

December 2021 Vaccination Update

Booster Shots Approved for All Adults

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is [recommending](#) COVID-19 vaccine booster shots for everyone 18 years-old and older:

- those who received the **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna** vaccine **should** get the booster at least six months after receiving the second vaccine.
- those who received the single dose **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine **should** get the booster at least two months after getting the shot.

It is not required to use the same brand, any of the vaccines available may be used when getting a booster.

For information on vaccine locations click [here](#). For help with COVID-19 proof of vaccination information, click [here](#).

State to Report on COVID-19 by Race and Ethnicity

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) will include race and ethnicity data in its COVID-19 [reporting](#) and add new metrics regarding children's vaccines and booster shots. Until now, race and ethnicity data for COVID-19 cases has been provided by public health investigators using patient interviews or medical records. Going forward, DOH will use the race and ethnicity data submitted in lab reports for the statewide COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

The dashboard will provide statewide case, hospitalization, and testing trends by race and ethnicity. Currently, this information is 60% complete. DOH is working to improve the data quality and completeness from 60% to 80% by the end of the year. Information can be found on the dashboard for the following groups:

- Hispanic
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black
- Multi-racial/Other
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and
- White

Improving both the ethnic and racial data and adding vaccine metrics is critical to creating better understanding about vaccine uptake across the state and addressing the unique social and structural challenges that various racial and ethnic populations face. "Many communities experience poorer health outcomes because of social inequities related to

race, culture, identity or where they live. The presentation of COVID-19 trend data by race and ethnicity is a positive step towards monitoring health outcomes of racial and ethnic minority groups,” said Washington State Secretary of Health Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH. “We are committed to reexamining our priorities and the way we do our work to ensure we are being equitable. This enhancement to our COVID-19 data is a step in that direction.”