

Discussion regarding public having access to the COVID-19 Vaccine

The distribution of the COVID vaccine is dependent on several factors, some of which are within our control and some are not.

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Production of vaccine.       | - Pharmaceutical companies | - Outside our control |
| 2. Allocation to WA State       | - Federal Policy           | - Outside our control |
| 3. Allocation within population | - State DOH                | - Outside our control |
| 4. Publish allocation rules     | - State DOH                | - State controls      |
| 5. Decide Vaccine providers     | - State DOH                | - State controls      |
| 6. Vaccine delivery             | - County & Other providers | - County & Others     |
| 7. Vaccine request process      | - Providers/County         | - County & Others     |

There are two items we can control. There is one we should delegate as much as possible but have to monitor (6). One we can and should control (7)

4. The State decides and the county already publishes the Allocation rules, so this covered <https://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/3530/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information#wherfind>
5. The State decides and the county already publishes the list of designated providers <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/VaccineLocations>
6. The State currently only lists 5 providers in the County. Although there are more than actually listed. So the County has to ensure the State DOH maintains this list or we have to provide our own.
7. The primary community pain point at the moment in the County is that residents who qualify are confused about where to go to get vaccines. The County is currently advising citizens not to call the County or local providers because both are overwhelmed by the number of inquiries. Many residents of Whatcom are now going to (and receiving service) in adjacent counties.

We respect and understand that the County Health Department is tired and overworked. We should do everything we can to reduce their workload. But County Government still needs to provide residents with a centralized portal where they can go and register interest in receiving a vaccine and get automated updates.

Providing a portal is an IT project, not a Health Department responsibility. The County IT department (or a third party IT consultant) should be tasked with finding an existing software portal provider (similar to the TestDirectly product used to schedule COVID tests) that can allow residents to do the following:

- A. Log their name and contact details
- B. Provide their insurance details
- C. Use a decision tree to determine and advise which vaccination group they fall into and give them an approximate indication as to when their group is eligible to be vaccinated
- D. Allow them to return periodically or receive weekly emails to update them of their place in line
- E. Provide a drop down list of local providers who can do COVID vaccinations
- F. Allow them to choose their preferred provider/location
- G. Notify that provider of the residents interest
- H. Allow the provider to advise the resident when they should have a shot available to them.