

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 5/4/2021

TO: Grant County healthcare providers, infection control staff, supervisory nursing staff, clinic management, school nurses.
Grant County Emergency Management
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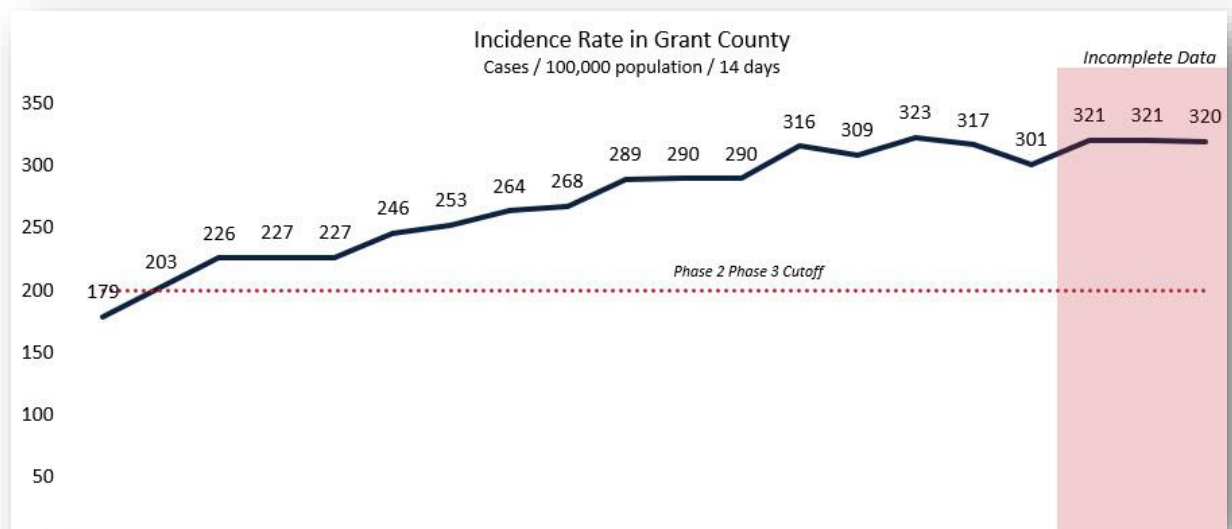
Governor Pauses Phase Evaluation of Roadmap to Recovery

Grant County vaccinations lagging behind – a call to regroup and turn things around

Grant County, WA – Today on May 4, Gov. Jay Inslee announced a two week pause on phase evaluations for all counties as part of the Healthy Washington–Roadmap to Recovery plan. Grant County remains in Phase 3, even though it does not meet the current metrics for it. We have two weeks to get our COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations down to avoid rolling back to phase 2.

To remain in Phase 3, the county will need to meet one of the following Roadmap to Recovery metrics during the next evaluation period:

- New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population over 14 days below 200.
- New hospitalizations per 100,000 population over 7 days below 5.



The next evaluation of our Road to Recovery Phase is on May 18, 2021.

“This is our wakeup call. What Grant County is currently doing is not working well for our residents. We have one of the lowest vaccination rates in our entire state, (29% of people in Grant County received at least one dose of vaccine compared to the state’s average of 44%, according to DOH). Yet our hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies have a surplus supply of vaccine. None of us want to have a repeat of last summer. We want parades and festivals back, but in order to make that happen we must better manage this virus. I know Grant County is tired of the COVID restrictions. But I also know, as a childhood resident of this community, we have what it takes to increase our vaccination rates,” said Theresa Adkinson, Grant County Health District Administrator.

GCHD once more recommends to:

- Get vaccinated as soon as possible;
- Wear your mask according to CDC recommendations;
- Maintain physical distancing;
- Wash your hands frequently;
- Ventilate indoor spaces well;
- Keep gatherings small and take them outside as much as possible;
- Get a COVID test and stay home and if you're sick;
- Stay home if you have been with someone who has COVID and you are not vaccinated.

“COVID spread and COVID hospitalizations in Grant County have been going up for several weeks. People are letting their guard down. But we are closer to ending this pandemic because of vaccines,” said Dr. Brzezny, Grant County Health Officer. “So, what do we do? Don’t disrespect the virus, stay alert. Forget about herd immunity for now, let’s just vaccinate as many as we can as soon as possible. It is safe and it works. If more people choose to vaccinate, more spread is disrupted, and the infections will go down, plain and simple. Then we stay in phase 3 and continue putting this nightmare behind...” added Dr. Brzezny.

Find a vaccine appointment by visiting: <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov/> or www.Granthealth.org

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