



## Community Questions and Answers: Collaborative Meeting March 17, 2021

Below are questions we have received during the Collaborative space held on March 17, 2021. We have compiled those questions and answers in this document. We will do this for every meeting held.

If you have any questions and/or would like to follow-up, please feel free to contact us at [vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov](mailto:vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov).

### Vaccine Supply & Allocation

Q: Is the goal to get through all of 1B2 by the end of April? What about Phases 3 and 4? Is the plan to get through all 3 phases before May 1st? A: Great question- Phases 1B Tier 3 and 4 are now open! **The state's phased** eligibility approach has helped ensure those most vulnerable were the first to be vaccinated, including older adults, those in long term care facilities, critical health care workers, and more. The federal government said vaccine allocations will continue to increase. This, combined with continued hard work from our providers across the state to get folks vaccinated, has allowed the state to open eligibility sooner than expected to help us stop the spread of the virus. Updated phases infographic can be found [here](#).

Q: I learned that a county threw out vaccines because they weren't used not enough appointments were being set. Is anything being done to prevent that? Can those who don't qualify but really want that be consider to get the vaccine rather than throwing them. A: Vaccine providers are encouraged to develop an equity informed extra dose plan. When there is excess vaccine, provider will need to do their best to utilize vaccines, prioritizing communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and in-line with phases eligibility guidelines (i.e., move to next eligibility phase).

### Vaccine Confidence

Q: Most of the homeless individuals I work with are not interested in the vaccine due to misinformation. Are there already created "myth buster" type materials we can share with folks? A: Yes! We are currently in the works of developing a Myth Buster vaccine resource guide and can share with the larger Collaborative once finalized.

April 7<sup>th</sup> Collaborative session will solely focus on addressing vaccine hesitancy and building vaccine confidence. We have eight invited community-based organizations and advocates working directly with communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals with disabilities, immigrant & refugees, Black/AA, Latinx, Agricultural workers, Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, to share their engagement efforts, challenges and success related to vaccine hesitancy and vaccine confidence. There will be time to discuss in small group discussions in community specific groups. We hope you can join us!

### Prioritization & Access

Q: What do we guide people that say that asthma, diabetes, etc is their disability. Does the DOH consider that an underlying health condition or disability? A: Diabetes and Asthma are underlying medical conditions. Phase 1 B tier 3 and 4) includes people who have certain medical conditions that



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puts or may put them at increased risk for severe illness if infected with COVID-19 leading to increased hospitalization, morbidity and mortality. The list of conditions is based upon the [CDC's list of the conditions that put people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#). It is a living document that may be updated as science evolves. Currently there are limited data and information about the impact of many underlying medical conditions on the risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Notably, the list **may not include every condition that might increase one's risk for developing severe illness from COVID-19**.

Q: One if the issues with people with disabilities and getting the vaccine is that some people have sensory issues and **can't wear a face mask to go get** the vaccine. How can we get the vaccines to these people with disabilities?

A: All vaccine providers are required to proactively address access barriers; this includes ensuring vaccine site is accessible to people with disabilities and to accommodate accordingly. Checklist to ensure vaccination sites are accessible for people with disabilities [here](#).

If someone is unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition, they could be excluded from the mask requirement. Similar to those with other medical issues that make masks unsafe or nonwearable, they could identify it as a medical condition.

Q: Are foodbank workers considered as part of 1b tier 2 or not? A: Yes, foodbank workers are currently eligible!

Q: I would also like to touch on transportation for communities that may not have access to that. I am Latina and my organization works with the Latino community...this is a question we get a lot...they have no access to transport nor money for the transit. A: Thank you for raising! We are currently working on a statewide COVID-19 Transportation resource guide that will be posted next week on the [Vaccine Engagement & Equity](#) site. For now, please see free COVID-19 transportation resources below. If you have any questions and/or if this does not yet address concern raised, please reach out to [vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov](mailto:vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov)!

- Medicaid Qualified Transportation Assistance [here](#)



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- Resource for SW Washington [here](#)
- Seattle, Bellevue King County and more [here](#)
- Spokane Transportation Directory [here](#)
- NEM Regional Transportation Broker Map [here](#)
- Hopelink Transportation Resource [here](#)
- Lyft Ride Share [here](#)
- Sound Transit Link
  - Link light rail will be free to passengers traveling to or from appointments at vaccination sites along Link routes, including newly opened sites at Lumen Field and Rainier Beach, as well as local pharmacies and medical facilities. The free round-trip will be available throughout the day of a vaccination for passengers who show proof of the appointment if requested. Free service will also be available to vaccination site volunteers who provide documentation they are working a shift that day, such as an official email verifying their shift.
  - For trip planning assistance or other questions, contact Customer Service at 888-889-6368, TTY Relay 711, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - A language line is available to provide interpretation assistance for passengers who speak languages other than English at 800-823-9230, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.