

Good afternoon. You're tuned in to 91.9 FM KPTZ on your FM dial here in Port Townsend Washington. I am Simon Jaynes, bringing you your local news for March 13, 2022.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) updated its booster dose recommendations following guidance from the CDC, FDA, and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup. People aged 50 and older and certain immunocompromised individuals can now get a second booster dose of an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine at least four months after receiving their initial booster dose. The Washington State DOH's updated booster dose recommendations are as follows:

- Everyone 12 and older should receive a booster dose five months after completing their two-dose vaccine series of Pfizer or Moderna, or two months after receiving the single-shot Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine.
- Everyone 50 and older can receive a second booster dose four months after receiving their first booster dose.
- Individuals 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised can receive a second booster dose four months after receiving their first booster dose.
- Those 18 and older who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of the J&J vaccine four months ago can receive a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

So, if you are 18 and older, not immunocompromised, and you received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series plus a booster – it would not recommend that you get the second booster at this time.

KPTZ will provide updates to this story as soon as more information regarding second boosters is available at the local level. At this point anyone with further questions is encouraged to visit Washington DOH's COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions webpage

(<https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1431/Frequently-Asked-Questions-About-COVID-19>) or talk to their trusted health care provider.

According to the Jefferson Public Health website – the two-week case rate is in the “Moderate” range at 124 per 100,000. The county reported 5 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday bringing our total case count since the beginning of the pandemic to 3,189.

The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names is soliciting public input regarding the U.S. Department of the Interior's recent proposal to rename 18 geographic features in the state that contain derogatory names referring to indigenous women. Jefferson and Clallam counties are each home to one creek bearing the derogatory name, and there are 16 others spread across 14 counties in the state. At the end of February, the Department of the Interior opened a 60-day public comment period regarding its proposal, which closes April 25. To respond to the Interior's proposal, the Committee on Geographic Names convened a special meeting March 7. At that meeting, the Committee resolved to file a letter of comment with the Department of the Interior. These comments and the recommendations for renaming, will be discussed and finalized over the course of two special meetings, April 5 and April 7.

Feedback can be provided to the Committee via email at bogn@dnr.wa.gov or at the April 7 special committee meeting. More details and information, including a list of features sorted by county, can be found on the Board of Natural Resources page under the About tab on the DNR website (<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/about-washington-department-natural-resources>). Of the 18 geographical features slated to receive new names, the

Committee right now only has 7 listed on their website for initial or final consideration. Neither of the sites in Jefferson or Clallam Counties have new names proposed at this time.

The Committee on Geographic Names was created by the Washington Legislature to review proposals submitted by the public to name geographical features located in the state, and make recommendations to the Board on Geographic Names. It is made up of a representative of Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, a representative of the State Librarian, the director of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, a representative of Washington state tribes, and three members of the public.

In local clam digging news, the Department of Health has opened Discovery Bay from Diamond Point to Fort Worden and Admiralty Inlet including Fort Flagler for recreational harvesting of all shellfish species. Lab results from recent Butter Clam samples indicate that levels of the biotoxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning have dropped below the closure limit. Signs have been posted at public access points indicating this change. The tide chart for this weekend and beyond shows steadily declining low tides, getting into some minus tides Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. To find out which areas are safe to harvest shellfish in Washington as well as the WDFW harvesting rules please, check the map at the Department of Health's website (www.doh.wa.gov/ShellfishSafety.htm). Spring break for Washington Schools starts this Saturday, April 2. Have fun out there everyone.

That's it for today's local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday, and at 5pm Monday through Friday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Simon Jaynes, thanks for listening and have a great day