



## ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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### ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINES Community Update December 31, 2020

Island County Public Health wants to make sure that the citizens of Island County have access to reliable guidance surrounding COVID-19 vaccines. We will now be providing a vaccine update every two weeks to help inform and empower you and our community.

#### Status

The COVID-19 vaccines are here. Two vaccines have been authorized for use by U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). Both vaccines have also passed independent review by medical experts in the Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, as part of the [Western States Pact](#) (English only).

The Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on their website at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine#FAQ>

#### Facts about the vaccines

##### Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

- The vaccine is authorized for emergency use in persons aged 16 years and older.
- This is a two-dose vaccine, given 17-21 days apart.
- Clinical trial data show the vaccine is 95 percent effective at preventing COVID-19 infection starting seven days after the second dose.
- Individuals will not be considered fully protected until one to two weeks after they receive the second dose.
- The clinical trials revealed no major unanticipated adverse events.
- This vaccine arrived in Island County on December 16.
- [WhidbeyHealth](#) started vaccinations on December 17.

##### Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

- This vaccine is authorized for emergency use in individuals aged 18 years and older.
- This is a two-dose vaccine, given one month apart.

- Clinical trial data shows the vaccine is about 94 percent effective after two doses.
- No serious safety concerns were found.
- The Moderna vaccine arrived in Island County the week of December 21.

### **COVID-19 vaccination allocation plan**

The WA DOH developed guidance for COVID-19 vaccine allocation and prioritization to facilitate harmonized planning for distribution across Washington State. This guidance is the result of several months of engagement with expert groups and statewide community partners to gather input and ideas.

Guidance will be updated to provide details on the other phases based upon information and recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization and Practices (ACIP) and approval of the CDC. If necessary, the WA DOH will refine the information/recommendations further after CDC approval is received.

This information may include:

- New information from clinical trials
- New federal guidance and vaccine recommendations
- Ongoing feedback from impacted communities, partners, sectors, and industries

### **Phase 1a allocation plan for Island County**

Currently, WA DOH is limiting Phase 1 of the allocation framework to Phase 1a including the following populations:

- High-risk workers in health care settings
- High-risk first responders
- Residents and staff of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other community-based, congregate living settings where most individuals over 65 years of age are receiving care, supervision, or assistance

Island County Public Health is working with WhidbeyHealth to notify organizations with workers that meet 1a qualifications on how their workers can schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine.

### **Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI)**

Vaccinations for Navy base 1a personnel are being addressed by the Navy staff. Please refer to base communications for updates.

### **Additional questions or more information**

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 in Island County, start by visiting our [website](#) or our [Facebook](#) page. The Island County call center may be reached at **360.678.2301**; Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.