

## Vaccination Update

### FDA Approves Booster Shot for High Risk Populations

As of September 27th, approximately 76.4% of the population age 12 and up in Washington state has received at least one dose of COVID vaccine and 69.7% is fully vaccinated, according to the Department of Health's [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). The US Food and Drug Administration recently authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for a single booster dose to be administered at least six months after full vaccination for individuals 65 years old and older and for individuals between 18 and 64 years-old who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 or whose frequent institutional or occupational exposure puts them at high risk of serious complications from COVID-19.

Following FDA approval, the Centers for Disease Control [approved](#) the Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot for up to 60 million Americans, overruling a previous CDC Advisory Panel recommendation that restricted those who would be eligible for it. There are currently an estimated 20 million people who are eligible for the booster shot nationally, as they were fully vaccinated six months ago. Information on booster shots is available from the WA DOH [here](#).

The administration of booster shots is controversial, as many lower-income countries have not been able to vaccinate large numbers of their population. Of the 5.5 billion vaccine doses that have been administered, about 80% have gone to high- and upper middle-income countries, according to the [World Health Organization](#). WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has [called](#) for a moratorium on booster shots until the end of the year, to enable every country to vaccinate at least 40% of its population.

At last month's Global COVID-19 Summit, President Joe Biden announced that the US is [donating](#) an additional half a billion Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines to low and lower-middle income countries with shipments starting early next year. That donation will bring the total number of donated vaccines to over 1.1 billion doses, that is the equivalent of three doses to the world for every shot administered at home. Dr. Tedros [said](#) he was "greatly heartened by the show of support" at the Summit, but "commitments alone won't save lives, stop transmission, immunize people, scale up manufacturing capacity, and ready the world to prevent future health emergencies. What is needed now—finally—is for commitments to turn into immediate actions to equitably end the pandemic."

## Employer Resources

Free Employer Webinar. Employers are again shifting return-to-work plans due to the Delta variant and infection rates across the country. To help address their concerns, the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions (National Alliance) is holding a free webinar, “***Reframing the COVID-19 Vaccine Debate: Workplace Safety Transcends Social & Political Assertions,***” on October 7th from 10 to 11 am PT.

The webinar features guidance from National Alliance Medical Director Advisory Council members Ray Fabius, MD, HealthNEXT and Mohannad (Ned) Kusti, MED, Pittsburgh Business Group on Health, Pivot Onsite Innovations. The National Alliance recommends these resources to purchaser/employers.

- [National Alliance Pulse of the Purchaser Survey Results](#)
- [Employers are Making the Vaccine Mandate About Safety, Not Politics](#)
- [Employers Key to Ending Pandemic: Vaccinations Imperative, Not a Personal Choice](#)

Register [here](#).

Washington State Department of Commerce also offers a variety of support for small businesses:

- Culturally Relevant Assistance. Small businesses and nonprofits are eligible for free assistance from the Small Business Resilience Network. Find out more [here](#).
- Small Business Support by County. Companies, foundations, and business organizations are offering small businesses funding opportunities, free virtual workshops, and other assistance by county. See these resources [here](#).

## Showing Proof of Vaccination

As part of the reopening, some businesses, schools, and restaurants are requiring proof of vaccination as a condition of entry. There are several options for showing proof of vaccination status beyond carrying the paper vaccination card, including:

- the [MyIR Mobile](#) Certificate of COVID-19 Vaccination (printed or screenshot), MyIR Mobile QR code, or QR code displayed on an endorsed partner mobile app;
- a printout from the Washington State Immunization Information System;
- a verified electronic medical record printout from your medical provider; and
- having a photograph of the card on your cell phone.

These options are available to anyone who got the COVID-19 vaccine, including children. Parents can use any of these methods to access and show their children's vaccination records. Some locations may only accept one specific type of vaccine proof, so it's a good idea to confirm what kind of proof you need ahead of time.

Vaccine records are also available by registering online or by making a written request by mail, fax, or email to the Washington State Department of Health at:

Washington State Immunization Information System  
PO Box 47843  
Olympia, WA 98504-7843  
Fax: 360.236.3590  
Email: [WAISRecords@doh.wa.gov](mailto:WAISRecords@doh.wa.gov)

If you need assistance getting your records, don't have access to the internet, or need language assistance, call 1-800-525-0127, and press #. You can also access information on how to get your vaccine records [here](#).