

Weekly COVID-19 Update from the CEO

January 21, 2021

As Americans, we celebrate democracy and our new President's inauguration this week. The Biden team has already indicated many ways in which it intends to support and empower Indian Country. The new administration has prioritized COVID response at the federal level, something that has been sorely needed since the pandemic began. Our Public Health and Safety Officer Dr. Tom Locke said that public health officials "desperately welcome these anticipated changes. It will be fundamentally different with science in the driver's seat."

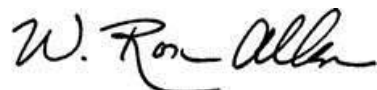
The entire State has now moved to Phase 1B, Tier 1 of vaccinations, and our clinic continues to vaccinate patients and the Sequim public age 70 and older. We vaccinated 500 people last Thursday, 650 people on Saturday, 670 people on Tuesday and will continue to strive for at least 500 per day, or as determined by supply. We have received many heartfelt thanks from the community for taking on this immense effort, and we have to offer our sincerest gratitude to the leadership and staff at Jamestown Family Health Clinic for making this happen.

Clallam County Public Health Officer Dr. Allison Berry Unthank estimates that by the end of this week, 12% of the county's population will have received the first dose of the COVID vaccine, and that vaccine clinics will continue through this summer.

Shipments of the vaccine are a bit unpredictable at present, so it has been difficult to preplan mass vaccination events across the Peninsula. This will probably continue for the next few weeks, but it is expected that by mid-February, we should have consistent, reliable deliveries of vaccine, and that vaccinations will proceed on a regular basis until everyone who wants a vaccine has received one. Check with JFHC jamestownhealth.org or your primary care provider for the most up-to-date information on vaccine availability.

Please remember that we must continue to wear masks and use other safety measures even after we are vaccinated. We are making steady progress, but with over 200,000 new cases being diagnosed daily across the U.S., we cannot let our guards down as this crisis is not yet over.

Warm regards,



W. Ron Allen, Council Chair/CEO