



Whitman Today

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Get Your Flu Vaccine



Flu activity was unusually low last year. That's partially because a lot of people got their flu vaccines, but it was also a result of the COVID-19 safety measures like masking, staying home and limiting gatherings.

This year, people are active again. This means we have a much higher risk of exposure to the flu virus. And with last year's low activity, most people weren't exposed to flu viruses to develop natural immunity this season.

Getting the flu vaccine is your best defense at protection from the flu. And this year, it's more important than ever to get vaccinated. The flu vaccine can keep you from spreading the flu to others during the COVID-19 pandemic and helps keep our hospitals from getting even more overwhelmed than they already are.

The Washington Department of Health recommends that you get your flu vaccine before the end of October for the best protection through the fall and winter months when flu is most likely to spread. The vaccine is available at local pharmacies including [Safeway](#), [RiteAid](#), [Walgreens](#) and [Walmart](#) as well as through your primary health care provider.

Welty Student Health Center has ordered doses of the flu vaccine and will hold an on-campus clinic once those arrive. First priority for the on-campus flu vaccine clinic will be for students, and then we will open it to employees if doses remain. Watch Whitman Today for updates on this clinic.

Are You Eligible for the Pfizer Booster?

Third ("booster") doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are now available in Walla Walla for anyone who is at least six months past their second dose and meets the following criteria:

- People 65 and older,
- People living in a long-term care facility,
- People 18-64 with underlying medical conditions,
- People 18-64 who work in education, health care, homeless shelters, public transit, grocery stores, correctional facilities, the food industry, manufacturing or as first responders.

People who received the Johnson & Johnson or Moderna vaccines should not receive any additional doses at this time.

Announcements

Premiera Participants: Looking for Care? Try The Find a Doctor Tool!

When you use the Find a Doctor tool at [Premiera.com](#), you can get the most from your benefits. You usually pay less whenever you use providers and services that are in your health plan's provider network.

With the Find a Doctor tool, you can:

- Find doctors, dentists, hospitals, and more in your plan's network.
- Find out if the doctor is accepting new patients.
- See cost estimates for common procedures based on your network.
- Find specialty doctors.
- Locate urgent care centers close to your home or current location.
- See a provider's ratings and awards.

You can even use the Find the Doctor tool when you're on the go with the Premiera mobile app. Make sure to sign in to see your specific network.

What To Do: Lost and Found Items



If you find an item on campus that appears to be separated from its owner, here are a few things to do:

- Send an email describing the item and when and where it was found to lostandfound@whitman.edu. (Note: please do not ever share information or images that include sensitive personal information such as birth dates, credit/debit card numbers, etc.)
- Items found in campus buildings may be left with the building's administrative staff.
- Found items may be given to Security by calling 509-527-5777.

If you lose an item on campus, here are a few things to do:

- Send an email describing the item and when and where it may have been lost to lostandfound@whitman.edu.
- Check with building administrators in any building where you may have left the item.
- Check with Security to see if the item has been turned in to them. Items turned in to Security are stored at their office in the Whitman College Technology Services building.

Unclaimed items are donated quarterly to local thrift stores.

Happening Today

- 8:30–10 a.m. **Weekly Required COVID-19 Testing for Vaccine-Exemption Students and Employees**
- 4 p.m. **[Associated Kyoto Program Webinar](#)**
The Associated Kyoto Program will be hosting an open information session about its 2022-2023 academic year terms. There will be a presentation followed by a Q&A featuring staff from both the U.S. office and Kyoto center.
- 4 p.m. **[\(In-Person\) Off Campus Studies First Step Meeting](#)**
Interested in studying off campus? Attend one of Whitman's Fall OCS First Step meetings. The OCS directors will pass on essential information regarding program selection and application process.
- 7 p.m. **[\(Online\) Off Campus Studies First Step Meeting](#)**
Interested in studying off campus? Attend one of Whitman's Fall OCS First Step meetings. The OCS directors will pass on essential information regarding program selection and application process.

Whitman Events Calendar

Have an event you'd like to share with campus? Submit the information to the [Events Calendar](#).

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday through Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu. Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs. By submitting to Whitman Today you also authorize use on Whitman's social media unless otherwise specified.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).

