Mayor Durkan Announces New Walk-In Vaccinations at Rainier Beach and West Seattle for Anyone 60 or Older

April 21, 2021 by Joaquin Uy Leave a Comment

City Also Launches “Good Neighbor” Program to Reach Older Adults with Digital and/or Mobility Barriers

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan today announced two new efforts effective immediately to increase vaccinations among older adults in King County:

1. All people 60 years-old and older are able to walk-in to the Community Vaccination Hubs in Rainier Beach and West Seattle and get vaccinated without an appointment.
2. The City has launched the “Good Neighbor” program where if a person who is 60 years old and older is accompanied by a younger individual, they both can be vaccinated.

In addition, the Mayor announced this week’s vaccination plan across all four City-affiliated sites and the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) Mobile Vaccination Teams (MVT). The City and partners will administer 27,400 of vaccinations this week, which breaks down to 17,900 of first doses and 10,500 of second doses. The City will continue to focus on King County residents and workers in ZIP codes disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

“Across Seattle and King County, we’ve done excellent work to ensure our older community members get vaccinated. However, we must make another focused effort to ensure our most vulnerable community members get the vaccine, particularly as eligibility expands and new variants spread through our region. I encourage all Seattleites to be a good neighbor and help older adults in your life get vaccinated,” said Mayor Durkan. “We all have a role to play in defeating this pandemic. I know everyone is fatigued, and we all want the pandemic to be over. But hope is on the horizon, and now is not the time to let up on our efforts.”

Effective immediately, any person who live or works in King County and is at least 60 years-old can walk-in and get vaccinated at the SFD Community Vaccination Hubs in Rainier Beach and West Seattle. Each day, SFD will vaccinate as many 60+ walk-ins as possible, supply permitting. However, a same-day vaccination for all walk-ins is not guaranteed. If no more vaccine is available, SFD will sign these walk-in patients up for the next available vaccination appointment.

Good Neighbor is an innovative walk-in vaccination program that has been utilized in cities across the country. It allows older adults and the person accompanying them to get a vaccination at the Rainier Beach or West Seattle vaccination sites without an appointment. Here are the parameters for the Seattle program:

1. One patient must be at least 60 years-old, the other must be at least 16 years-old.
2. Neither patient has already received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
3. Neither patient already has an appointment.
4. Only one additional person gets vaccinated with the 60-year-old patient.
5. Only available at the Rainier Beach and West Seattle sites.

Again, a same-day vaccination for all Good Neighbor walk-ins is not guaranteed. If no more vaccine is available, SFD will sign patients up for the next available vaccination appointment.

While both of these new policies build on Seattle and King County’s successful efforts to vaccinate older adults, the area of Central Seattle currently has the lowest vaccination rate among people 65 years-old and older in all of King County. In addition, many older adults face technology and/or mobility barriers that make accessing a vaccination appointment difficult. As more contagious COVID-19 variants spread through the region, it’s all the more critical that every single older adult receives a vaccine.

“I have a call to action for the younger generation living in our City: Please join in the Seattle Fire Department’s mission of saving lives and become a community first responder for someone close to you. Whether it’s your parent, grandparent, friend, relative or neighbor, each of us know someone in our circle who is 60+ and still needs the vaccine. Bring them to our sites, and you too will get vaccinated. You could help save someone’s life,” said Fire Chief Harold Scoggins.

The Rainier Beach testing site is located at Atlantic City Boat Ramp at 8702 Seward Park Ave S, 98118. The West Seattle testing site is located at 2801 SW Thistle St, 98126. Both sites are open for drop-ins from Monday to Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For more information, including the notification list, visit the City’s vaccination website at www.seattle.gov/vaccine. The site contains vaccination information in seven languages, and in-language assistance is also available over the phone.

Even as more residents get vaccinated, public health measures like social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing your hands remain critical. Please continue to follow all public health guidance, and visit this website from Public Health – Seattle & King County for more information.

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