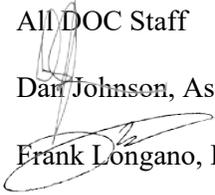




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

March 22, 2021

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: Dan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services

Frank Longano, Deputy Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine types and Phase 1B4

On March 15, 2021, [we shared](#) that Governor Inslee announced tentative dates for advancing to the next phases of vaccine eligibility and updated prioritizations. The state moved to Phase 1B2 on March 17, 2021. Phase 1B2 includes the following:

- High risk critical workers who work in certain congregate settings:
 - Agriculture
 - Fishing vessel crews
 - Food processing
 - Grocery stores
 - Corrections
 - Prisons
 - Jails or detention centers
 - Public transit
 - Remaining first responders
- People 16 years or older who are pregnant or have a disability that puts them at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness

On March 18, 2021, the Governor announced that the state will move to Phase 1B4 on **March 31, 2021**. Phase 1B4 is expected to include the following:

- All people, staff, and volunteers in congregate living settings:
 - Correctional facilities;
 - group homes for people with disabilities;
 - people experiencing homelessness that live in or access services in congregate settings

This means that all DOC staff and incarcerated individuals will be eligible to receive vaccine on March 31. The department's ability to provide the vaccine will continue to depend on the Washington State Department of Health's guidance and the state's vaccine supply, which remains limited.

The department was initially authorized to provide Moderna vaccine and recently was authorized to also provide Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. Having both vaccines available will maximize our supply so we can vaccinate any staff or incarcerated individual who wishes to receive it. If both vaccines are available at your site, you will have a choice of which vaccine to receive, but many

sites may only have one option available at any given time. Our goal is to offer both vaccines at every location as long as we have the supply available to us.

In order to assist you in making the best possible decision for your health when both vaccines are an option, we are providing a brief comparison of the two vaccines DOC will be able to offer. The following information is based on published clinical trial data and United States' [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) COVID-19 vaccine clinical guidance. When comparing the data for these two vaccines it is critical to note that they are not directly comparable to each other, since both trials were performed in different places with different rates of variant virus, at different times, and not compared head-to-head in the same trial. However, we do know that both vaccines have extremely high efficacy in the most important outcome: preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. In fact, none of the clinical trial patients who were fully vaccinated with either vaccine (defined as 28 days after a single dose of J&J or 14 days after the second dose of Moderna) died or were hospitalized for COVID-19 disease. Therefore, you may not want to delay vaccination while waiting for the other option to become available. The chart below simplifies some differences and similarities between the two vaccines that may assist in your decision making:

COVID-19 vaccine comparison: Moderna and Johnson & Johnson

	Moderna	Johnson and Johnson
Vaccine type	mRNA	Viral vector
Number of patients in clinical trial	30,420	39,058
Overall efficacy	94.1%	66.9%
Effectiveness against severe disease and hospitalization	100% and 100%	85.4% and 100%
Deaths from COVID-19 in vaccinated trial patients	NONE	NONE
Number of doses	2 doses 28 days apart	1 dose
Side Effects	90% Local [*] , 80% Systemic ^{**}	50% Local [*] , 55% Systemic ^{**}

*Local side effects were similar for both vaccines: pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site

**Systemic symptoms were similar for both vaccines: fever, chills, muscle aches, headache

We want to support all DOC staff and incarcerated individuals around vaccination decision making in the coming months. We hope this information is helpful to you in making the best choice for the health of you and your family. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please view DOC's Frequently Asked Questions which can be found [here](#). We will continue to provide relevant information as more guidance is made available.

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 perform hand hygiene frequently.