

TRANSCRIPT: Jennifer Johnson Vaccine Roll Out

1/20/2021

Hi, my name is Jennifer Johnson, your Public Health Director. Today I am excited to share with you Skagit County's plan for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. This is an exceptionally exciting time for us Skagitonians! There is also a lot of information to share, and I'd like to help walk you through the most recent guidance that we have received from the Washington Department of Health.

Phases of vaccine distribution have been determined by the State. The goal here is to reduce severe morbidity and mortality, as well as negative societal impacts due to the transmission of COVID-19.

Skagit County is currently in Phase 1A of vaccine distribution. This phase includes: all workers in healthcare settings, high-risk first responders, and long-term care facility staff and residents.

Our hospital systems have been working around the clock to get their employees vaccinated, and the State is working directly with pharmacies to coordinate vaccine distribution at long-term care facilities around the State. Tribal clinics are working with the state and Indian Health Services to receive vaccine to provide to their priority groups.

At Public Health, our team has been vaccinating 1A-eligible groups via mobile clinics and our vaccine clinic at the Skagit County Fairgrounds. Through a fantastic collaboration with our community partners, we have been able to quickly serve these priority populations.

On January 6th, the State released new guidance on Phase 1B--the next phase of vaccine rollout.

We are happy to announce that on January 26th, Skagit County will begin vaccinating our Phase 1B, Tier 1 populations at the Skagit County Fairground. This will include: all people 70 years and older, and all people 50 year and older who live in multigenerational households of two or more generations.

We will continue to work through these priority phases over the coming months. Our ability to do this will depend on the amount of vaccine that is allocated to us by the state and federal government.

If you are looking for more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, there are several easy ways to get this information.

Visit our new vaccine webpage for updates.

Call our new Vaccine Hotline at (360) 416-1500.

Sign up to receive COVID-19 press updates on our website.

Or Check our social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter.

Public Health has been actively planning and coordinating with our community providers over the past several months in order to be ready to begin vaccine roll-out. And now that the time has finally come, we are ready!

We know that Skagitonians are anxiously awaiting the day that vaccines will become widely available, and we understand that there is a lot of information to process. Please know that we are working diligently to serve you and your loved ones.

Take care and be well!