



Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management



Community Situation Report

2021 COVID-19 Pandemic

Feb. 8, 2021

Lack of vaccine still an issue for Jefferson County

- During today's Board of County Commissioners meeting Dr. Locke's focus was on the availability of vaccine into the county. Jefferson County has administered almost 6,000 vaccines with 85 percent being given by Jefferson Healthcare Hospital and the rest by the pharmacies where they have been receiving an increased number of vaccine doses. Jefferson Healthcare has been receiving the Pfizer vaccine to complete the second dose, but the hospital has not received any first-shot vaccine for the last month, according to Locke. As it stands now, two-thirds of the orders from counties are being denied because of lack of supply.

"This problem will resolve over time as new vaccines come online. Johnson & Johnson will file for emergency use authorization of their vaccine likely sometime this week. Results are looking pretty good for a single dose vaccine. We are anticipating that will become available late March or early April," Locke said.

Regarding issues surrounding variants, Dr. Locke said it is inevitable that a virus will mutate and some of those strains will be better at spreading which appears to be the case with the UK, Brazil and South African variants. The UK strain is in Washington state and it is certain more will be found. Testing for that strain is not easy, however the state is ramping up to do that.

- One area the emergence of variants is focusing on is better masking choices. Some people are still wearing face shields which are virtually worthless. Many are wearing masks that aren't the right size for them. Mask fit is important for comfort and effectiveness especially when it comes to the mask protecting the wearer. Double masking is becoming more common and there is evidence to support that. Using a blue surgical mask with a well-fitting cloth mask improves the fit and gives extra layers of filtration. Expect to see more attention on masking, Locke stated. The CDC is doing studies on masking and how people can make better choices. The virus is still out there and we have to protect ourselves.

In response to a question about people traveling across county lines to other pharmacies to get vaccinated, Dr. Locke didn't see that as a problem except to say that getting a first dose in one location and a second dose someplace else could be an issue. On the topic of second doses, booster or second doses are received a couple of weeks after the first dose. If the second dose is a little late by a week or two, Dr. Locke said it doesn't matter.

- Regarding vaccinations for children, tests are currently being conducted for those in the 12-18 age group. Tests for those younger than 12 won't take place until the data from the 12-18 tests is available. That is a way off. The vaccine will be licensed for 12 and above, but below that age is still unknown.
- Department of Emergency Management Director Willie Bence shared some positive information with the commissioners at the meeting. The State of Washington is allowing individuals with expired licenses who have volunteered to help with mass vaccination events to assist in the vaccination process after completing a background check process. "This weekend, thanks to individuals who offered to volunteer, we had 112 people helping out," said Bence. "We are most appreciative of the number of people coming forward to help in both a medical and non-medical way."

- Another bit of good news came from FEMA and changes to the Stafford Act providing 100 percent Federal cost share for COVID-19 related expenses until Sept. 30, 2021. This change is retroactive back to Jan. 20, 2020. Prior to this change, FEMA would pay up to 75 percent of costs for a disaster and local jurisdictions were responsible for 25 percent. “This will be a big help as expenses will increase for mass vaccinations,” Bence said.

Information about vaccinations can best be found on Jefferson Healthcare’s webpage at <https://jeffersonhealthcare.org/covid-19-vaccine/>. Appointments for vaccinations at Tri-Area Pharmacy or Jefferson Healthcare can be made by calling the Dept. of Emergency Management at 360-344-9791. To make an appointment at Safeway in Port Townsend visit <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine> and scroll down to the Jefferson County link. For an appointment at QFC in Port Hadlock go to <https://www.qfc.com/d/flu>.

Vaccine distribution update from State Board of Health

- During a press conference on Thursday, Feb. 4, Secretary of Health, Umair Shah said the demand for vaccine in Washington State is greater than the amount available. Last week, more than 600 facilities requested more than 358,000 first doses of vaccine yet the first-dose allocation from the federal government was only 107,125. There were also more requests for second dose allocations than were received. The state allocates vaccine from its limited supply to enrolled providers through a multi-step process.

Decisions about who gets vaccine are based on proportional population of those eligible in the county, data from providers, provider’s current inventory and documented throughput, equity, and access at all provider types to include hospitals, pharmacies, mass vaccination sites and clinics.

The state is concentrating on at-risk individuals either because of where they live or who they live with and those in category B1, Tier 1.

Inslee signs bill to help businesses and workers

- Gov. Jay Inslee today signed legislation providing relief for businesses and workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. SB 5061 will increase minimum unemployment benefits for workers and provide significant tax relief for businesses over the next five years, to support recovery from the economic impacts of COVID shutdowns. For more information go to: https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-signs-bipartisan-bill-to-support-business-and-workers-d550a3a52551?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.



LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION:

- Jefferson County Public Health: <https://co.jefferson.wa.us/1429/COVID-19>
- Jefferson Co. Public Health Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jeffersoncountypublichealth/>
- Jefferson County Gov. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jeffcowagov/>
- Dept. of Emergency Management: www.jeffcoecoc.org
- Washington Gov. Inslee’s webpage: <https://www.governor.wa.us>
- FAQs for Businesses/Employers RE: Positive COVID-19 Test Results: <https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1437/Business-Resources>

Questions about Coronavirus?

Go to: www.coronavirus.wa.gov

Who to call: State COVID-19 Assistance Hotline: 1-800-525-0127

Cases by Age

0-19	62
20-29	33
30-39	44
40-49	36
50-59	35
60-69	57
70-79	37
80+	18

Cases by Sex

Cases by Sex	N (%)
Female	157 (48.8%)
Male	165 (51.2%)

Cases by Location

Port Townsend	149
Mid-County	144
South County (Quilcene, Brinnon, West Jefferson)	29

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Jefferson County, WA

Total Positives (confirmed cases reported since 3/2/2020)	322
Active Cases in Isolation	18
Negative	17,854
Percent Positive	1.77%
Test Results Pending	10
Total Tests Administered	18,186
Total Patients Recovered*	265
Cases Ever Hospitalized	23
Deaths	2
Two Week COVID-19 Case Rate per 100,000 (Jan 24 - Feb 6)**	128.53

Last results received 2/8/2021. We are working with Jefferson Healthcare and other labs to provide the test result data. *WA State DOH: people are considered recovered at 28 days from the onset of symptoms if they are alive and not hospitalized. This table will be updated Monday through Friday. **This rate will be updated every Monday. Last Updated: 2/8/2021 at 3:43 PM.

Case Rate in Last 4 weeks

Week of:	Case Rate
01/03/21-01/16/21	119.12
01/10/21-01/23/21	75.24
01/17/21-01/30/21	106.58
01/24/21-02/06/21	128.53

% Positive in Past 4 Weeks

Week of:	Tests Completed	Cases	% Positive
01/11/21-01/17/21	435	15	3.45%
01/18/21-01/24/21	422	11	2.60%
01/25/21-01/31/21	516	23	4.46%
02/01/21-02/07/21	438	15	3.42%

<https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1466/Case-Information>