

# Washington State Family to Family Health Information Center



## Newsletter #2 – April 2021

### COVID Vaccine Phases Change in Washington

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Washington State COVID Vaccine Phase Finder website was taken down. The Department of Health informed vaccine distribution sites that they would no longer require patients to sign up via Phase Finder, nor would patients be required to show proof of eligibility when receiving the COVID vaccine. The reasons for this shift have not been released, although it may be related to the radically different rates of vaccination throughout the state, as was stated in a [KFF report](#) released on March 29<sup>th</sup>. There have also been numerous reports of eligible individuals turned away from vaccine location due to the inability to prove household or care-provider status.

Despite this change in protocol, the prioritization tiers remain in place, and the Department of Health asks that individuals keep to the prioritization schedule. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the state is in Phase 1B 3-4. This phase includes all person over 60, people living or working in congregate settings, and anyone over the age of 16 with two or more co-morbidities. Starting on April 15, eligibility for the vaccine will be opened to anyone, aged 16 and older. For more information on vaccine locations and phases, visit the [Vaccine Locator site](#) or call the COVID-19 information hotline at 1-800-525-0127.

#### April 2021 Calendar

[Who is Caring for You? Self-Care in an Age of COVID-19](#) – April 7, 12-1:30pm

[COVID Vaccines: Q&A on Facts and Myths](#) – April 7, 6-7pm

[P2P Awesome Autism Family and Parent Group](#) – April 8, 12:30-1:30

[Support for Families with Disabilities Information and Resource Conference](#) – April 10, 9am-2:30pm

[Understanding Sexual Orientation, Gender, and Expression](#) – April 21, 2-3pm

[Spring Social: Cooking and Moving with Eric](#) – April 24, 11am-12:30pm

### SPARK Expands to Create New Peer Counselor Pathways and Youth Voice

Originating at an alternative school in Pasco, the [SPARK program](#) (Students Providing And Receiving Knowledge) was created to give a pathway for high school students to become Certified Peer Counselors. The program was stuck within the constraints of participating schools, but it has begun to expand due to the increased use of online classes and meetings. They have started providing online 8-week courses, aimed at preparing youth to become Certified Peer Counselors, giving them the ability to become employed in the behavioral health sector, including becoming a partner in the WISE program.

Additionally, they have secured a grant to organize and coordinate a Statewide Youth Leadership Network, which will focus on elevating youth voices on behavioral health issues. To this end, they are hiring two project directors. SPARK hopes to find two individuals with lived experience who can work remotely to build up the program's capacity and coordinate meetings for youth statewide. Visit their [Facebook page](#) for more information.