



## ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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### PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

**Island County, December 14, 2020:**

The Pfizer's BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was approved by both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Western States Workgroup. This clears the path for vaccine to be distributed to sites within Washington State in the coming weeks. Partners within Island County assembled a planning team in September to prepare for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Important information regarding the vaccine and its distribution are listed below:

- This is only the first of many shipments of vaccine to Island County.
- The first shipment will be for those that work with and around confirmed and positive COVID-19 patients, including healthcare workers, first responders, and residents and staff of long-term care and assisted living facilities. Direct outreach will be made to those eligible for this phase.
- This first round of vaccinations will primarily be provided through a clinic hosted by WhidbeyHealth, with the support WhidbeyHealth staff, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff, and community volunteers. As more vaccine is received in early 2021, additional providers throughout Island County will have vaccine to administer.
- In the coming weeks and months, vaccine will be available to the community in phases, like boarding groups getting on an airplane.
- The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) will release a web tool in early January to help people identify their phase and where they can get vaccinated.
- The [WA DOH COVID-19 Vaccine website](#) remains the most up-to-date source of information regarding the safety, phasing and availability of COVID-19 vaccine in Washington.

It is still vital that residents continue to wear masks, practice social distancing, and follow restrictions regarding indoor activities. We need to continue to slow the rate of infection, as we work to get Island County residents vaccinated.

For additional information:

**CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Resources** - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>  
Island County Public Health Call Center # 360.678.2301, Mondays through Fridays (8:00am – 4:30pm)