



# Yakima Health District

## Media Release

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### Yakima Health District Encourages Safe Thanksgiving Celebrations

**Yakima, WA-** With Thanksgiving and other holidays fast approaching, the Yakima Health District encourages community members to celebrate safely to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As of November 17, Yakima County reported a case rate of 326 per 100,000 and a hospitalization rate of 5.0 per 100,000. Additional precautions during the holidays will help reduce the risk of COVID-19.

Tips for a safer holiday season:

1. **Get vaccinated.** The CDC recommends that all adults and children ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine and a booster dose if they are eligible. Visit [YakimaVaccines.org](https://www.yakimavaccines.org) for a list of mobile vaccine locations or call 2-1-1. Additionally, it is recommended everyone 6 months and older get the annual flu vaccine.
2. **Wear a mask** when in indoor public settings, or when in crowded areas.
3. **Wash your hands** frequently and disinfect surfaces.
4. **Outdoor** gatherings are safer than indoors. If gatherings indoors will occur, increase ventilation by opening doors and windows.
5. **Communicate** with guests about COVID-19 ground rules and precautions. Stay home if sick and stay away from others.
6. **Safe Travels.** If possible, delay travel if individuals are unvaccinated. If individuals are traveling with unvaccinated family members, such as children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, take additional precautions. It is crucial to avoid crowds, wear a mask, and get tested before and after the trip.

Additionally, there are safer, alternative activities to consider to reduce the risk of COVID-19, such as having dinner with members of the same household, hosting a virtual gathering, watching sports events, parades, or movies at home, or online shopping, instead of in-person.

### Fall and Winter Celebrations

There is still time to be fully vaccinated for upcoming holidays, such as Christmas and New Year's. Get vaccinated by the dates listed below:

<b>Christmas Eve- December 24</b>		
<b>Pfizer</b>	<b>Moderna</b>	<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson</b>
First dose: Nov. 19	First dose: Nov. 12	Single dose: Dec. 10
Second dose: Dec. 10	Second dose: Dec. 10	
<b>New Year's Eve- December 31</b>		



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<b>Pfizer</b>	<b>Moderna</b>	<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson</b>
First dose: Nov. 26	First dose: Nov. 19	Single dose: Dec. 17
Second dose: Dec. 17	Second dose: Dec. 17	

## Quote

“As we approach these upcoming holidays, we encourage community members to be cautious. Public health recommendations will help us to remain safe. Last year around this time, we saw the beginning of another surge in COVID-19 cases that remained high over the holidays. This holiday season, we want to remain vigilant and use all the measures (vaccines, masks, distancing, hand washing) we know to reduce our risk of contracting COVID-19. As of November 15<sup>th</sup>, among children and adults, 12 years and older in Yakima County, 64.2% have been fully vaccinated. We hope to see more people in our county get vaccinated as preparation for upcoming holiday celebrations and gatherings.” -Dr. Neil Barg, Health Officer, Yakima Health District

## Additional Information

[www.YakimaVaccines.org](http://www.YakimaVaccines.org)

[www.YakimaTesting.org](http://www.YakimaTesting.org)

[Yakima Health District: COVID-19 Guidance for Fall and Winter Celebrations](#)

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