



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Summit Pacific Finalizing Phase 1A Vaccines, Planning for Phase 1B Administration**

(ELMA, WA) – On Monday, December 28, 30 Summit Pacific staff and Grays Harbor County first responders volunteered to receive the vaccine as the hospital finalized its vaccine process during a test run. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Dietrich was the first person at Summit Pacific to be vaccinated. Since then, the organization has vaccinated over a third of its 350 hospital staff as well as many first responders and those working in long-term care facilities in Grays Harbor County.

“There are many interested patients and community members waiting to get the vaccine. This is an enormous task, but it is our commitment to the community to distribute the vaccine as quickly and safely as possible,” said Dr. Dietrich.

Summit Pacific is working to vaccinate as many staff and community partners eligible in Phase 1A as possible by Friday, January 8. Summit Pacific is planning for Phase 1B and will start those vaccines beginning Jan 11. Current Summit Pacific patients included in Phase 1B will be contacted directly by Summit Pacific staff.

**To check your COVID vaccine eligibility please use the Washington State Department of Health eligibility form by visiting <https://wadoh.jotform.com/203418436942154>.**

Vaccines are administered within Summit Pacific Medical Center and require a 15-minute observation period before the patient can leave. “In an effort to provide a safe, comfortable space for our community to be vaccinated, we set up our vaccines to take place in our largest conference room within the hospital,” said Dr. Dietrich. “Our nurses have a direct line of sight on everyone to watch for reactions, and if needed, we’re just down the hall from the Emergency Department. Thankfully, we haven’t had any need for that.”

“We’re committed to ensuring that all who are eligible and want to receive the vaccine are able get it,” said Dr. Ken Dietrich, CMO. Currently, Summit Pacific has capacity to vaccinate 240 patients on Mondays and Fridays, with additional appointments available Tuesday through Thursday by appointment. Days and hours for vaccine appointments will be increased in Phase 1B.

Though people are becoming vaccinated, hospital leaders urge the everyone to continue to protect themselves, their families, and their frontline caregivers by wearing masks, washing their hands, maintaining physical distancing, and avoiding travel and gatherings.

Summit Pacific is seeing 50-60 community members a day at their Drive-Up Testing site, with around a 15% positivity rate. "This is double the rate it has been," said Dr. Dietrich. "On one of the busiest days over 90 tests were performed."

Drive-Up Testing is available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Testing is located at [575 E Main St. Bldg. #2, Elma, WA 98541](#). Upon arrival to the testing site, patients will call 360-495-5742 to check in, find a designated space to park in and wait for a text or call notifying them that it is time to pull under the tent for testing. Test results are available within 3-5 days, depending on test volumes.

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Summit Pacific's vision is "Through Summit Care, we will build the healthiest community in the Nation." We passionately provide essential healthcare to all individuals of our community with an emphasis on quality, access and compassion. Summit Pacific operates a Level IV Critical Access Hospital with 24-hour emergency services, rural healthcare clinics, an urgent care clinic and offers physical and occupational therapy, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging, a swing bed program and more. To learn more about Summit Pacific, visit [www.sp-mc.org](http://www.sp-mc.org).