

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/7/2024**

TO: Grant County Media

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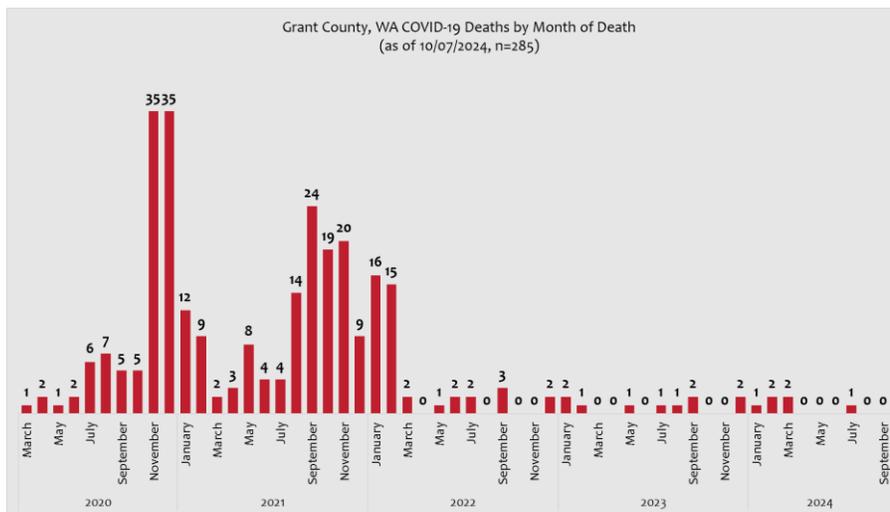
## COVID-19: 2024/2025 Vaccine and Other Updates

**Grant County, WA – The updated 2024/2025 COVID-19 vaccine is now available!** COVID-19 is not a seasonal disease and can cause waves of community spread throughout the year. As we move from the summer wave of COVID-19 into the colder months, we continue to see steady COVID-19 activity.

This ongoing trend reminds us to stay vigilant and take steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Help keep your family healthy this fall by scheduling a COVID-19 vaccine appointment as soon as possible. The vaccine has been updated to better protect against the latest strains of COVID-19.

### Current Situation

At the beginning of September, the percentage of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations in Grant County was the highest since January 2024.



From October 2023 to September 2024, 1,245 Washington residents died from COVID-19. Eight (8) of these individuals were Grant County residents. Most of the deceased in Grant County were elderly or had underlying health conditions.

“Our hearts go out to the family and friends who have lost their loved ones to COVID-19. The loss of these individuals leaves a heavy

and lasting impact on our community,” states Theresa Adkinson, GCHD Administrator. “This upcoming respiratory virus season, we urge you to take steps to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.”



## 2024/25 COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

Everyone 6 months and older should get 1 dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine. There are three available vaccines with age-eligibility as follows:

Moderna	Everyone ages 6 months and older
Pfizer-BioNTech	Everyone ages 6 months and older
Novavax	Everyone ages 12 years and older **If you have never received any COVID-19 vaccine and you choose to get Novavax, you need 2 doses of 2024/25 Novavax vaccine to be up to date.

### Children 6 months to 4 years:

Your child may need [multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines](#) to be up to date if not previously vaccinated. This includes one dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

### People who just had COVID-19:

If you recently had COVID-19, you may consider delaying your vaccine by 3 months. However, certain factors could be reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later. Factors include personal risk of severe disease, risk of disease in a loved one or close contact, high COVID-19 activity in your area, or a new [COVID-19 variant](#).

If you already had COVID-19 and do not get vaccinated after your recovery, you are eventually as likely [to get COVID-19 again](#) as unvaccinated people who did not have COVID-19.

### People who are immunocompromised:

If you are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) you may get **additional doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccine**.

## Get the COVID-19 Vaccine

The updated COVID-19 vaccine is available at some pharmacies and clinics in Grant County. To find COVID-19 vaccine near you, visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) or call your doctor.

## Prepare for the COVID-19 Vaccine

Many insurance plans cover the COVID-19 vaccine. If you do not have insurance, the following options may be available to you:

- The Childhood Vaccine Program offers free COVID-19 vaccines to everyone 18 years and younger. [Find providers in Grant County who participate in this program.](#)
- The Adult Vaccine Program offers free COVID-19 vaccine to uninsured or underinsured adults who are 19 years or older. [Learn more about the Adult Vaccine Program.](#)

## COVID-19 Isolation, Testing & Masking Guidelines

In March 2024, [COVID-19 guidance](#) was updated to align with other common respiratory viruses. If you test positive for COVID-19, stay home and away from others until both of the following have been true for at least 24 hours:

- Your symptoms are getting better overall, and
- You have not had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication).

When you go back to your normal activities, wear a protective mask and take added precautions for an additional 5 days.

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