

Subject Line: An Update on the City's Vaccination Efforts

Dear City employees,

I wanted to provide you an update on our ongoing work to ensure all our communities – particularly our most vulnerable who are at high risk of hospitalization or death – have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Right now, there continues to be an extremely limited supply of vaccines, with only two vaccines approved for use.

As of this writing, less than 1% of King County residents have received both doses of the vaccine, and we need to reach 70% in order to secure COVID-19 immunity in our region. With only 40,000 doses of the vaccine coming to King County weekly, we have a long way to go, but we must remain committed to this effort. Seattle's road to recovery starts with vaccinations. It will take all of us – employers, health care providers, philanthropy, unions, nonprofits, community based organizations, and all levels of government – using all the tools at our disposal to get our communities vaccinated.

As the vaccine supply increases and we're able to ramp up our vaccination effort, I'm committed to providing regular updates to our entire City workforce. To the best of my ability, I want to make sure every City employee has access to the most up-to-date information regarding when and where you can get vaccinated. A vaccination effort has never been done at this scale in our city, region, or country, and I appreciate your patience as our team has been working with Public Health – Seattle & King County and Governor Inslee.

As you likely saw, on Monday, Governor Inslee announced that Washington was moving into Phase 1B, [Tier 1](#) of the Department of Health's vaccination plan. In this phase, all adults over 65 and adults over 50 who are unable to live independently, or who can live independently but live with and care for a young child, are eligible to be vaccinated. I know some of you are eligible – or have a loved one is eligible – in this new phase. If you haven't already, I encourage you to follow these steps:

- Go to Washington State's [Phase Finder](#) online tool to confirm your eligibility.
- If you have a health care provider, visit their website or call to see if they have available vaccination appointments.
- If you don't have a provider or if your provider doesn't have the vaccine available, the state's [website](#) will provide you with a list of possible vaccination locations.
- If you can't use Phase Finder and have no one to assist you, you can get help over the phone from Washington state's COVID-19 Assistance Hotline: Dial 1-800-525-0127, then press #. The hotline is available Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and [observed state holidays](#) 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

I deeply appreciate the incredible work all of you have done, especially our frontline workers who continue to report to work and serve our communities in-person. Right now, there is much confusion on where and how to access the vaccine. The City is working with our partners on strategies to make vaccinations as easy and accessible as possible for our workforce, consistent with the state's phased distribution plan. I'll have more information on those efforts soon.

Even as more of us begin to get vaccinated, we'll need to continue [wearing masks](#), practicing social distancing, and following all public health guidance. It's up to all of us to stop the spread and protect our communities.

Stay safe and healthy,

Jenny