



Public Health Advisory

December 21, 2021

REGION'S HEALTH OFFICERS THANK THEIR COMMUNITIES AND URGE COVID VACCINE BOOSTER DOSES

Your Health Officers wish you the merriest and happiest of holidays and hopes for health and wellness in the coming new year. Joined by our partners and communities we serve, we have overcome many hurdles in our work against the COVID pandemic this year: we've expanded testing access to include rapid and even home testing; we've opened schools and businesses safely without as much transmission as we feared; we've recognized what preventive measures work best (masking, distancing, ventilation); our healthcare systems have improved treatment protocols with the most updated scientific evidence; and overall we have avoided as much illness and death as we'd have seen had it not been for these successes.

Most importantly, we have effective and safe vaccines that are available to all people 5 years of age and older. Vaccines continue to offer the most promise in keeping ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities safer and healthier through the holidays and into the new year. Early information about vaccines and the new Omicron variant is also showing that those vaccinated are more protected against severe COVID disease, even if they get infected. We are learning that a booster dose helps make those vaccines even stronger against the old and the new virus variants. So, as we celebrate the holidays and the close of 2021, and begin to enter the new year, we encourage everyone 16 years of age and older to go ahead and get a booster dose as soon as possible.

Please visit our county Public Health websites for more information on vaccines and protecting yourself from COVID-19:

Kittitas County:

<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/covid19/vaccine.aspx>

Grant County:

<https://granthealth.org/covid-19-vaccinations/>

Chelan-Douglas County:

<https://www.cdhd.wa.gov/>

Okanogan County:

<https://okanogancountycovid19.org/covid-19-vaccine/>

In health, happiness and best wishes for the holiday season,

Mark Larson, MD
Kittitas County Health Officer

Alexander Brzezny, MD, MPH, FAAP
Grant and Adams County Health Officer

James Wallace, MD, MPH
Okanogan County Health Officer
Chelan-Douglas interim Health Officer

Chelan-Douglas County
Jennifer Torres
Communications
509.860.3662

Grant County
Misty Aguilar
Public Information Officer
509.770.4194

Kittitas County
Kasey Knutson
Special Programs Coordinator
509.962.7090

Okanogan County
Lauri Jones
Community Health Director
509.422.7140