

COVID-19 Vaccines

Hopefully, all LMTs have received their COVID-19 vaccines, if they wanted one, because all health care providers are in Tier 1A. Currently, the State of Washington has expanded to Tier 1B. As a result, the vaccine is available to everyone in Tier 1A as well as anyone 65 and older, and all people 50 and older who also live in a multigenerational household. For any questions concerning what vaccine distribution phase the State of Washington is in, please check the DOH [Vaccine Phase Finder](#).

Even if you or a family member are eligible, it has been challenging for some to access the vaccine. The challenge is that there is more demand for the vaccine than there is supply. While this disparity in supply and demand is expected to prevail for some time, we know that Washington State will be getting more vaccines over time. Please use DOH's [Vaccine Locations](#) to see where the vaccine is being offered in your area.

Even with DOH's best efforts, there have been some problems concerning vaccine distribution. Please see [additional information](#) provided by DOH.

Here's the latest information from DOH as of February 10:

"As of Feb. 6, more than 940,000 doses of vaccine have been given across the state, which is nearly 80% of the 1,195,207 doses that have been delivered to our providers and long-term care programs. Washington is currently averaging 26,857 vaccine doses given each day. This information can be found on the [DOH data dashboard](#) under the vaccines tab, which is updated three times per week.

Second doses

We know there has been confusion surrounding second doses. We are committed to ensuring there is a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine for everyone who receives their first dose, which is why we have asked providers to prioritize vaccine series completion. This may mean using first doses to vaccinate people who need second doses. Last week, DOH reached out to providers to pave a clear pathway moving forward. We encourage providers to schedule second dose appointments when patients receive their first dose.

The second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible.

- Two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech should be given 3 weeks or 21 days apart.
- Two doses of Moderna should be given 1 month or 28 days apart.

If people are not able to get a second dose appointment following the recommended interval, the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be scheduled for administration up to 6 weeks or 42 days after the first dose.

Vaccine supply

Supply from the federal government continues to be our greatest challenge. This week our providers requested more than 440,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, including 281,100 first doses and

165,750 second doses. In all, we received just over 200,000 doses from the federal government, which is less than half.

Although doses are not where we would like them to be right now, we are optimistic about the future. We have been told by the federal government that allocations for both Pfizer and Moderna will increase in the coming weeks and months.

The progress of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is also encouraging. Last Thursday, the company announced they submitted an application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of its Janssen COVID-19 vaccine candidate. The FDA could decide on a EUA by the end of February.

Allocation forecast

For the first time, DOH received a 3-week allocation forecast from the federal government. Up until last week, we did not receive weekly allocation numbers until Tuesday morning, making it difficult for our staff, providers, and the public. The allocation forecast is a blend of first and second doses and is subject to change as vaccine availability from the federal government may change.

- Week of February 14: 206,125 total doses (113,800 first doses, 92,325 second doses)
- Week of February 21: 240,620 total doses (123,160 first doses, 117,460 second doses)
- Week of February 28: 242,360 total doses (128,560 first doses, 113,800 second doses)

This information allows us to develop a multi-week strategy that helps with consistency and predictability. We hope to have this plan fully in place in the coming weeks.