

KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING YOUR APPOINTMENT
Friday, February 5, 2021

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Today's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC3rxq2Yvpo>

KCPHD channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyQzBwJLbkLj7WueKJ5w7mQ/>

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My name is Nasser Basmeh. I'm the Pharmacy Director at Kittitas Valley Health Care (hospital) in Ellensburg Washington. I'm here to talk to you about the importance of keeping your appointments for the vaccine.

The process for producing the vaccine is very elaborate, especially with the Pfizer vaccine. It comes frozen from the manufacturer at -80° F and it goes into a special deep freezer. Then we have to move it to a regular refrigerator, where it can stay for up to three hours, while it comes to that temperature.

Then we let it sit at room temperature for at least half an hour before we introduce a diluent to it. Once it goes into the liquid form, we can extract five doses from each of the Pfizer bottles.

The vaccine has six hours from the time we move it from the fridge to the time it gets into someone's arm. After six hours, we have to dispose of the vaccine.

We don't want to waste any vaccine because there's a short supply throughout the state of Washington. The amount of vaccines produced for that six-hour block of time is based on the amount of appointments we have during the day. We are doing two batches a day in Kittitas County, both in Cle Elum and Ellensburg, administering the vaccine from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at both locations.

It's very important to keep your appointment. We want to make sure everyone in our community who wants the vaccine receives it, and we want to do everything we can to make sure we have as many vaccines produced.

Here in Kittitas County, it takes a group of volunteers and many entities throughout the community to work together in putting on

a mass vaccination program in both CLe Elum and Ellensburg.

We appreciate your patience throughout this process.

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Transcription provided by:
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