

SAFETY NOTICE

TO: All Spokane Transit Employees **Document No.:** S21-004

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

DATE: March 16, 2021

SUBJECT: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation Update #13**
Transit Worker Immunizations Begin March 17th

SITUATION SUMMARY

Currently, Washington's COVID-19 vaccine distribution is in **Phase 1B Tier 1**. This phase includes:

- All people 65 or older
- All people 50 years or older in multigenerational households
- Educators and staff for pre-K through 12th grade
- Childcare providers

On **March 17th**, immunizations for **Phase 1B Tier 2** designees will begin. This phase includes:

- High risk critical workers in congregate settings*, such as,
 - **Public transit**, agriculture, fishing vessel crews, food processing, grocery stores, corrections, prisons, jails or detention centers and remaining first responders.
- People 16 years or older who are pregnant or have a disability that puts them at high risks for severe COVID-19 illness.

WHAT TO DO WHEN PHASE 1B TIER 2 IS ANNOUNCED?

Verify which phase you are in by using the Washington State Department of Health's Phase Finder app at [FindYourPhaseWA.org](https://www.findyourphaserwa.org).* Once you answer a series of questions, the app will let you know if it is you are eligible to get vaccinated and where you can go to receive your vaccination.

If you are currently eligible to receive your vaccine, there are two other options available to determine where to go to get your vaccine.

- **CONTACT YOUR PROVIDER**

If you are currently eligible to receive your COVID-19 vaccine and you have a primary care provider, we recommend that you contact them to see if you can schedule your vaccine at their clinic.

- **VACCINE LOCATOR**

If you do not have a provider, please use the [Vaccine Locator](#) on the DOH website to see a list of Spokane County providers and pharmacies that are offering COVID-19 vaccination. Please do not visit the locations listed on this page without an appointment. You will need to schedule an appointment to receive vaccination.

CONGREGATE SETTING*

An environment where individuals work and/or reside in an enclosed space and where they are interacting with a high volume of people over an extended period of time and not able to consistently maintain physical distance.

STA strongly recommends all employees obtain the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible. Each employee should contact their medical provider should they have questions or concerns regarding the immunization.

Remember to schedule immunizations during non-work hours. **Once you complete an immunization, take your immunization card to HR for your two hour incentive pay (up to 4 hours total).**

WHEN YOU GO

- **CHECK WITH YOUR PROVIDER**

If you scheduled a vaccination appointment with your provider, make sure to contact them to discuss any questions you may have about office procedures or billing before your visit.

- **COST**

- **ADMINISTRATION FEE**

The federal government will cover the cost of the vaccine and the administration fee. An administration fee is the fee healthcare providers charge to give the vaccine. You should not be charged out-of-pocket costs or receive a bill from your provider for the COVID-19 vaccine. This is true if you have private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare or if you do not have insurance.

- **OFFICE VISIT FEE**

You should not be charged for an office visit for receiving the vaccine only. If you plan to have other services performed, you may be charged for an office visit. Seek clarification from your provider beforehand and from your insurance company if you are charged an office visit fee.

- **TIMING WITH OTHER VACCINATIONS**

It's important that you do not receive any other vaccinations right before you receive your COVID-19 vaccine. You need to wait two weeks after receiving any kind of vaccine before getting the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, you need to wait at least two weeks after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine before getting any other vaccine. Each vaccine requires up to two weeks to produce the desired response. The COVID-19 vaccine has not been tested to see how receiving another vaccine in a shorter time frame could impact the immune response.

Bottom line—it is best to plan your COVID-19 vaccine so that you do not receive another vaccine either two weeks before or two weeks after.

- **WHAT TO BRING**

Be sure to check with the clinic to make sure you have everything you need. You may be asked to bring your photo ID (or proof of residence) and fill out a consent form. If you are receiving your second dose, you may be asked to bring proof of vaccination.

- **SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT DOSE**

If you received your first dose of vaccine, make sure to schedule your second dose before you leave. Two of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines have a second booster dose.

- **SIGN UP FOR V-SAFE**

Make sure to sign up for v-safe. V-safe is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It can also remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one. [Learn more.](#)

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CONTINUE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS

Getting everyone vaccinated will go a long way in helping prevent the spread of COVID-19; however, the pandemic will not end overnight. It will still be important to practice COVID-19 precautions:

- Wear a mask.
- Stay six feet apart.
- Wash your hands.
- Keep gatherings small.

Stay safe, healthy, and well informed. Contact your Manager if you have questions regarding this Notice.

WASHINGTON'S COVID-19 VACCINE PHASES

Phase 1 Estimated Start Dates (Tiers A and B)
Find out if it's your turn at [FindYourPhaseWA.org](https://www.findyourphasewa.org)

Phase	Estimated Start Date	Eligible Groups
1A TIER 1 1A TIER 2	DECEMBER 2020 – PRESENT 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-risk health care workers in health care settings • High-risk first responders • Long-term care facility residents • All other workers at risk in health care settings • All people 65 years or older • All people 50 years or older in multigenerational households (home where individuals from 2 or more generations reside such as an elder and a grandchild) • Educators and staff for pre-K through 12th grade • Child care providers
1B TIER 2	EST. MARCH 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-risk critical workers who work in certain congregate settings: Agriculture; fishing vessel crews; food processing; grocery stores; corrections; prisons, jails or detention centers; public transit; remaining first responders • People 16 years or older who are pregnant or have a disability that puts them at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.
1B TIER 3	EST. APRIL 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People 50 years or older with 2 or more co-morbidities or underlying conditions
1B TIER 4	EST. APRIL 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People 16 years or older with 2 or more co-morbidities or underlying conditions • People, staff, and volunteers in congregate living settings: Correctional facilities; group homes for people with disabilities; people experiencing homelessness that live in or access services in congregate settings
FUTURE PHASES	SPRING / SUMMER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on who is eligible for Phases 2, 3 & 4 coming soon.

FOCUS ON EQUITY: This approach prioritizes population groups who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 due to external social factors and systemic inequities, including people of color; people with limited English proficiency; people in shared housing, crowded housing, and multigenerational homes; people in poverty and low-wage earners; people with disabilities that are connected to underlying health conditions that may put them at higher risk of COVID-19; and people with access barriers to healthcare. The [social vulnerability index](#) is one of several inputs informing equitable vaccine allocation.

NOTE: Immigration and health insurance status do not impact eligibility.

The timeline represented here is tentative and subject to change based on vaccine supply and demand.

Vaccinate WA
CovidVaccineWA.org
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Safety Bulletin Board
Training Instructors

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