

Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) Meeting

July 15, 2021

Interim Chair/Facilitator:

Dr. Scott Lindquist Washington State Department of Health

Members:

Dr. Amy Person

Dr. Christopher Chen

Adrian Dominquez

Anita Alkire

Annie Hetzel

Dr. Beth Harvey

Dr. Daniel Moorman

Dr. Ed Marcuse

Dr. Jeff Duchin

Dr. Jenny Arnold

Dr. John Dunn

Dr. John Merrill-Steskal

Dr. Kristy Riniker

Dr. Linda Eckert

Dr. Mary Alison Koehnke

Dr. Mary Anderson

Sarah Murray

Dr. Stephen Pearson

Tam Lutz

Tara Tumulty

Tristen Lamb

Wendy Stevens

Representing:

Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officers

Health Care Authority

Urban Indian Health Institute

Childcare

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Consultant

Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Consultant

Public Health – Seattle/King County

Washington State Pharmacy Association

Managed Care

Washington Academy of Family Physicians

Washington Academy of Family Physicians

Consultant

Naturopathic Medicine

Internal Medicine Organization

Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officers

Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officers

American Indian Health Commission

Washington State Department of Health Staff:

Mary Huynh

Hannah Febach

Chas DeBolt

Kathy Bay

SheAnne Allen

Janel Jorgenson

Michele Roberts

Greg Endler

Topic	Presented Information
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Michele Roberts</p>	<p>Michele Roberts welcomed the committee members, including the two new members Dr. Riniker and Dr. Merrill-Steskal, she also gave an overview of meeting expectations and processes.</p>
<p>Land Acknowledgement</p> <p>Michele Roberts</p>	<p>Michele provided a land acknowledgement.</p>
<p>Conflict of Interest & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Michele Roberts</p>	<p>Hannah read the VAC Conflict of Interest Policy. No conflicts were declared by any member of the VAC.</p> <p>The minutes from the April 15th, 2021 meeting were approved.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Response Director Update</p> <p>SheAnne Allen</p>	<p>SheAnne provided a brief update on a few key pieces of the vaccine response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of July 15, 2021, 70% of Washington’s population ages 16 and up have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. Almost 8 million doses of COVID 19 vaccine have been given out to nearly 4.3 million people. • The Washington vaccine lottery wrapped up July 14, 2021; it resulted in 17,000-39,000 additional COVID-19 vaccinations from June 3rd – June 22nd. The state saw a 24% increase in COVID-19 vaccinations in comparison to the projections before the lottery was announced. • A Heroes Thanks vaccine lottery will launch July 20, 2021 for those who received a vaccination from the Veteran Affairs or a Department of Defense health care facility. The website can be found here. <p>Weekly allocations are no longer being allotted to providers as of June 24, 2021, as there is reliable and consistent supply to meet current COVID-19 vaccine demand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccines currently available to order are Pfizer 450 dose vials and Moderna 140 dose vials. • Johnson & Johnson or Pfizer 1170 dose vials are no longer available to order, but providers can visit the Washington Vaccine Advertisement Page and receive Johnson & Johnson vaccine via transfer. • Johnson & Johnson vaccine has extended their vaccine expiration date an additional 6 weeks. <p>Efforts to reduce vaccine wastage include implementing the Vaccine Advertisement Page, which lists vaccine doses available within a provider’s region for transfer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccine wastage may increase because of smaller clinics enrolled that are unable to administer all vials in tray, Moderna dose vial size increasing, as well as opened vaccine vials with unused doses. • There is a shortage of Pfizer shipping boxes and temperature monitors, providers are encouraged to return shippers to Pfizer for reuse. <p>The Department of Health launched new initiatives to improve COVID-19 vaccination efforts: Care-A-Van and Power of Providers (POP) initiatives.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care-A-Van is a new mobile COVID-19 vaccination effort. There were 63 requests submitted for events June 12 – Sept 24, 2021. As of July 15, 2021, 22 requests have been filled. • Power of Providers (POP) initiative will launch July 16, 2021 to highlight the important role providers play to encourage vaccinations within their communities. The initiative asks providers to commit to SAVE: asking providers to Seek vaccination status, Ask about their hesitations and provide education, Vaccinate, and Empower to share their status or vaccination experience with their communities. • More information on the POP initiative can be found here.
<p>Post Vaccination Myocarditis/Pericarditis</p>	<p>Chas gave a brief update on myocarditis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to clustering in myocarditis cases in April and May 2021, the WA Department of Health requested assistance from CDC to develop a collaborative response team to investigate suspected cases of myocarditis/pericarditis that were temporally associated with receipt of COVID-19 vaccines. • By June 11, 2021, there were 97 potential cases of myocarditis, pericarditis, or myopericarditis that were reported to public health entities in Washington. • Current clinical review status includes 97 reported cases with 78 verified. Within these cases, 48 cases met myocarditis or pericarditis case criteria, 23 did not meet case criteria, and 7 cases are awaiting cardiologist expert review. • Overall, there was not a significant trend of myocarditis within the year. Next steps were discussed, including continued monitoring of reported cases, quality control and the possibility of published manuscripts.
<p>Flu Preparations for Fall</p> <p>Janel Jorgenson Greg Endler</p>	<p>Janel gave a brief update on the 2021-2022 influenza season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Health prebooked 650,000 flu vaccines for flu season planning. There was a decrease in flu multidose vials ordered. • Flu vaccine will be available for providers to order in mid-late August. There are 188-200 million projected doses in the United States for 2021-2022 influenza season. <p>Greg gave a brief update on Flu communications campaign planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021-2022 Flu campaign is similar to last year’s theme of “Knock Out Flu”. • Strategy and messaging address key areas: mobility and socialization, barriers to vaccination, and behavior change. The campaign has the communication goals of awareness, engagement, and education. • Campaign prioritizes underserved and most at-risk populations.
<p>Strategies to Increase Childhood Immunization Numbers</p>	<p>Kathy and Greg gave a brief update on childhood immunization numbers for routine immunizations and strategies to increase childhood immunization rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington State throughout the pandemic has been behind in routine childhood immunizations but we are starting to see an increase in rates in

<p>Kathy Bay Greg Endler</p>	<p>the past couple months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vax into Summer Outreach & Communications Campaign – emphasis on working with healthcare providers to encourage and promote both flu and COVID-19 vaccine. • Campaign promotional materials include social media toolkit, “Dear Parent” letters, school promotional materials. Materials are available online at https://immunitycommunityWA.org
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Public Comments:

Public comments were received during the meeting. The comments reflected concerns around effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine, including its side effects and symptoms. As a reminder, the Committee does not respond directly to comments. Members receive comments and take them into consideration during discussions.