

## Homebased COVID-19 Vaccination & Boosters Help Advance Access & Health Equity

Approximately 30 percent of Washington state residents are not considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Data shows vaccination protects from the virus. Vaccination decreases the chance of severe disease and death if you get the virus and helps minimize hospitalizations related to the virus. It is important to get the initial vaccine series and a booster dose to help maintain your immune response against new strains of COVID-19. The current recommendation for boosters is shown in the chart below:

Vaccine completed for primary series	Authorized age for vaccine booster	Interval between last primary dose (including additional dose, when applicable) and booster dose	Number of doses
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥12 years	≥5 months	1
Moderna	≥18 years	≥5 months	1
Janssen	≥18 years	≥2 months	1

Help protect yourself and those who remain unable to get vaccinated. Many homebound people rely on others to help provide for their daily needs, with others coming into their homes regularly. They remain vulnerable to exposure from the virus by others who may be unvaccinated or unknowingly experience community transmission.

**If you or someone you know is homebound & needs COVID-19 vaccine or a booster, request it today.**

- Call your local health jurisdiction to get homebound vaccination services.
- Call the State COVID-19 Assistance Hotline to let them know you need homebound vaccination services. Dial 1-800-525-0127 or 1-888-856-5816, then press #. Phone interpretation is available.
- Complete the online registration form linked below to connect you with available county and/or state mobile vaccine teams who can provide or arrange for homebound vaccination services.

DOH Homebased Vaccine Request Survey Link: [https://redcap.link/WA\\_HomeBasedVax](https://redcap.link/WA_HomeBasedVax)

If you have questions about this service, please email: [covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov](mailto:covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov).

### Program History

The DOH began providing homebound vaccinations in March of 2021. The service was made available to vulnerable and homebound disabled seniors and adults. The DOH Homebased Vaccine Request Survey covers all 39 counties across Washington state. Area vaccinators continue to provide outreach and services to deliver primary immunizations and booster doses to those in need.

### Improving Vaccine Equity

The DOH Survey for Homebound Vaccines provides COVID-19 vaccines in areas of the state where vaccinations may otherwise be unavailable. This state level safety net removes barriers and solves access issues typically seen in the absence of homebound vaccine services.

The main function of the survey tool is to advance health equity and COVID-19 vaccine access for those who may be:

- Unable to leave home, stand in line, or walk any distance.
- Experiencing physical or intellectual disabilities.
- Experiencing mental health conditions limiting access.

Homebound vaccines help advance health equity in areas of the state known as vaccine deserts. Vaccine deserts exist when one of the following is true:

- There are no vaccine locations.
- There are no health care providers giving vaccine.
- There are few providers available to serve the geographic area and existing population

Vaccination services for the public may be unavailable or harder to access in these locations. The homebound vaccination service removes access issues often experienced when living in more difficult to reach geographic and remote areas of the state.

Mobile vaccine services help provide access to life-saving vaccine to people directly in their homes. This service directly focuses in areas known to have a high social vulnerability index, which indicates potential health inequities. People can request immunization through the survey regardless of where they live in Washington state.

#### **Are other in-home services available beyond COVID-19 vaccine?**

Currently, mobile nurse teams can only provide vaccine for COVID-19 immunizations. Flu vaccine and other potential services such as laboratory blood draws are not available at this time. There are clinical, logistical & funding limitations. These factors include limits on the use of COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funds to pay for the vaccine & service delivery required for response to the pandemic.

Mobile team service is available to help advance health equity for populations known to be at greatest risk for death and hospitalization from COVID-19. Please consider completing the survey for someone who needs access to COVID-19 vaccine today.

#### **What Can I Expect After Submitting a Request?**

The DOH collects request forms weekly and sends them to the resident's local health jurisdiction for outreach and action. The local health office staff will reach out to the mobile immunization team. If the local health staff is not able to coordinate for homebound vaccinations, they will coordinate with DOH to support.

Remote language line assistance is available to support any translation needs. If a local public health office is unable to help, the office can request assistance from DOH. The mobile immunization team will touch base with the requester to schedule a free home-based COVID-19 vaccine service.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).