

News Release

For immediate release: December 29, 2020

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Whitman County has received 9 new positive COVID-19 test results today, bringing the County total, to date, to 2754. 10 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	1	0
20-39	1	2
40-59	0	0
60-79	0	0
80+	5	0

Whitman County has begun the process of COVID-19 vaccine administration in partnership with local area providers. Whitman County Public Health is currently in Phase 1A of the phased distribution framework laid out by the CDC and the Washington Dept. of Health.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/VaccineAllocationPhase1A.pdf>

As more vaccine becomes available and supplies allow us to move into Phase 1B we will follow all CDC and DOH guidance to prioritize distribution. At that time, we will use all available communication channels in Whitman County to inform those members of the public that qualify for Phase 1B administration how they can receive the vaccine and will be regularly updating our website with this information. In addition, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all of our healthcare workers who have done so much to get this life-saving vaccine to those in our community that need it most.

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](http://www.whitmancountypublichealth.org/covid-19).

Future Whitman County press releases will be as needed.

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