

Jan. 7, 2021

A Message from the COVID Safety Team

COVID-19 Vaccine Phase Update

Yesterday, Jan. 6, the Washington state Department of Health (DOH) updated descriptions and timeline of its distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. The new tiers in Phase 1 include K-12 school staff in tiers B2 and B4 (depending on your age).

Some staff members may fall into other categories, but many will fall into B2 and B4. Timelines are subject to change.

These new categories do not answer all questions about vaccine distribution. Please continue to send your COVID-19 vaccine questions to BPS.health@bellingshamschools.org so that we can work on answering them as we are able.

For regular updates from the Whatcom County Health Department on vaccine distributions, sign up for this listserv at www.whatcomcounty.us/signup. Enter your email and select Sign In, then scroll down to the News Flash section, and select “Health – Vaccine Updates for Schools”.

The BPS COVID safety team is dedicated to sharing timely information with staff, but please be aware that decisions about vaccine distribution are being made by state and local medical and health authorities.

Read the updated details about Phase 1 below or [see the chart from the Dept. of Health](#).

December 2020

- Phase 1, Tiers A1 and A2
 - High-risk health care workers in health care settings
 - High-risk first responders
 - Long-term care facility residents
 - All other workers at high-risk health care settings

January 2021

- Phase 1, Tier B1
 - All people 70 years or older
 - All people 50 years or older in multi-generational households

February 2021

- Phase 1, Tier B2
 - **High-risk critical workers 50 years or older** who work in certain congregate settings: Agriculture; food processing; grocery stores; **K-12 (teachers and**

school staff); childcare; corrections; prisons, jails, or detention centers; public transit; fire; law enforcement.

March 2021

- Phase 1, Tier B3
 - o People 16 years or older with 2 or more co-morbidities or underlying conditions

April 2021

- **Phase 1, Tier B4**
 - o **High-risk critical workers under 50 years** who work in certain congregate settings: Agriculture; food processing; grocery stores; **K-12 (teachers and school staff)**; childcare; corrections; prisons, jails, or detention centers; public transit; fire; law enforcement.
 - o People, staff, and volunteers in congregate living settings: Correctional facilities; group homes for people with disabilities; people experiencing homelessness that live in or access services in congregate settings.