



PRESS RELEASE

Free Kitsap Transit monthly pass for COVID-19 vaccinations

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Starting later this month anyone who gets vaccinated against COVID-19 through a participating provider in Kitsap County is eligible to receive a “vaccination voucher” that can be redeemed for a combo bus/ferry pass good for use on all of Kitsap Transit’s services in any month from June 2021 through May 2022.

As of May 30, approximately 52.5 percent of Kitsap County residents age 12 and older had initiated COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccination appointments are now widely available – and Kitsap Transit provides free transportation to them – yet fewer people are expressing interest. Only people who haven’t gotten a COVID-19 vaccination are eligible for Kitsap Transit’s incentive because it is intended to accelerate the share of the population who are vaccinated.

“We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and our community and trying to return to a new normal,” said John Clauson, Executive Director of Kitsap Transit. “Our health-care providers have been doing tremendous work throughout the pandemic, and we are proud to partner with them to nudge those who have procrastinated or been on the fence on getting vaccinated.”

The pass promotion is Kitsap Transit’s latest effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Kitsap County: Kitsap Transit continues to require masks on its services, provide free masks and hand sanitizer and sanitize its fleet daily with ultraviolet (UV) light and a hospital-grade disinfectant proven to neutralize the virus that causes COVID-19.

The “vaccination pass” can be used on all of Kitsap Transit’s services – Routed, Worker/Driver, Dial-A-Ride, ACCESS, Vanpool, Local Foot Ferry and Fast Ferry – and is loaded onto an ORCA card. Existing ORCA cardholders can ask to have the pass loaded to their card for the month in which they plan to use it.

Kitsap Transit has been planning the promotion for more than a month. Three organizations have partnered with Kitsap Transit to participate in the campaign, and their clinics span Kitsap County:

- **Kaiser Permanente**
 - Poulsbo Medical Center, 19379 7th Ave NE, Poulsbo.
 - Port Orchard Medical Center, 1400 Pottery Ave, Port Orchard.
 - Silverdale Medical Center 10452 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale.

- **Kitsap Public Health District**
 - St. Michael Medical Center, 2520 Cherry Avenue, Bremerton.
 - Olympic College Poulsbo, 1000 NW Olympic College Way, Poulsbo.
 - Pop-up clinics.
- **Peninsula Community Health Services**
 - The Gateway Center, 2525 6th Street, Bremerton.
 - Pop-up clinics and Schools.

To promote the vaccination incentive, Kitsap Transit has partnered with Kitsap Public Health District on large-format ads that will be installed in mid-June on the exterior of Kitsap Transit's buses.

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer of Kitsap Public Health District, praised Kitsap Transit's work.

"Kitsap Transit is a great community partner that continues to find innovative ways to make our community healthier, far beyond getting people where they need to go safely, reducing greenhouse gases and mitigating the impacts of climate change," Morrow said. "Offering transit passes to those who get vaccinated promotes public health, helps minimize the inequities that this pandemic has caused and gets people back to work more economically and safely. Thank you, KT!"

Kitsap Transit will notify the public once the vouchers are available at participating providers.

Those who receive a vaccination voucher from a participating clinic should follow the instructions on the voucher and redeem it on Kitsap Transit's website for a free combo bus/ferry pass; the pass can be issued to someone other than the person who received the vaccination, such as a family member or friend. Only one pass can be issued per person. Eligibility must be established prior to scheduling a ride on *ACCESS*.

Those who redeem a voucher online, via mail or in person should allow up to 10 business days for processing from the time Kitsap Transit receives it, including pick-ups at the Customer Service Office.

The promotion is open to teenagers; Kitsap Transit Customer Service will follow up with the parent or legal guardian to request paperwork necessary to issue a Reduced Fare card.

To book a vaccine appointment and find vaccination sites, visit Kitsap Public Health District's website at <http://kcowa.us/vaccine>.

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 2019 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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