PRESS RELEASE

Peninsula Community opens COVID vaccination site at Gateway

January 27, 2021
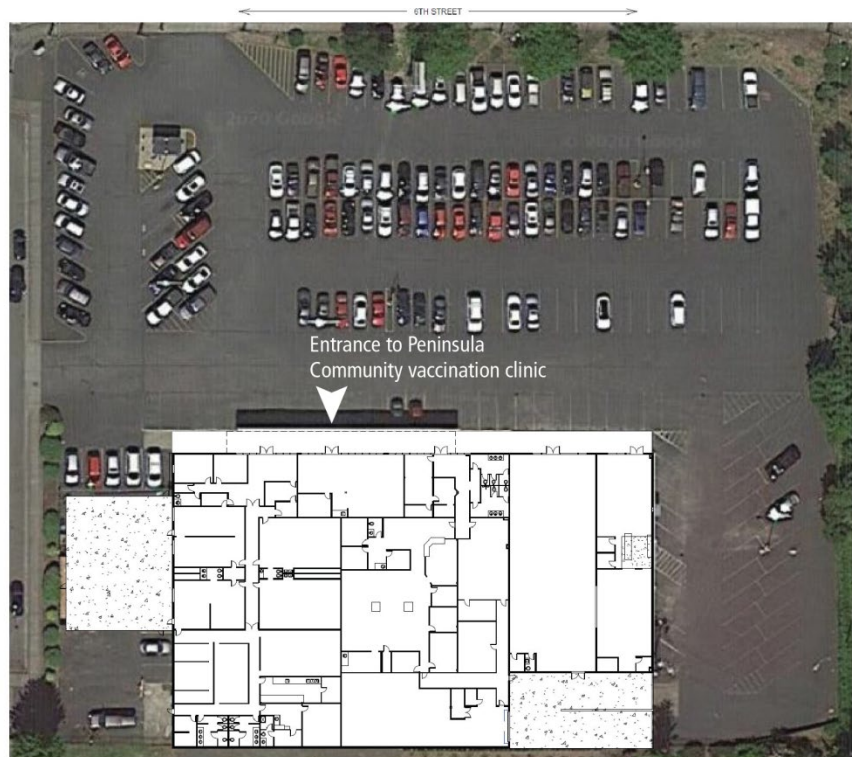Media Contact: Sanjay Bhatt, sanjayb@kitsaptransit.com

BREMERTON, Wash. – Kitsap Transit's Gateway Center in West Bremerton now has a COVID-19 vaccination clinic operated by Peninsula Community Health Services.

The Gateway Center, located at 2525 6th Street, is currently served by Route 26 – Bay Vista and Route 202 – Central Kitsap Fast Ferry Express. The 105-stall parking lot is currently used by bus riders, a daycare center and an audiology office.

"We heard from our partners at Kitsap Public Health and PCHS that they wanted to accelerate efforts to vaccinate the community against COVID-19," said John Clauson, Executive

Director of Kitsap Transit. "We realized we could accommodate a mass-vaccination clinic at our Gateway Center, and we're proud to join forces to stop the spread of COVID-19."

Peninsula Community's COVID-19 vaccine clinic operates from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays on an appointment-only basis when vaccine is made available by the Department of Health. **To make an appointment, please visit http://pchsweb.org**.

Gateway Center is served by Kitsap Transit's Route 26—Bay Vista and Route 202—Central Kitsap Fast Ferry Express. If you are unable to use Routed service and require transportation assistance, call Kitsap

Transit's *ACCESS* service at (360) 479-7272 or (800) 422-2877. After being dropped off at the clinic, customers using *ACCESS* will need to call Kitsap Transit when they are finished and wait for a ride.

As of January 18, Washington state added two new priority groups – those age 65 and older and those age 50 and older living in multigenerational households – for receiving the vaccine. You may be asked to confirm information that will allow the clinic to determine your eligibility under the State of Washington's vaccine prioritization framework.

"We are happy to have found such willing partners in Kitsap Transit and the local tenants of the Gateway Center," said Jennifer Kreidler-Moss, CEO of Peninsula Community Health Services. "This vaccine center is truly a community endeavor. To get as many people vaccinated, as quickly as possible, in the safest possible way, without any funds to support the entire process, we are simply calling on everyone involved to remember we are truly in this together."

"We saw this compassionate humanity in our first two days of trialing our process when our assisted living patients were brought to the front of the line straight off their bus, despite the line continuing to grow towards the street in the meantime, or when our elder, frailer patients were continuously ushered forward in that line as the day grew colder," she said. "We had chocolate bars dropped off for our staff and our new daycare neighbor brought doughnuts, despite literally having more than 1,200 people invade her quiet corner of Bremerton overnight."

The number of sites in Kitsap County administering the COVID-19 vaccine is steadily growing. Kitsap Public Health District and the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center opened another community vaccine clinic this week at the former St. Michael (Harrison) Medical Center campus in East Bremerton and more sites are planned. Visits to these clinics are by appointment only.

"I'm excited to see momentum growing in our community, with government agencies and healthcare organizations coming together to get the limited supply of vaccine out to eligible community members as quickly and efficiently as possible," said Dr. Gib Morrow, the Health District's Health Officer.

For updates and resources on COVID-19, visit Kitsap Public Health District's website at https://kitsappublichealth.org/.

To learn how Kitsap Transit keeps its customers and employees safe, visit kitsaptransit.com/covid-19.

About Kitsap Transit
Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders in 2018 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Hablar español?
Por favor llame al 1-800-501-7433 durante las horas normales de oficina. El personal de servicios al cliente se conectará con un intérprete para ayudarle a responder sus preguntas.

Nagsasalita ka ba ng Tagalog?

Paki-tawagan ang numero 1-800-501-7433 normal na oras ng trabaho. Customer Service kawani ay kumonekta sa isang taga interpretor upang tulungan sagutin ang iyong katanungan.

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