



COVID-19 Vaccine Arrives in Washington State – What to expect for our organization

We are all so excited that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is starting to arrive! We also know there is a lot of uncertainty about when vaccine will arrive, how much will come, and where each Washingtonian will fall in the state-directed phases. We recognize this uncertainty is stressful and we want to share all the information we know. For certain, it will be at least several weeks before we have full information.

The Governor's Office and Washington State Department of Health are directing the allocation of vaccines and providing guidance on who should be vaccinated first. This week, 17 hospitals in Washington State received some doses of the vaccine. Hospitals were notified that they would be receiving vaccine 24-48 hours before they got it; those not receiving vaccine were not notified. The state instructed hospitals to administer vaccines to the people in [Phase 1A set by the state](#).

The highest priority subcategory in Phase 1A includes hospital workers directly caring for COVID-19 patients and some other groups like high-risk first responders, residents and staff of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other community-based, congregate living settings where most individuals over 65 years of age are receiving care, supervision, or assistance. The first allotment was relatively small – just 64,000 for the entire state and did not include enough vaccine for everyone in Phase 1A. To give perspective there are more than 400,000 health care workers in the state.

Ocean Beach Hospital and Medical Clinics (OBHMC) are planning to support the delivery of the vaccine in South Pacific County in collaboration with the Pacific County Department of Health. We are not currently scheduling patients for the COVID-19 vaccine. We look forward to notifying you when the vaccine is widely available for public distribution. The timing of your vaccination will depend on vaccine availability and guidelines provided by the CDC for a phased and equitable approach to vaccine distribution.

Washington state will continue to receive vaccine shipments on a weekly basis. In addition to the Pfizer vaccine, our state expects to soon receive shipments of the Moderna vaccine. By the end of December, the state expected to receive as much as 400,000 doses. Right now, hospitals have not been provided information about which hospitals will receive allocations from these shipments. We do know the state is prioritizing according to the allocation guidance mentioned above, and that vaccines will continue to go to hospital staff, as well as staff and residents of long-term care facilities.

There are a lot of questions right now and we are all eager to have answers. Distribution of these vaccines on this scale is unprecedented. When we have additional information about vaccine availability in our organization, we are really looking forward to sharing it with you.

If you have questions about the vaccines and how they were produced or approved, the Washington State Department of Health has developed a number of materials including answers to many frequently asked questions: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/vaccine>