarding immunization availability, points of immunization (POI) locations, and hours of operation.

To date, two vaccines have been approved for emergency use by FDA: Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. While specific information about distribution channels is not yet available, the logistics will smooth out and spread to other POI as time goes by to include pharmacies, healthcare providers and the like. COVID-19 immunization is recommended but not required by STA. Two doses are required for both vaccines. Each employee should contact their health care provider with questions they may have before deciding to immunize or not.

## When will immunizations for public transit workers be available?

Currently, under Washington State's immunization roll-out, immunization availability for public transit workers is scheduled for February 2021, although this could change based on allocations that are received in Spokane County. There are employees that qualify for immunizations now based on their age, medical conditions and family arrangements. You may use WA Phase Finder tool starting January 18, 2021, to assess the phase you are eligible for or contact your health care provider with questions regarding when you may qualify.

## Are the immunizations safe?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for two COVID-19 vaccines which have been shown to be safe and effective as determined by data from the manufacturers findings from large clinical trials. The data demonstrates that the known and potential benefits of this vaccine outweigh the known and potential harms of becoming infected with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID 19).

## What will they cost?

The federal government will cover the cost of the vaccine and its administration. While clinics cannot charge insurance for the vaccine itself, they may charge your insurance for the administration of the vaccine. If your insurance will not pay, the clinic **cannot bill** you the administration fee. Your clinic might also charge you for an office visit, so it is best to check with your doctor before your visit.

## Future Communications on Immunizations

STA will inform all employees on:

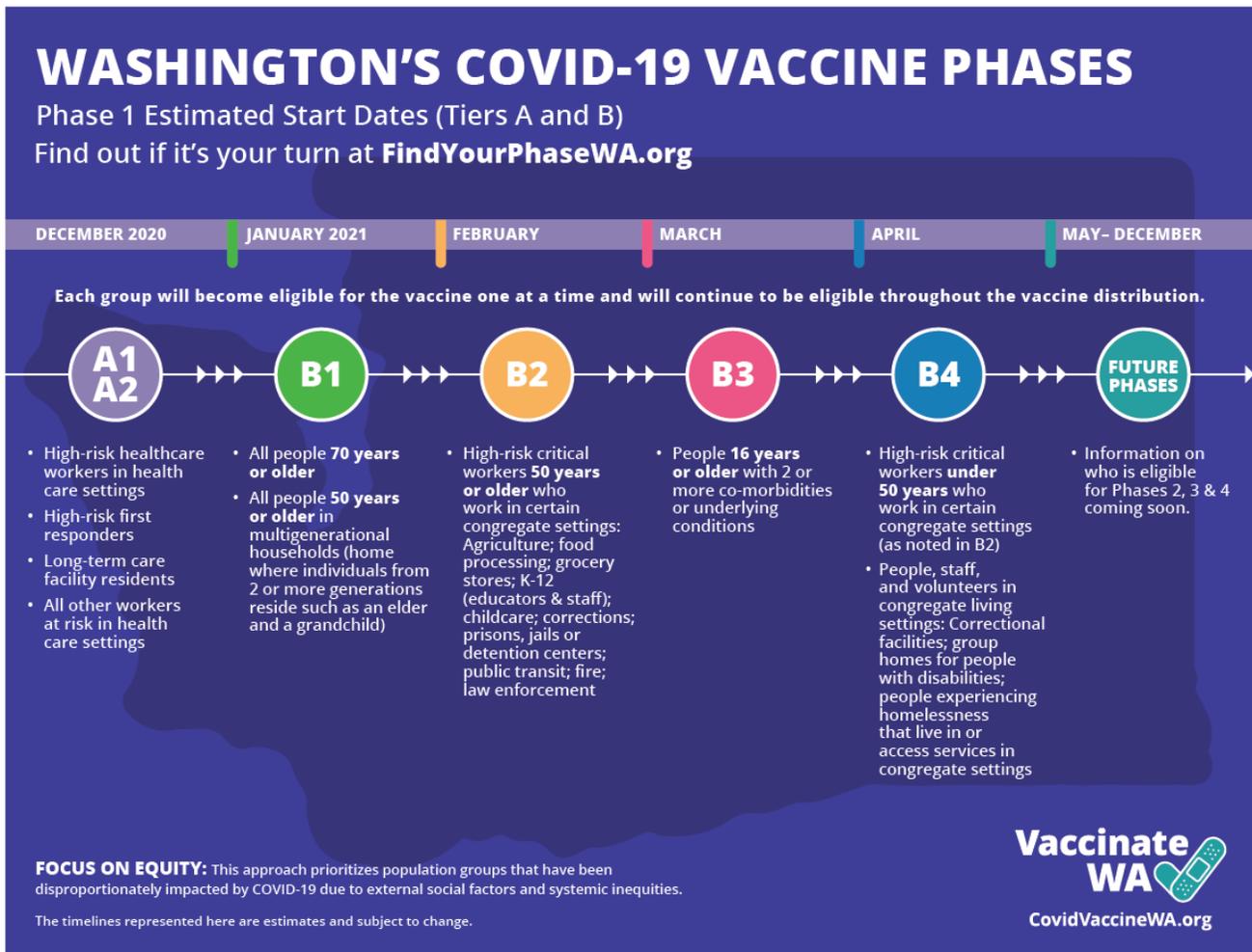
- Any changes to vaccine availability and/or locations
- FAQs

## Where can I learn more information about the vaccine?

<https://covid.srhd.org>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/index.html>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/COVID19>



## Protocol Reminder

Masks and face coverings **required** – Masks and face coverings are worn properly when they completely and securely cover the nose and mouth with no loose or open sides, and must be worn in indoor spaces.

o **Indoor spaces** – Garages are indoor spaces.

o **Coach and van operators** – Masks must be worn properly while on passenger vehicles, regardless of the location or number of passengers on board.

o **Security, Supervisors, Maintenance and F&G employees** – Masks or face coverings must be worn properly while indoors, while inside and outside the STA Plaza, or while outside and within 6 feet of another person for any amount of time.

o **Employees in individual or shared office spaces** – Masks or face coverings must be always worn properly except when seated alone in an individual office space. Employees in shared office spaces must always properly wear masks or face coverings.

Stay safe, healthy, and well informed. Contact your Manager if you have questions regarding this Notice or Human Resources at [HRHelpDesk@spokanetransit.com](mailto:HRHelpDesk@spokanetransit.com).

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