



Umatilla County Public Health

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For Immediate Release: January 19, 2021

Press Release: Umatilla County Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Rescheduled COVID-19 Vaccination Event for Priority Populations

Umatilla County will be receiving an allocation of approximately 1,000 Moderna COVID-19 vaccines designated for priority populations specified by Oregon Health Authority. UCo Health will be offering drive-thru COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible individuals at the Pendleton Convention Center from 8am-6pm on Friday, January 22nd. As stipulated by Oregon Health Authority, this vaccine allocation is available to:

- **Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers**
- **Traditional health workers currently providing in-person services**
- **Home health providers**
- **Long-term care facilities not covered by the Federal Pharmacy Partnership**
- **Other congregate care facilities outlined in Phase 1a**

Umatilla County is working directly with long-term care facilities to ensure that residents and staff have access to COVID-19 vaccination. Please direct all questions regarding COVID-19 vaccination in a long-term facility to the facility administrator.

This event is only open to the above specified individuals. Per Oregon Health Authority, this vaccine allocation is not available to individuals in other groups of Phase 1a or Phase 1b, including educators or individuals over the age of 65. 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. UCo Health is prepared to hold mass drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination events weekly, pending vaccine allocation. Public notification of COVID-19 vaccine events, including vaccine eligibility, will be provided following the weekly vaccine allocation notification.

We understand and share community concern surrounding COVID-19 and vaccine availability. To continue to best serve our community, we request that residents refrain from calling our office with questions regarding vaccine eligibility. 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.

Vaccination gives us hope that the pandemic will end, but in the meantime, we need to continue safety measures to keep the virus from spreading: wear a mask, physically distance from others, wash your hands, avoid gatherings and stay home when you are sick.

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.



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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:
OHA Joint Information Center (JIC) staff
971-673-2097
orcovid19.media@dhsoha.state.or.us

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