FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2022

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FEMA Mobile Vaccination Unit Coming to Whatcom County on February 12

BELLINGHAM, WA – It will soon be easier than ever to get vaccinated against COVID-19 in Whatcom County, thanks to a mobile vaccination unit (MVU) arriving from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in coordination with the Whatcom County Health Department, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and the Washington Emergency Management Division.

From Feb. 12-28, the MVU will operate vaccine clinics at two regular locations:

- **The Health Education Center at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center**, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham. Clinics will be on Saturdays through Wednesdays (Feb. 12-16, Feb. 19-23, and Feb. 26-28) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is a walk-up clinic in the parking lot; people who are unable to leave their cars can be served as well.

- **Bellingham Technical College**, Settlemyer Hall, 3028 Lindbergh Ave, Bellingham. Clinics will be on Thursdays and Fridays (Feb. 17-18 and Feb. 24-25) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All COVID-19 vaccines will be available, and the clinics will serve ages 5 and up. Walk-ins are welcome without an appointment, but if a set time is preferable, people can schedule an appointment online (registration links will be available at whatcomcounty.us/covidvaccine). People who need assistance making an appointment may also call the health department at 360-778-6075 (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., no voicemail) or DOH at 833-VAX-HELP. Language assistance is available. Those getting a first or second vaccination dose at one of these clinics will receive a $50 gift card.

“We’re thankful to have the FEMA mobile vaccine unit here in Whatcom County, and we appreciate our partners at PeaceHealth and Bellingham Technical College for generously donating the use of their facilities for the clinics,” said Erika Lautenbach, Director of the health department. “We know there were people during the Omicron surge who had a hard time finding vaccine appointments and may have decided to wait for their booster. With more and more studies showing that the booster dose is by far the best protection against Omicron, we hope that everyone eligible will get their booster now.”

“BTC is proud to once again step up to do our part during this public health emergency. We urge all members of the community to take advantage of this opportunity and help our community stay safe,” said Walter Hudsick, Interim President of Bellingham Technical College.

In addition to the clinics, the MVUs will also be helping to vaccinate populations who have challenges traveling to vaccine providers, such as residents of long-term care facilities and homebound Whatcom residents.

“We’re grateful to have the state and FEMA’s help with vaccinating more of our vulnerable community members,” said Cindy Hollinsworth, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Manager for the health department. “It will make a tremendous difference to have their small mobile teams bringing the vaccine to Whatcom residents who want it but are unable to travel.”

About the FEMA Mobile Vaccination Unit
The MVUs have been traveling around the country to set up temporary community vaccination centers. The MVU is housed in a bus and has the capacity to vaccinate 300-500 people per day. FEMA is providing federal personnel, financial assistance, and equipment and supplies at 100% federal share.