

NEWS RELEASE



Yakima Valley
Community Foundation




Yakima Valley
Farm Workers Clinic

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Leaders Get COVID-19 Vaccine

Local organizations, faith leaders come together to dispel vaccine misinformation

TOPPENISH – Today marks the one-year anniversary of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Yakima County.

Now that our health care professionals are rolling out a vaccine, we see light at the end of the tunnel.

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Yakima Valley Community Foundation, and the Diocese of Yakima hosted a press conference to talk to the Spanish-speaking community about the efficacy and importance of the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Vaccines save lives, vaccines save communities,” Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Infection Preventionist Victoria Larios said. “We are hosted this event to address specific concerns in our community, voiced by many including local parishioners of the Yakima Diocese. We were joined by Fr. Robert Siler, Bishop Joseph Tyson, and Fr. Jesus Mariscal in an effort to ease concerns and dispel misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine among some in community.

Some misinformation addressed at the event included:

Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine isn’t as effective as other vaccines.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was tested later during the pandemic, having to compete with more variants of COVID-19 than earlier vaccines. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been very effective in decreasing the severity of COVID-19 in those who contracted the virus after inoculation. No Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine recipients were admitted to the hospital 4 weeks after receiving the shot during clinical trials.

The vaccines change or interact with my DNA.

None of the vaccines for COVID-19 interact with your DNA. Both mRNA (Pfizer, Moderna) and viral vector (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines work with the body’s natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.

The vaccines give you COVID-19.

None of the vaccines currently available or in development contain the live virus that causes COVID-19.

I already had COVID-19, I don’t need to get vaccinated.

Everyone who can get vaccinated should get vaccinated. It is unknown how long your immunity lasts after recovering from COVID-19. It has proven to be possible, though rare, that a person can contract COVID-19 twice. If you’ve been treated for a COVID-19 infection already, you should consult with your health care provider about when to receive a vaccine.

Once I’m vaccinated, I don’t need to take any precautionary measures.

Vaccines are just one tactic in our fight against this pandemic. We should use all the tools we have at our disposal to continue this fight. While vaccines do help protect you from COVID-19, they may not keep you from spreading it to others. Social distancing, good hand hygiene, and masking should continue to after your vaccination to protect those who are waiting for their turn.

For more questions, community members can reach out to the local health department, and their primary care provider.

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic: *a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, and social services for more than 181, 000 people. We employ 1,623 full-time staff and 775 part-time staff, medical residents, dental residents, administrative fellows, students, and volunteers. Facilities: 62 unique service locations in Washington (Benton, Franklin, Spokane, Whitman, and Yakima counties) and Oregon (Clatsop, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Yamhill counties) Our Mission: Together we are dedicated to lead, with the courage to care, the determination to promote personal growth, and the compassion to champion the cause of those who have no voice. Visit: www.yvfwc.com*