

Alliance Vaccination Update, May 2021

Vaccine Milestone: More Than 5 Million Doses

More than 5.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Washington state, according to [DOH](#). The vaccine [rate](#) has increased dramatically since the rollout began; it took 53 days to distribute the first 1 million doses and in April, it took 15 days to distribute the same number. Washington is averaging more than 61,000 vaccines each day and nearly 29% of people in the state are fully vaccinated. However, across the state, about 13% of people who received one dose of a two-dose vaccine are overdue for their second dose by more than a week. The CDC reports that nationally, 8% of people are overdue for their second dose. The second dose should be administered 21 days after the first for the Pfizer vaccine and 28 days for the Moderna vaccine.

New Mask Recommendations Based on Vaccination Status

The CDC released [recommendations](#) for outdoor activities. People who are vaccinated may:

- be outdoors without a mask on;
- attend a small outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends without a mask;
- attend small outdoor gatherings with both vaccinated and unvaccinated people without wearing a mask; and
- dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends of multiple households without a mask.

People who are not vaccinated may:

- be outside with members of your household without a mask; and
- attend a small outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends without a mask.

For other outdoor activities, like dining outside or being in a crowded outdoor event, it is recommended that people who are unvaccinated wear a mask. People should continue to wear masks at crowded outdoor events and indoor activities such as shopping, eating at a restaurant, or going to a gym, regardless of their vaccination status.

Employer Guidance to Increase Vaccination Numbers

A recent [poll](#) shows more Americans are interested in getting the COVID-19 vaccine, but there are some groups that are still reluctant. Of those surveyed, 32% were already vaccinated and 30% were going to get vaccinated as soon as possible. But 17% are taking a “wait and see” approach, 13% say they will “definitely not” get the vaccine, and 7% will get vaccinated “only if required.” Employers can play an important role in increasing the number of people getting vaccinated. Employer guidance to support worker vaccinations is available from:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [US Department of Labor](#)
- [Society of Human Resources Management](#)
- [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#)
- [National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#)
- [University of Washington Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences](#)

Tax Credits for Employers to Cover Time Off for Vaccinations

Small and midsize employers providing paid leave to employees receiving or recovering from COVID-19 vaccines are eligible for tax credits through the [American Rescue Plan](#) (ARP). Eligible employers are any business, including a tax-exempt organization, with fewer than 500 employees and can include government employers and self-employed individuals. The ARP tax credits are available for sick and family leave from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

The paid leave credits under the ARP are tax credits against the employer's share of the Medicare tax and are refundable, which means that the employer is entitled to payment of the full amount of the credits if it exceeds the employer's share of the Medicare tax. Eligible employers report the total paid sick and family leave wages for each quarter on their federal employment tax return, usually [Form 941](#). If there are insufficient federal employment taxes set aside to cover amounts provided as paid sick and family leave wages, the employer may request an advance of the credits by filing [Form 7200](#).

For more information on the COVID-19 tax credits, click [here](#).