

KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
VIDEO UPDATE
Thursday, May 13, 2021

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Today's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8p0ZnlgspE>

KCPHD channel:

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

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Good morning, it's Dr. Larson talking about COVID-19. It's May 13 today -- I had to look at the calendar because each day sometimes seems the same!

Things are getting better. Today, the governor will talk about the metrics we need moving forward.

The day before yesterday, Oregon Governor Kate Brown said that once 70% of the people in that state have their first COVID-19 vaccine, she will release almost all the restrictions. She feels like that's enough.

I don't know what Governor Inslee will say regarding a percentage, but we do need a way to move forward. There will be some good news today.

We're currently in a pause in regard to moving forward or backward regarding COVID-19. The Governor needs to make a change before Tuesday of next week, the end of the two-week pause.

It's up to us as individuals to make the goals so we can open as a state.

In Kittitas County, our numbers are really high. You can find those on the public health website. We're close to being the worst in the state. This is really because people are out doing things, not wearing masks, being indoors for prolonged periods of time with people who are not vaccinated. These are personal choices.

To get out of this, we need to make a personal choice to benefit the community as a whole.

Our numbers are high, so we're seeing a lot of patients at the hospital. We have had 21 and 23 year olds at the hospital, both for multiple

days. They were very sick but are out of the hospital now. We're seeing more disease in younger people.

We are not seeing more disease in the vaccinated elderly people. The nursing home, for example, has had 93% of their residents vaccinated, and they have not had a death since August 2020. Vaccines work -- they prevent death and hospitalizations.

The hospitalizations in Kittitas County have been in unvaccinated individuals. To avoid being in the hospital, please get vaccinated. There are a lot of opportunities for this. You can go to multiple pharmacies in town to be vaccinated. We're working on new ways to reach people.

We can now vaccinate young people 12-15 years of age with the Pfizer vaccine, and yesterday, at the end of the day, we had a cancellation so were able to vaccinate the first person in that age range.

This will allow us to move forward with school opening. We can do it safely. Then these kids can wrestle, do sports, and other things without worrying about getting COVID-19.

I would expect the FDA to formally approve all the vaccines over the summer. It's a process, but I believe we will get there.

The other thing I want to talk about is the myths about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

Currently, there's a myth that COVID-19 causes infertility. That is not true. This myth was started probably innocently enough in December, when a couple of epidemiologists in Germany felt like a protein on the placenta [names protein] was similar to the spike protein on COVID-19.

They made an assumption that if we develop antibodies against the COVID-19 spike protein, we'll also develop antibodies against the placenta, causing a miscarriage. That blossomed into COVID-19 and the vaccine causing infertility. But it's not true. The proteins are not the same. If someone has a placenta, they're already pregnant and therefore not infertile.

We have since done a lot of studies. For example, studies in pregnant animals. We have had 238 live births that have occurred in people who didn't know they were pregnant when they got the COVID-19 vaccine. They haven't had more miscarriages than any other group. Those vaccines are now being tested specifically in pregnant women and there haven't been any drops in the fertility rate.

We've actually had more pregnancies in 2020 and 2021 than previously. That may be due to all of us being home and not at work.

Either way, the COVID-19 vaccine does not cause infertility.

I will try to address one of these myths in each of my COVID-19 talks.

Most of the wounds we have as human beings are self-inflicted. By choosing not to be vaccinated for COVID-19, we're just prolonging this problem - it's a self-inflicted wound. This is something we have control over. Please consider getting the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have any concerns, you know how to get a hold of me. I'm happy to answer your questions.

Make sure to take care and be kind. People are still having a really hard time.

Bye.

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Transcription provided by:
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