



Yakima Health District

Media Release

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Yakima Health District Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution

Yakima, WA – In anticipation of the approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, the Yakima Health District and the Office of Emergency Management are continuing to work with the Washington State Department of Health and local stakeholders to prepare for the arrival and distribution of the vaccine.

According to estimates from the federal government, Washington’s initial vaccine allocation will consist of 62,000 doses. Yakima County is one of the 13 counties that will receive the first round of vaccines in the coming weeks. At this point in time, the Yakima Health District will not distribute or store the Pfizer vaccines. Vaccines will only be distributed via state approved vaccine distributors. The health district will be working with hospitals and community health centers to get them approved and ready for vaccine distribution.

Yakima County’s plan for distribution will follow the Washington State Department of Health’s guidance for a multi-phased approach. During the first phase of vaccination, called phase 1A, vaccination will be limited to health care workers who work directly with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, along with residents and staff of long-term care facilities. As more vaccines become widely available, the Department of Health will issue further guidance on when vaccines can be provided to other critical groups.

Quotes

“We are very excited about the announcement of a safe and effective vaccine that will help us stop the spread of the virus and potentially save lives. However, we must continue to follow the public health recommendations because it will take time before a vaccine is available for the broader community.”- Dr, Larry Jecha, Interim Health Officer, Yakima Health District

"We are committed to the equitable distribution of the vaccine in our community and are cognizant of our large essential workforce. We will continue our efforts in collaboration with the Department of Health and other key stakeholders to meet the vaccination needs of the community.” -Andre Fresco, Executive Director, Yakima Health District

Additional information:

[Washington State COVID-19 Distribution Plan](#)

[Washington State COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Guidance](#)

[CDC – COVID-19 Vaccination](#)



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