



MAKAH TRIBE

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | December 12, 2020

The Makah community may be seeing a COVID-19 vaccine as early as January 2021

The Sophie Trettevick Indian Health Center (STIHC) has chosen to offer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. On December 11, the FDA approved an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna vaccine should follow with a EUA within days. STIHC anticipates the vaccine becoming available to the Makah community as early as January 2021.

For those who wish to get vaccinated, STIHC will offer a walk-through vaccine clinic at the Community Gym, identical to previous flu vaccine clinics, for the general public. The vaccine requires two doses, given approximately four weeks apart. The vaccine's known side-effects are soreness and pain at the injection site, fatigue, and aching muscles and joints.

The vaccine was 95% effective in trials for preventing symptoms and progression to severe illness. It is unknown how disease transmission is affected by the vaccine. After vaccination, we will still need to wear masks and do social distancing for several months until epidemiologists, and other experts can provide more information.

Distributors will ship the Moderna vaccine in doses of 100. Initial doses will go to front-line health-care workers, essential workers, tribal elders, and those with specific health issues. Eventually, all community members will be able to be vaccinated. Children under 18 will not receive the vaccine until the current age-specific studies are completed.

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