



Vaccination Update January 15

Vaccination information changes often. Below is how vaccination information flows:

1. The Federal Government releases the vaccines and makes recommendations to the states on what groups should be vaccinated.
2. Each state's DOH sets its vaccination guidelines based on its unique needs. In Washington State, DOH determines when we move to the next phase of the guidelines and who qualifies.
3. The state guidelines are then passed down to individual counties for distribution of the vaccine.

Here is what we know today:

State Level Update

Last week, the WA State Dept. of Health (WA DOH) officially released guidance for the next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination plan. Currently, WA State is still in Phase 1A of the vaccination plan, which includes health care workers and first responders.

WA DOH is currently considering new recommendations from the federal government on expanded COVID-19 prioritization. The state needs to determine how to use a potential increase in available doses to quickly vaccinate as many people as possible, while still ensuring there is enough vaccine for a second dose for all.

On January 13, WA DOH stated "There are many essential workers and people at high risk for COVID-19 in our state. Even with this increase, we don't yet have enough vaccine supply for everyone who needs it. We are working to balance those needs with available supply and make sure we're distributing vaccine in an equitable way." [Click here](#) to subscribe the WA DOH Newsroom.

Local Level Update

In Klickitat County, the health care agencies approved to give the COVID-19 vaccination are Skyline Health, Klickitat Valley Health, North Shore Medical Group and Klickitat County Health Department. We are all working incredibly hard to make sure our community has access to the vaccine when it's available. In Klickitat County, we have collectively vaccinated hundreds of front line health care workers. We are proud of this accomplishment, but wish we could be doing more.

Skyline Health is gearing up to provide drive-through mass vaccination clinics for the general public when the time comes. This will be available soon after the state gives us the go-ahead to move into Phase 1B-1. This Phase includes includes people 70+ and people 50+ living in multigenerational housing. We are happy to report there will be no direct charge to patients for the vaccine.

What You Can Do

- Keep checking our website and social media channels for updated information.
- Consider volunteering your time for one of Skyline's future vaccination clinics. Contact Debi Budnick at dbudnick@myskylinehealth.org or call 509.637.2601.
- Please keep following COVID-19 safety guidelines to protect the health of our community.

We know how important this information is to you and will keep you informed as we are updated.