

News Release

For immediate release: December 17, 2020

Contact: Chris Skidmore, Interim Director of Public Health, 509-397-6280 – Ben Stone, Public Information Officer, 509-397-6280

Whitman County has received 23 new positive COVID-19 test results today, bringing the County total, to date, to 2600. 7 cases are currently hospitalized. All other cases are stable and self-isolating. Total deaths, to date, remain at 22.

New Cases		
Age Range	Female	Male
0-19	0	1
20-39	3	10
40-59	1	2
60-79	3	3
80+	0	0

Whitman County is expecting to receive an initial shipment of 975 doses of the Pfizer vaccine this Friday and will start vaccinating the phase 1a subgroup based on the Washington State Department of Health’s Prioritization and Allocation guidelines.

Whitman County Public Health would like to encourage all of our local providers to enroll in COVID-19 Vaccination Program. <https://redcap.doh.wa.gov/surveys/?s=qlevATZ6qQ>

Indoor social gatherings in the State of Washington are restricted from November 17, 2020 to January 4, 2021 unless:

- All participants quarantine for fourteen (14) days prior to the social gathering.
- All participants quarantine for seven (7) days prior to the gathering, and receive a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 48-hours prior to the gathering.

Gathering with people you don’t live with – even close friends and family – may spread COVID-19. The safest action for everyone is to avoid gatherings, even outdoors, and find different ways to celebrate this season. For recommendations on how to make any gathering safer visit <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/information-for/you-and-your-family/safer-gatherings>.

Current COVID-19 activity highlights the need for individuals to maintain social distancing and personal vigilance. Masks are an easy and effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

For more information visit www.whitmancountypublichealth.org/covid-19 .

Future Whitman County press releases will be as needed.

###