

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

After almost two weeks of no new COVID-19 cases, Jefferson County has added seven occurrences of the virus. Five of these cases were in one family in the West End, who had been in quarantine. Another person returned from out of state and brought the virus with them. The total is now 344, with 39 people awaiting results.

Phase 3 is now in effect for the entire state. This allows more indoor dining, as well as up to 400 people at some events as long as masks and other precautions are in place. Check <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/> for details, including the new metrics on a county-by-county basis, for staying in Phase 3. For small counties, we must have fewer than 30 cases over 14 days, and fewer than 3 hospitalizations over 7 days.

Jefferson County will continue the positive momentum of a mass vaccination clinic last weekend with another scheduled for this Saturday, March 27. The appointment-only clinic operates from 9am to 4pm at Chimacum School District Multi-Purpose Room, 91 West Valley Road. Those eligible include critical workers in agriculture, food processing, grocery stores, public transit, firefighters and law enforcement, staff and volunteers in congregate living settings; people ages 16+ that are pregnant or have a disability that puts them at higher risk. Plus, anyone who was eligible in earlier vaccine phases can also schedule an appointment.

In addition to the 300 expected vaccines at the weekly clinic the hospital is administering 300 to 375 daily doses. So about 8% of the county's population is being inoculated every week. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://form.findyourphasewa.org/210118771253954> to check eligibility. Print a copy of the confirmation page to bring to your appointment. Next, log on to <https://prepmod.doh.wa.gov/reg/1742953604> to make your appointment. For those who do not have access to a computer, please call 360-344-9791 to make an appointment. To schedule an appointment with Jefferson Healthcare Hospital for a vaccination go to <https://jeffersonhealthcare.org/> and click on the top yellow banner. As always, all contacts are available as part of our daily news transcript on KPTZ.ORG.

The weekly Chimacum clinics will continue on Saturdays for the foreseeable future, although this is dependent on vaccine supply. At the first clinic, the county squeezed out 330 doses from an expected of 300 doses. The extra doses were used to vaccinate volunteers. Continuing the circle. 56 people who were there to get vaccinated signed up to become DEM volunteers. Department of Emergency Management Director Willie Bence told the county commissioners on Monday that the DEM team was fortunate to have weeks and months of planning time to get ready for the event. He again made a sales pitch for volunteers. DEM is continuing to recruit professionals for vaccination sites, for Jefferson Healthcare, and for people to staff the DEM call center Monday thru Friday 9am to 4pm. To volunteer go to <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1450/VolunteerHow-to-Help>.

The Olympic Area Agency on Aging is offering vaccination services to those over 60 years old. It is partnering with ECHHO for transportation to clinic sites. Also, they are preparing a list of homebound individuals and plan to offer the vaccine for home visits in a couple weeks. To discuss a home visit, call OAAA at 360-385-2552.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at 5pm Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org.

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.