



# Panhandle Health District

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Panhandle Health District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **North Idaho Moving Forward with Vaccine Phases**

**Idaho Panhandle** — Beginning in February, the panhandle area is prepared to begin scheduling appointments and vaccinating individuals who are 65 years of age and older. Among the counties that the Panhandle Health District (PHD) serves, including, Kootenai, Bonner, Benewah, Boundary, and Shoshone, 11,588 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered thus far to those who are in the first phases of Idaho's vaccine rollout, including medical and healthcare workers, K-12 school employees, childcare workers, first responders, and correctional and detention facility staff.

"We know the 65 and older population have been eager to receive the vaccine," said Don Duffy, Health Services Administrator at PHD. "We also know that this is a large portion of our population and it will take time and effort to administer vaccines to everyone who would like to receive it. We are grateful to have our partners assisting us in this effort."

The health district will receive 2,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week and that will increase to 3,800 next week and the weeks thereafter. Doses will be evenly distributed to each county based on population.

Information on where to find vaccine clinics in each county can be [found here](#). Registration will begin in February. **These are not walk-in clinics, all vaccines are given by appointment only.** The enrolled vaccine providers do ask that the public register in the county that they reside and only register an individual at one vaccine clinic. Registrations at multiple sites or on multiple days may be cancelled.

Currently the vaccine clinics are available to those who are in the Phase 1a and the top priority groups in the Phase 1b categories of the vaccine distribution plan.

Phase 1a includes:

- Hospital staff essential for care of COVID-19 patients
- Long-term care facility residents and staff (vaccine administration provided through the Pharmacy Partnership Program)
- Outpatient & Inpatient clinic/medical staff who are unable to telework
- Home healthcare providers
- Emergency Medical Services
- Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants
- Pharmacists, pharmacy techs, and pharmacy aides
- Emergency management response workers
- Coroners
- First Responders
- School Nurses

Those eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b include:

- Pre-K-12 School Employees
- Childcare Workers
- Correctional & Detention Facility Staff
- **Adults age 65 and older (*beginning February*)**

If you have questions about COVID-19 in our area, call PHD's COVID-19 hotline Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm, 877-415-5225.

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**Panhandle Health District** provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.

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