

April 2022 COVID-19 Update

Washington's Long-Term COVID-19 Response Focuses on Equity, Empowerment, Prevention, and Readiness

As Washington's COVID-19 response continues to evolve, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is laying out its long-term ForWARD plan to keep people safe and healthy as we move to the next phase of the pandemic and co-exist with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future. To date, more than 13 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered across Washington, leading to one of the highest state vaccination rates in the country and helping the state maintain one of the lowest COVID-19 death rates among states.

"Washington has come a long way since January 2020, when the country's first confirmed case of COVID-19 was found in our state," said Governor Jay Inslee. "I am proud of the steps Washingtonians have taken over the past two years to keep themselves, their loved ones, and their neighbors safe, as we worked together to fight this evolving virus. I appreciate DOH's efforts to create our state's ForWARD plan which provides one more tool to help us all keep one another safe and healthy."

The ForWARD plan has three main priorities:

Engagement & Empowerment: DOH will monitor the science and COVID-19 updates to provide people and organizations across Washington with the latest health information, guidance, and resources to stay safe, and do so with an equity lens.

Prevention through Vaccines, Tests, and Masks: Vaccines are the most powerful tool available to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and will continue efforts that will help further close equity gaps and support mobile outreach efforts. DOH has distributed millions of at-home tests and will expand these efforts while maintaining access to diagnostic testing. DOH is prepared to provide personal protective equipment (PPE), including a 60-day supply to support the healthcare system.

System Readiness: DOH is committed to proactive data monitoring and disease detection through genomic sequencing 10% of COVID-19 cases and using additional tools to gauge ongoing transmission trends and changes in conditions that signal a need to change our response.

Read more about ForWARD, [here](#).

Second Booster Recommended for Certain Populations

Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Washington State Department of Health issued new recommendations for people to get second booster shots of an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine at least four months after receiving their initial booster dose.

The updated booster dose recommendations are:

- Everyone 12 and older should receive a booster dose five months after completing their two-dose vaccine series of Pfizer or Moderna, or two months after receiving the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Everyone 50 and older and 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a second booster dose four months after receiving their first booster dose.
- People who received a J&J primary and booster dose can receive a second booster of a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

To make a vaccine or booster appointment, visit [Vaccine Locator](#), [Vaccines.gov](#), or call the COVID-19 Information Hotline at 833-VAX-HELP, language assistance is available. Read more [here](#).