

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 9/19/2023

TO: Grant County Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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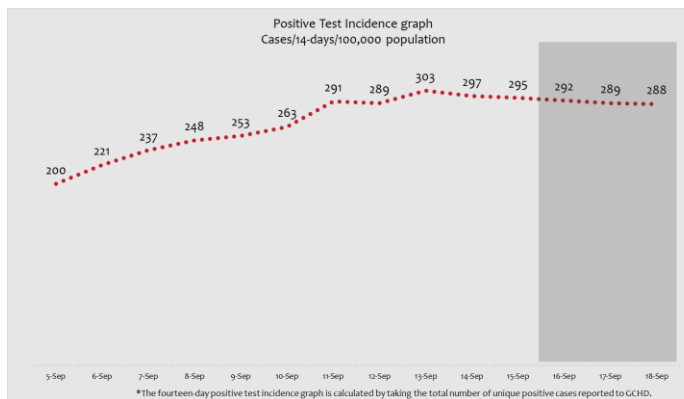
Updated COVID Vaccine

FDA and CDC recently endorsed an updated COVID-19 vaccine for the 2023-2024 season.

Older Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine no longer authorized for use.

Grant County, WA - Grant County Health District is notifying the community of the updated COVID-19 vaccine that will soon be available in Washington State. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized an updated COVID-19 vaccine for the 2023-2024 respiratory season. The vaccine was updated to better protect against the COVID variants expected this fall and winter. The bivalent COVID booster used previously, offered protection against COVID-19 variants seen in 2022, but is no longer authorized for use. It would be less effective against the Omicron variants experienced this season. Similar to the flu vaccine, the FDA expects that adjustments to the COVID-19 vaccine will likely be necessary each year to protect against the strains of COVID present at that time.

Grant County is experiencing a rise in COVID cases and hospitalizations. Positive COVID tests have been rising for several weeks. Vaccination remains one of the best protections against COVID-19-related hospitalization and death.



The new COVID-19 vaccine recommendations are as follows:

- **Everyone aged 5 years and older** should get 1 dose of the updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- **People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised** may get additional doses of updated COVID-19 vaccine.



- **Children aged 6 months–4 years** may need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be up to date if not previously vaccinated, including at least 1 dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine if vaccinated.
- GCHD recommends regular monitoring of CDC and Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) website as they continue to finalize recommendations and updates.
 - CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>
 - DOH: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/vaccine-information>

Accessing the Vaccine – CDC announced their endorsement of FDA's newest vaccine authorization on Wednesday, September 13th, 2023. The updated vaccine is not yet available in Washington but is expected to arrive within the next several days. Check the [vaccine finder](#) to be notified when local clinics or pharmacies have the vaccine in stock or call the office of your healthcare provider.

Consider the following resources to help prepare for your vaccination:

- Not all providers will carry the updated vaccine. Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you using the Vaccine Finder. [Vaccines.gov - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations](#)
- For some, the vaccines are no longer free of charge, but many insurance plans now include coverage for the COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals without insurance should explore the following resources:
 - All children 18 years of age and under have access to COVID-19 vaccines via the Childhood Vaccine Program at no cost to the patient. [Childhood Vaccine Program](#)
 - Under- and uninsured adults can access COVID-19 vaccine via the Bridge Access Program, which includes partnership with Walgreens and other pharmacies across Washington and additional Adult Vaccine Providers. [Adult Vaccine Program](#)

Upcoming Vaccine Clinics – Grant County Health District has partnered with Care-A-Van to host two vaccine clinics in Grant County this fall. Both vaccine clinics are walk-in only and will accommodate the following:

- Adult Covid Vaccines will be NO COST to underinsured and uninsured.
- Adult Flu Vaccines will be NO COST to uninsured.
- All CVP (childhood vaccines) will be NO COST.

Soap Lake

Date: October 16th, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Soap Lake Senior Center

Warden

Date: October 23rd, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Warden Community Center

General isolation, testing and masking guidelines -

- Isolation Guidelines: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/isolation-and-quarantine-covid-19>
- When To Test: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/testing-covid-19>
- Mask & Face Coverings: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/masks-and-face-coverings>
- CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#maps_new-admissions-rate-county

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