

December 17, 2020

Dear Healthcare Partners,

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and resilience in facing the pandemic. This year has stressed and challenged us like no other. We now have another critical tool in our path forward and out of this pandemic. COVID-19 vaccine is arriving in Kitsap County, and it is crucial for us to work together as a medical community to ensure its successful and equitable distribution in our county. This will require a heroic effort from all of us. To vaccinate 70% of Kitsap's 271,000 people – a rough estimate of what it will take to achieve herd immunity – our healthcare system would need to administer over one thousand shots daily for the next twelve months. Each and every one of us needs to participate in order to get this done.

We currently have a very small number of approved COVID-19 vaccine providers in Kitsap County; we need many more. This is an “all-hands on deck” effort. We are asking all healthcare partners to participate, however they can, in vaccinating our community. Taking part in this effort will require flexibility and creativity, especially for those of you who do not traditionally administer vaccine. As an example, a local ophthalmology group was among the first to complete enrollment and express willingness to stand up a vaccination program. The president of this group stated they are willing to work nights and weekends, enter data into Washington Immunization Information System, and vaccinate themselves and anyone identified as [eligible for vaccination](#). “My partners and I think this effort is just as important as helping the blind,” he said. Our community needs all healthcare providers to participate in vaccination efforts, to stretch in new directions, unbind organizational constraints, and work together as partners in getting this crucial job done right.

It is important for you to know that the [Washington State Department of Health](#), not the [Kitsap Public Health District](#), is allocating vaccine to enrolled providers. As a result, the best way to ensure timely access to vaccine for Phase 1a eligible individuals, your staff included, is to enroll now with DOH to be a vaccine provider. At the health district, we are working to identify gaps in access for Phase 1a groups and get them connected with a vaccine provider. Filling these gaps in a timely and equitable manner will only be possible with your help.

Thank you for your service to our community. We will do our best to keep you updated and appreciate your patience, commitment, and collaboration as we tackle this together. Please review our health update for information on what we are asking for you to do now and an invitation for a healthcare community webinar on this issue next Monday.



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