

Benewah Community Hospital

COVID-19 Community Vaccinations

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like wearing masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccinations and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov).

When the community can get vaccinated: Panhandle Health is anticipating the next phase of vaccines to be available in February 2021.

Who is eligible for this next phase of vaccines: First Responders (other than EMS) – fire, police, protective services, community support, pre-K-12 school staff and teachers, daycare workers, correctional and detention facility staff, food processing workers, grocery and convenience store workers, Idaho National Guard (other than medical), other essential workers unable to telework or distance from others as work, and adults 65 years of age or older.

Getting on the list for the COVID-19 vaccine: If you want to be put on the list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please call the Clinic to schedule an appointment with your primary care provider (if you do not currently have a PCP, you can make an appointment with any of our providers). At this appointment, you will complete paperwork, discuss risks/benefits, and be screened for medical clearance to receive the vaccine. ***This clinic assessment will be free of charge.*** After this visit, if eligible, you will be put on the list for the vaccine. A hospital nurse will call you to schedule your vaccine appointment when we have an arrival date for vaccines.

Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines: We received both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines during phase 1, vaccinating healthcare workers. At this time, we do not know what kind of vaccine we will be getting for the next phase.

Vaccine Appointments: COVID vaccine appointments will take place in a large, open area within the hospital. You will be in a private area while receiving your vaccine. You must be monitored for 15-30 minutes following administration of the vaccine to ensure no adverse reaction has occurred. During this monitoring period, you will be spaced apart from a few other patients also receiving their vaccines. We ask that you are flexible with your availability as we will have limited time available for this vaccine clinic. Please make sure you arrive on-time for your appointment. Masks are required within the facility.

The importance of herd immunity: Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune.



Benewah Community Hospital
229 S. 7th Street, St. Maries, ID
208-245-5551

Schedule your Clinic Appointment today!

St. Maries Family Medicine

208-245-2591