

## **Weekly COVID-19 Update from the CEO**

April 15, 2021

This pandemic is not going away as quickly as we'd all like it to, despite our best efforts. And truly, Clallam and Jefferson counties have made our best efforts – we are the top two counties for highest number of vaccinations administered, and lowest incidents of COVID 19.

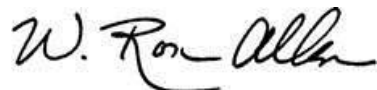
But the variants are here, and case numbers are rising again. As we begin to venture out with the confidence of having been vaccinated, we must continue to do the things that work – masking, social distancing, and limiting travel – in order to keep the variants at bay.

The FDA and CDC have paused the use of the “one and done” Johnson & Johnson vaccine, out of an abundance of caution, because of a side effect that occurred in six women (out of 6.8 million doses given). The main reasons for the pause are to investigate these six cases, and to be certain that providers know how to spot and properly treat this rare blood clotting reaction. I encourage everyone to continue to rely on the advice of medical experts and not perpetuate any potential misinformation regarding vaccines.

Due to the pause in the J & J vaccine, the Tribe notified the 248 people who had registered for our April 20 and 22<sup>nd</sup> clinics that these dates have been cancelled. They were directed to register instead for the April 17 and 18 clinics in Port Angeles, where they can receive the Moderna vaccine. Registration is at <http://vaccine.clallam.net/register>.

Addressing vaccine hesitancy is a major goal of all public health jurisdictions currently. We know the vaccines work – this is science, not politics! I and our Council urge you to get vaccinated, stay safe, and help us beat this virus so that we can return to normal life and rebuild our economies and our social lives!

Take care and stay safe,



W. Ron Allen, Council Chair/CEO