



Yakima Health District

Media Release

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Washington State to Advance to Phase 3 of Roadmap to Recovery Plan and Phase 1B Tier 2 of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

YAKIMA, WA- Governor Inslee held a press conference to give a statewide COVID-19 update. In the update it was announced that on March 22, 2021 all counties of Washington state will move into Phase 3 of the state’s Roadmap to Recovery plan. Additionally, Washington state will be moving to Phase 1B Tier 2 of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan on March 17, 2021.

Phase 3 of Washington State’s Roadmap to Recovery

Counties will now be individually evaluated every three weeks under two metrics. There are different metrics depending on county size:

County Size	Indicator	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Larger County	New cases per 100,000 population per 14 days	> 350	350 – 200	< 200
	New COVID hospitalizations per 100,000 population per 7 days	≥ 10	9.9 – 5	< 5
Smaller County (< 50k people)	New COVID cases over 14 days	≥ 60	59 – 30	< 30
	New COVID hospitalizations over 7 days	> 5	4.9 – 3	< 3

By April 12, 2021 Yakima County will need to meet the two metrics under the “Larger County” category to remain in Phase 3. If at any point the ICU capacity reaches 90% or higher statewide, then all the counties will need to move back one Phase. **As of March 11, 2021, Yakima County’s new cases over 100,000 population over the last 14 days is 260 per 100,000.**

Changes in Phase 3 include:

- For sports guidance, spectators will be allowed at 25% capacity for outdoor venues. This includes professional and high school sports, motorsports, rodeos, and other outdoor events.
- Maximum of 400 people will be allowed to attend outdoor activities and indoor events, if 400 people does not exceed 50% capacity for the location.
- Larger events are at 25% capacity or up to 9,000 people, whichever is less.
- Restaurants, gyms and fitness centers, and movie theaters will allow for 50% capacity or 400 people maximum.



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According to Governor Inslee's office, a full list of changes for the new phase will be released next week.

Phase 1B Tier 2 of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

On March 17, 2021 Washington State will move to Phase 1B Tier 2 of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. Newly eligible individuals will be:

- High-risk critical workers who work in certain congregate settings: agriculture, fishing vessel crews, food processing, grocery stores, corrections, prisons, jails or detention centers, public transit, remaining first responders
- People 16 years or older who are pregnant or have a disability that puts them at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

Please note, anyone eligible in Phase 1A and Phase 1B Tier 1 will still be eligible in the next tier.

Quote

“While we are excited that we can expand eligibility, we know that there are still many community members who have not been able to receive the vaccine. For this reason, we recommend anyone that is currently eligible to please not delay in scheduling your appointment. Please check the Yakima Health District website for locations currently scheduling a COVID-19 appointment. We will continue to work to ensure that we can work with our partners to provide equitable and low barrier access to the COVID-19 vaccine.” Nathan Johnson, Local Emergency Response Coordinator

Additional Information

[Governor Inslee's News Release](#)

[Spectator Guidelines: COVID-19 Requirements](#)

[Yakima Health District COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Yakima County COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)

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