



Yakima Health District

Media Release

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Local High School COVID-19 Vaccine Challenge Will Not Continue

YAKIMA, WA – Due to various concerns from several members of the Board of Health and community members, the Yakima Health District has decided not to continue to move forward with the “Race to Community Immunity” Challenge. While the intent of the challenge was to work with our school partners to create a spirited opportunity to encourage COVID-19 vaccination among youth that were 16 and older, various concerns were raised and as such the Yakima Health District informed the participating schools on 5/20/21 that the challenge would not be moving forward.

Clarifying a few of the common concerns voiced:

1. Are vaccines required for K-12 to return to school?
 - a. No, there are no requirements for students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to return to school. Information on the routine vaccinations that are required for schools can be found on the [Department of Health: School and Child Care Immunization](#).
2. Can individuals under 18 be vaccinated without parental consent?
 - a. No, there must be documented parental consent for those under 18 to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The only exception is those that can provide documentation that they have been legally emancipated.

Currently, Yakima County has 50.32% of individuals 16 and older that have initiated vaccination and 41.71% that are fully vaccinated. This is lower than the statewide average of 59.2% initiating and 47.64% fully vaccinated. Currently, all community members that are 12 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For those that are under 18 the only vaccine authorized for use in that age group is the Pfizer Vaccine.

Quote

“Thank you to the schools for their continued partnership in hosting mobile COVID-19 vaccine clinics to help increase access to families. For more information on these locations you can visit our website at www.YakimaVaccines.Org or www.YakimaVacunas.Org” Ryan Ibach, Chief Operating Officer

Additional Information

[Community Vaccination Center](#)

[Mobile Vaccine Unit Locations](#)



Yakima Health District

[PrepMod COVID-19 Vaccine Registration](#)

[Department of Health: School and Child Care Immunization](#)

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