

To: All EPS staff
From: Dr. Ian Saltzman, Superintendent
Regarding: COVID-19 vaccination update

Good afternoon team. As we enter 2021, we are looking forward to bringing students back into the classroom in a safe manner and being able to gather with family and friends. It is going to be a great year!

There have been many questions about the COVID-19 vaccination and I wanted to give you an update of what we now know. While this vaccination is an important step on the path out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know the initial vaccine supply is limited and will be administered in phases. This phased approach, guided by the Washington State Department of Health and the Snohomish Health District, will ensure our community that we protect those at highest risk of exposure, maintain a functioning health system and protect our highly vulnerable populations. Washington State officials are hopeful most people in Washington will be immunized by mid-summer 2021.

Vaccine providers in Snohomish County received the first shipment of doses mid-December and have been actively administering vaccines to people identified in Phase 1A. Individuals identified in Phase 1A include healthcare workers with direct contact with COVID-19, first responders and those workers and residents in congregate living situations such as long-term care facilities.

As the vaccine roll-out continues, the county is quickly moving to Phase 1B. Phase 1B includes other types of healthcare staff in hospitals and clinics as well as healthcare personnel who work in the community setting. For individuals identified in Phase 1B who do not work in a setting where vaccines are available, the employer must apply for a vaccine voucher for their staff who meet the phase requirements. The vouchers are obtained from the local health department and once received, these individuals can take their voucher to a vaccine provider in the community and receive their vaccine. The district's health services department has applied for an initial 24 vouchers from the Snohomish County Health Department for our valued registered school nurses who fall into this phase.

The Snohomish Health District is currently trying to establish more vaccine providers in the community, so when we reach Phase 2 there will be various sites available for the community to access. Looking at the Snohomish Health District's timeline, school staff are currently slated to receive vaccines during this second phase which is tentatively scheduled for February or March. We are expecting more information and guidance about Phase 2 soon. During this phase, no vouchers will be needed and sites may include local pharmacies as well as your own health care provider.

While the arrival of a vaccine is welcome news, we must continue preventive practices like wearing a mask, hand-washing, and social distancing to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our community healthy. I want each of you to know, as a district, we are doing everything we can to ensure our school staff are able to receive the vaccine as soon as it is available to them. As a reminder the vaccine is not approved for children at this time.

For more information and a list of FAQs, please visit the [Snohomish Health District website](#), as well as this [visual timeline](#) for vaccine distribution.

Thank you, be safe, and be well,

Ian Saltzman
Superintendent