

We're taking steps to protect our future

The COVID-19 vaccine is here!

We have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in one way or another. The good news is, two vaccines have been approved for emergency use in the U.S. and we have both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna here at KPWA. Right now we are working hard to administer the vaccines to staff and patients in the 1a group—frontline healthcare workers and elderly folks in congregate living.

Our biggest barrier to getting the vaccine distributed is staffing. Currently, only RNs, LPNs and APPs who have gone through the training can administer the vaccines and the post-vaccine observation area requires RN, LPN or APP supervision. MAs have been approved to administer the vaccines but we need to be trained, and that will take a little bit of time.

We are working together with KPWA management to figure out how to staff the COVID-19 vaccine clinics without having to mandate extra shifts. We are encouraging anyone who can pick up extra shifts to sign up at any location for overtime working the vaccine clinics. Vaccine clinic locations are Bellevue, Capitol Hill, Everett, Federal Way, Olympia, Renton Administrative Campus, Riverfront, Silverdale and Tacoma Specialty. The vaccine clinics are appointed times, so we need adequate staffing to support them.

Here's how to sign up on KPWA's systems

- See the [Vaccine Clinic Sign Up](#) for available locations and shifts and the COVID-19 site for full description of [Staff Roles](#). The schedule is read-only. Check in often as additional sites and dates will be added.
- Email the [COVID Staffing Office](#) with your credentials and shifts requested:
 - Credentials (RN, LPN, etc.), union, and manager's name
 - Shifts requested: Date, time, location & role you're interested in
- You'll receive a confirmation email when you've been added to the schedule. Once added, you'll see your name/time on the updated schedule via the Teams site.
- For questions, please contact COVID19StaffingOffice@kp.org

We can also get vaccinated now by requesting a vaccine scheduling ticket through e-visits on the patient portal.



"The COVID-19 virus has been a momentous event and I'm excited to be a part of ending this pandemic that has shut down the whole world. That means signing up for extra shifts to help administer the vaccine and getting vaccinated myself. As healthcare workers, these are the steps we can take to bring the situation under control.

I just got my first shot of the vaccination. I was excited to get it because, as a healthcare worker, I believe in science and I believe that this is the first step to end the pandemic. My contribution is getting vaccinated, and encouraging my family and coworkers to get vaccinated. I had no side effects and, for me, the flu vaccine was worse.

I also volunteered to pick up extra shifts every weekend through the end of February to help administer the vaccine. KPWA is paying overtime and providing extra training so we can get these vaccines out. All of us who worked this last weekend were excited that the vaccine was finally here and happy we could be a part of getting it out. People are anticipating this vaccine and you can see in the lobby while people are waiting, they are taking selfies and posting on social media, and asking co-worker to get a picture of them while taking the vaccine. It is a fun environment and we're part of making history.

Join me! Let's be proactive and help our communities and families—let's be advocates for the vaccine and help remove fear. When my coworkers see me getting the vaccine and signing up for shifts, I hope they will join in."

Frederick Marcelo, LPN, Contract Specialist, KPWA



“There are groups within our community who are hesitant about being vaccinated because historically the Black community’s concerns have not been acknowledged, healthcare has been withheld and our communities have been exploited as test subjects. That being said, COVID-19 is currently ravaging the Black community at disproportionate rates. I’ve been volunteering to have community discussions via Zoom because I want people to be able to make informed decisions and have a safe space to discuss concerns. I’ve been sharing what I know about the clinical trials and vaccine development and answering questions as best I can. I haven’t taken the vaccine yet but plan on taking it in the next month. I know we are all burnt out and many of us have taken extra shifts already or are working short because coworkers are out. I’m feeling like I’m just tired and I don’t have anything extra to give, but I also want to be a part of ending this pandemic and not just part of struggling to get through it. If there’s any way to muster up extra energy and manpower to vaccinate our communities quicker, we can bring the end of this pandemic in sight.”

Genetra Pickens, RN, Tacoma Specialty Center



“I am signed up to administer the vaccine because I want to help my patients, my family, my friends, and my community. I want to do my part to rid our world of COVID-19 and get our lives back to a new normal.”

Wanda Ryan, RN, Federal Way



“Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is super important for the health of our community and our ability to provide safe care for our patients.

Sign up to get yours! I feel honored to be among the first getting the vaccine, especially knowing there are so many more people who are not eligible yet. KPWA made it easy with our employee vaccination clinic!”

Jessica Wolfe, RN, CHIPS

COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall

Our union held a vaccine town hall meeting on December 16. Our guest speaker, Washington State Department of Health vaccine expert and SEIU 1199NW member Kathy Bay, RN, CENP, shared useful information with us about how the vaccine works, what’s in it and who should take it. Kathy answered many questions from members and shared online resources that will help us learn more about the coronavirus vaccine and make informed decisions for ourselves and our families. If you wanted to hear it again or did not get a chance to listen in you can listen to that Town Hall Recording at 1199nwcovidresponse.org.



1199NW Executive Vice President Jane Hopkins, RN, Appointed to President-Elect Joe Biden’s COVID-19 Advisory Board

The Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board is made up of a team of leading public health experts who are helping President-elect Joe Biden, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, and the transition team prepare to implement a robust and aggressive response to contain the virus.

Jane Hopkins, who worked for over 20 years as a bedside nurse before becoming an elected officer of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, will use her role to speak for all essential workers.

“The American people deserve an urgent, robust and professional response to the growing public health and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus outbreak. Healthcare workers, retail and service workers, and essential workers of all kinds have been vital to our country during the pandemic, and their perspective must be included in our work to beat this virus.”

Jane Hopkins, RN, Executive Vice President, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

What are Training Fund Tuesdays?

Training Fund Tuesdays are virtual, informal info sessions with Education Navigators. Please join us for an upcoming session to learn how to access your Training Fund services and benefits as a member of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW at KPWA.

Our Regional Education Navigator team will be available to share what you need to know about being eligible for [Tuition Assistance](#) and [other programs and services](#) that you may be eligible for at the Training Fund. We will be available to answer your questions, supporting your educational and career goals every step of the way!

Our unity and strength at the bargaining table moved KPWA to join the Training Fund, which represents a life-changing opportunity for many of us to grow our skills, advance our careers and increase our income. Visit healthcareerfund.org/training-fund-tuesdays to register for the virtual information session that fits your schedule. And, if you need help registering, please call us at 425-255-0315. Language Interpretation services are available upon request.