

Giving it Their Best Shot

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RFPD is partnering with both Columbia and Clatsop counties, and are now expanding a program initially designed to serve residents in their own fire district. Clinics to administer the Moderna two-shot vaccine, which is the vaccine they've been giving at Mist-Birkenfeld, will be held at the Vernonia Fire Station on Thursdays, by appointment, starting April 1, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Columbia County will send out an informational flyer to residents through the next West Oregon Electric Cooperative monthly bill to help people get registered.

"With Group 6 now eligible, we anticipate that we will be very busy," says Boxman. "We're working closely with the Vernonia RFPD – they're allowing us to use their station as a vaccination site and also working on providing us with some personnel to help, so this will be a partnership with them. We're really glad that we're going to be able to deliver this to Vernonia." Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD was scheduled to hold a clinic at the Jewell School, in partnership with the Elsie-Vine Maple RFPD, on March 31 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm; that clinic is in partnership with Clatsop County who is distributing the single shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

For anyone seeking a local vaccination, the first step is to fill out an interest form through the Columbia County Public Health Department

(<https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/departments/PublicHealth>). Information is then entered into a data base which can be filtered by determining factors, like age or occupation, to see when you are eligible. Once you are verified and the vaccine doses are available, an appointment can be scheduled. Appointments can be self-scheduled by email or phone, or with assistance from local volunteers. When you receive your first shot you will be scheduled for the second dose in a few weeks.

Boxman, a full-time, paid paramedic on the staff at Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD, started the process of getting the fire district qualified to administer COVID vaccinations in December. "We thought this would be a way to get our district residents and our first responder volunteers vaccinated," explains Boxman. "It turns out there were a lot of hoops to jump through."

Boxman says Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD had to become part of the state Alert System, Oregon's registry for vaccinations, which required attending classes. "It took a lot more work than I originally anticipated, but I thought, if we can keep our first responders and our residents here in the area and get them vaccinated it would be worth it," he says.

Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD met all the qualifications and began vaccinating their volunteers, while also partnering to assist some other response

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Kristi Wilson: Your Portland Community College Board Candidate - Zone 7



Kristi is a proud Portland Community College graduate and long-time resident of western Washington County. A leader and collaborator who understands our community and our education system. She has supported student success, strengthened a changing economy, and created pathways to livable wage careers.

- Created and supported career-related programs to serve over 3,000 youth and adults
- Over two decades of work and community service in western Washington County
- Has the experience of building strategic partnerships that will be critical as we move into economic recovery
- Dedicated to increase opportunities for historically underserved community members
- Advocated for community college funding and career technical education programs

"As a PCC graduate, I know firsthand the value of community college and its critical role in improving the lives of so many. I'm excited to build on my work and partnerships here in western Washington County and Columbia County to help create more accessible, life-changing opportunities for people in our community."

**Vote Kristi Wilson for
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