



Clinic has provided 11,000+ COVID vaccines; new COVID, flu vaccines ready soon

By Cherity Bloom-Miller, Clinical Services Director

The Siletz Community Health Clinic has administered 11,318 COVID-19 vaccines to more than 5,500 people since Dec. 23, 2020.

The vaccine clinics went through several variations until we eventually worked out all the kinks. By early March our drive-through vaccine clinics were administering more than 500 vaccines in one day! These vaccine clinics would not have been possible or as successful without the work of the entire SCHC staff. Every department had one or more staff who contributed to the vaccine clinics in one way or another.

Staff from the Community Health, Diabetes and CARE programs called every Tribal member in the beginning, offering them a vaccine. These calls resulted in Siletz Tribal members flying in from out of state to receive their vaccine or making a 10-hour one-way drive just to have the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Staff from Dental, Optometry, the fitness center and Behavioral Health helped in such areas as traffic control, set-up and take-down of tents, and monitoring people after they received their vaccine to ensure people who had a reaction received immediate medical care. Staff from the business office, PRC, CARE, Community Health, clinic administration and Diabetes



Courtesy photo from SCHC

Clinic staff prepare to give COVID vaccines to Tribal members and others in the community during one of multiple vaccine clinics held in Siletz.

worked the paperwork tent to ensure we were organized, had necessary paperwork and then helped people fill out paperwork on the day of the vaccine event. Medical staff prepared and administered thousands of vaccines.

While the majority of clinic staff was pulled to assist in these Friday vac-

cine clinics, we couldn't just stop clinic services all together. Phones had to be answered and routed to correct departments by our front desk staff, Pharmacy staff had to get prescriptions filled and delivered. Lab staff kept processing COVID tests while helping to document the vaccines administered.

Medical staff helped a provider to see patients with acute issues, answer phone calls and also help document the thousands of vaccines being administered.

When we took our vaccine clinics on the road, staff from the area offices jumped in to help in any area they could. A team of clinic staff provided several smaller versions of our drive-through vaccine clinics at all the area offices and Chinook Winds Casino.

Many of these vaccine clinics were held in freezing temperatures, rain and wind storms. Clinic staff showed up at 6 a.m. to ensure the tents were set up, traffic control was in place and all areas had necessary supplies to keep things running smoothly. These COVID-19 vaccine clinics were truly an "all hands on deck" sort of event and I am extremely proud of our clinic staff and their dedication and tireless work to execute these events while in the middle of the pandemic.

Here are a few examples of the appreciation and feedback SCHC received:

"I want to let you all know what a superb job you did giving the vaccines to our elders during the week of Jan. 21-22. The process was so very well-organized and it went so smoothly for us all. We were in and out so quickly with no prob-

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STAHS to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day with celebration

SILETZ, Ore. – The Siletz Tribal Arts & Heritage Society takes pride in announcing its commemoration of Indigenous Peoples Day on Oct. 10 at the STAHS Gift Shop and Museum at the corner of Gaither Street and Logsdan Road in Siletz, Ore.

You are invited to join in a celebration of the rich culture and history of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our recently opened facility.

Door prize drawings will take place every two hours beginning at 11 a.m., culminating with the grand prize drawing for a gift basket filled with promotional items and the announcement of the winner of a 50/50 raffle at 4 p.m.

Enjoy tasty fry bread or take out, browse the gift shop and view treasured historic hand-crafted Siletz baskets on display.

This is a free family event that includes games for children.

STAHS is a 501C-3 dedicated to supporting and promoting the practice, conservation and restoration of the Tribal cultures of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and to sharing the history of the Siletz Tribe.



Courtesy photo from STAHS

A collection of Siletz Tribal cultural items

Siletz Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Oct. 10, in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

In November, Siletz Tribal offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day; Friday, Nov. 18, for the Tribal Restoration Holiday; and on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, for Thanksgiving Day.