

# WHITMAN COUNTY

## Department of Public Health

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### COVID-19 Vaccination plan on track in Whitman County

**Whitman County, WA – 1/08/2021** - Since vaccine first arrived in Whitman County on December 17<sup>th</sup> enrolled providers in our community have been actively vaccinating individuals in the Phase 1A grouping as determined by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). As of 1/7/2021 there have been over 1,050 vaccinations given to Phase 1A individuals throughout Whitman County. Over the next week, healthcare partners in our county will administer over 500 additional vaccinations for this group.

Individuals in Whitman County who have received the vaccine to date include EMS providers, workers in healthcare settings (clinicians, nursing staff, specialist staff, etc.), COVID-19 testing site staff, lab staff working directly with SARS-CoV-2 containing specimens, and others that fall within state guidance for Phase 1A. Additionally, enrolled providers have coordinated to provide vaccinations to all staff and residents of long-term care facilities in Whitman County, with all facilities receiving vaccinations by early next week.

This week Washington State DOH released Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccine allocation guidelines. **It is important to note that we are not moving into phase 1B right now.** Washington State is still in Phase 1A of vaccinations, and will continue to be for the next few weeks. Movement to subsequent phases of the state allocation framework is dependent on federal allocations of vaccine to our state. Whitman County Public Health will communicate to the public via our website (link provided at end of release) and public press releases when our state moves into phase 1B.

Whitman County Public Health is coordinating regularly with Pullman Regional Hospital, Palouse Medical, Whitman Hospital & Medical Clinics, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Washington State University, and multiple pharmacies, to move through the Department of Health's phased allocation framework in a synchronized fashion based on the vaccine allocation provided to Whitman County.

According to WA DOH, the objective of Phase 1B is to prevent hospitalization and rates of severe morbidity and mortality. This phase will be broken down into four tiers. Tier 1 of Phase 1B will include:

- All people 70 years and older and;
- People 50 years and older in a multigenerational household\*
  - o These individuals would be at risk either due to:
    - Vulnerability (e.g., older adult or elder who cannot live independently and is being cared for by a relative or in-home caregiver)
    - Risk of exposure (e.g., older adult or elder who is living with someone who works outside the home, older adult or elder taking care of a grandchild)

*\*This tier does not include a parent or guardian who is able to live independently and is taking care of children*

Press releases on vaccine distribution in Whitman County will be shared on a weekly basis moving forward.

#### **For more information:**

WCPH: <https://www.whitmancountypublichealth.org/vaccine-information.html>

WA DOH: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

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