



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
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February 19, 2021

**TO:** All DOC Staff

**FROM:** Dan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services  
Frank Longano, Deputy Chief Medical Officer

**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Vaccine – Expanded Phase 1A Prioritization

We would like to provide an update regarding ongoing Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Recently, DOC and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) have discussed the need for Phase 1A prioritization for members of our incarcerated population that work directly in our health care, custodial, laundry and food service locations.

DOC and DOH have agreed that these groups meet the Phase 1A prioritization, and DOC has been approved to begin offering COVID-19 vaccination to individuals that work in the areas above based on the availability of vaccine provided to us from the State. Please note that availability of doses continues to be limited statewide, and the department's ability to provide vaccine doses to staff and incarcerated individuals is dependent on having enough supply to do so.

As a reminder, we are currently able to administer vaccine to those in priority groups Phase 1A and Phase 1B1 that meet the criteria described below.

Currently vaccine is being offered to DOC employees and incarcerated individuals who meet the [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) Phase 1A and 1B1 priority group definitions based on vaccine availability. This applies to:

1. Any worker in a high risk health care setting, meaning any DOC employee or incarcerated individual working in a setting where care is being provided to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients and close contact with them is possible.
2. All DOC employees and incarcerated individuals aged 65 or older regardless of job duties or location.

Currently, the department has been provided Moderna vaccine and these are administered in two separate doses as close to 28 days apart as possible.

The COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary and we continue to strongly encourage everyone eligible to accept the vaccine when offered. This applies to those who have previously been diagnosed with COVID-19 positive as long as they have completed the isolation period.

Recently, DOC's Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 vaccine were updated, and can be found [here](#).

Thank you for all you are doing to mitigate the spread of COVID 19. Please continue to wear your mask, stay six feet apart from others whenever possible and wash hands as frequently as practical.

***"Working Together for SAFER Communities"***