



Umatilla County Public Health

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For Immediate Release: January 15, 2021

Press Release: Umatilla County Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Upcoming Drive-Thru COVID-19 Vaccination Events Cancelled

Umatilla County Public Health (UCo Health) is disappointed to announce that the drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination events planned for January 21 & 22, 2021 have been cancelled. UCo Health was notified today that we have not been allocated COVID-19 vaccine for the coming week and will not receive the anticipated vaccine shipment. No vaccination sites in Umatilla County will be receiving first-dose COVID-19 vaccine for the week of January 18th.

UCo Health is prepared to hold mass drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination events weekly, pending vaccine allocation. Vaccine sites are typically notified weekly of vaccine allocations. This is the second consecutive week that UCo Health has not received sufficient COVID-19 vaccine to hold mass vaccination events. Umatilla County residents should anticipate an extended timeline for vaccination due to changes in Oregon's COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and continued vaccine allocation delays.

“It is deeply disappointing that vaccinations for our Phase 1a residents, including those in Long Term Care Facilities will continue to be delayed.” Stated UCo Health Director Joseph Fiumara “We are committed to continuing planning efforts to ensure that our community is ready to quickly administer any amount of vaccine that arrives in coming weeks.”

We understand and share community concern surrounding COVID-19 and vaccine availability. We are asking that our Umatilla County residents please visit our website, social media and Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 Vaccination webpage for information on COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and availability. Residents who prefer to receive this information by phone are asked to call 211.

It is imperative that any person who is exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness stay home. UCo Health continues to discover instances where individuals are continuing to work while sick. Now, more than ever, it is important for businesses to ensure that employees are not coming to work sick. Employees may feel internal and external pressure to work through mild illness. Businesses are encouraged to develop flexible leave policies to support employees who become ill and establish procedures for sending employees who are not feeling well home. Anyone who is exhibiting any symptoms of respiratory illness must stay home from work for 24-hours after all symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, etc.) have resolved.

COVID-19 does not target people of any certain race, ethnicity, country of origin or geographic location. Increased community spread of COVID-19 can occur anywhere in Umatilla County at any time. We are one Umatilla County and we can all do our part to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Wear your mask, wash your hands and stay home if you are sick.

We are asking our Umatilla County residents to please call 211 with your questions regarding COVID-19. If you are exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your primary care provider FIRST to discuss the next steps. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911. For COVID-19 data and additional information, please visit Oregon Health Authority and the CDC COVID-19 pages.

For media inquiries please contact:
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