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COMMUNITY UPDATE: COVID-19 VACCINATION

This is the first in a series of updates for the community regarding vaccinations for COVID-19.

“Everything about the response to the coronavirus pandemic remains a constantly changing landscape, especially information about distribution and administration of vaccinations,” said Erin Wooley, Chief Nursing Officer. “We will be publishing regular updates to keep everyone informed.”

Here are some key things to know:

- WhidbeyHealth has been designated as an ‘open’ vaccination provider which means that in addition to our own clinical staff, we will be vaccinating other Phase 1a healthcare workers on Whidbey Island.
- WhidbeyHealth has been notified that we will receive the initial shipment of vaccine on the 15th, which is much earlier than expected. As a result, we will initiate vaccinations on Thursday the 17th, beginning with WhidbeyHealth healthcare workers in the Phase 1a group.
- Prioritizing vaccinations will follow the phased approach guidance from the Washington State Department of Health. [See current information on the phased approach here.](#)
- Our project plan is to have vaccinated approximately 1,600 providers within 14 days.
- A self-serve online appointment-setting system will soon be made available to healthcare workers in the Phase 1a group through their employers.

“While this is an exciting phase in our fight against COVID-19, I cannot stress enough the importance of precautions and continuing to contain spread of the disease,” Wooley said. “Everyone should follow advice related to gatherings for the holidays, wearing masks, distancing, and frequently hand-washing.”

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