



# Mobilizing Transit and Public Health Partnerships for COVID-19 Vaccinations

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## ***Twin Transit – Lewis County, Washington***

Operating in Lewis County, Washington, Twin Transit offers their community across the county a range of transportation options from fixed route service to demand-response transportation.

### **Supporting the Vaccination Effort**

Starting in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Twin Transit began reaching out to their partners in the community to offer assistance and coordinate services. From temporarily expanding their operations to cover areas that had lost service, to ensuring seniors in their community had access to food and other life essentials, Twin Transit went the extra mile to fill in the gaps the Covid-19 pandemic created in their community. Through coordinating all of these efforts, numerous community groups and human services agencies, along with Twin Transit, came together to form the Lewis County Community Services Coalition, which now serves as a model for other coordination efforts in the state.

The importance of assembling this coalition of community services was very apparent when it came time to begin planning for vaccine distribution. Twin Transit has taken a central role in the vaccination effort in Lewis County. Working with the Lewis County Department of Health and Human Services and the medical group providing the vaccines, Twin Transit has been the central point of contact for those looking to make vaccine appointments for mobile clinics offered to the general public. They have hired additional staffers to operate the call center, which has enabled them to implement the mobile vaccine clinics across the county and see where the need is.

With Twin Transit is building the list of people in need of a vaccine, they can coordinate where to locate a clinic based on the need. Lewis County has large rural areas to the east of the major cities, creating the need for this innovative solution. It would be very difficult and consume scarce resources to bring people from one side of the county to another for a short vaccination appointment. Realizing this, Twin Transit is setting up vaccine sites across the county in places like school parking lots. Once the clinic site has been established, a Twin Transit bus, full of medical supplies and nurses, heads to the vaccination site. These sites are open to all people with an appointment, regardless of how you get there. Hosting drive-thru clinics enables a larger number of people to be vaccinated at these sites throughout the county. However, Twin Transit ensures that no one is left without access. During the sign-up process, Twin Transit identifies those in need of transportation and will provide a fare-free ride to and from the mobile vaccination site. Coordinating with the county, and building a trusting relationship was crucial for Twin Transit to be able to provide these crucial services in their community, and the relationships that have been established can help the community far beyond the Covid-19 Pandemic.

*You can learn more about Twin Transit and all of the vital work they are doing in their community on their [website](#).*