



THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

October 8, 2025



Vincent Perez Community Thought Partner



Agenda



Starleen Maharaj-Lewis and James Tillett -- Syndemic Planning Group



Brittany Tybo, Nutrition Services Office Director – Federal Shutdown Impact on WIC



- Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett, State Health Officer,
- Jamilia Sherls, Office of Immunization Director
- Dr. James Lewis, Kathryn Tomas-Bugayong, Maya Quintero, Snohomish County Health Dept.



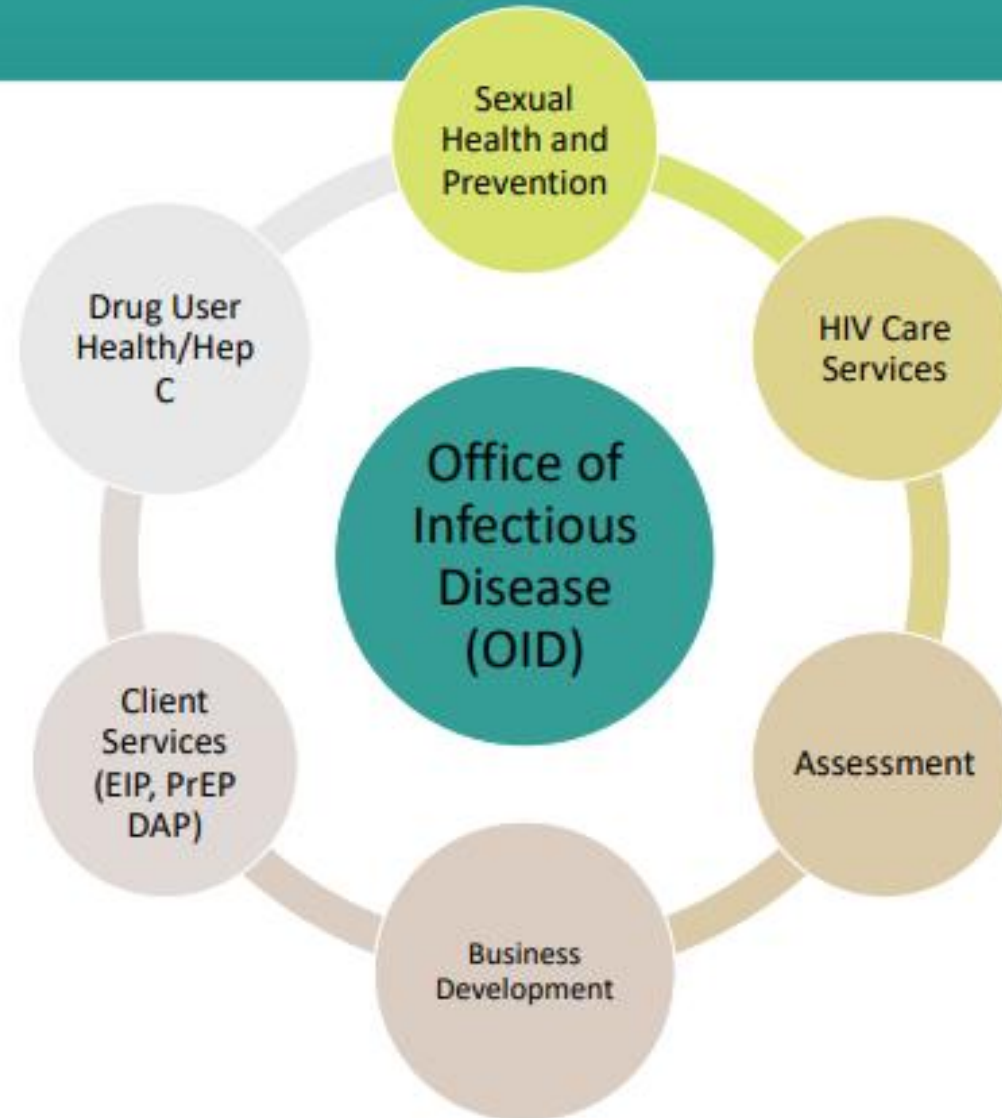
Announcements and Close



WASHINGTON SYNDEMIC PLANNING GROUP

[DOH web page- Syndemic planning group](#)

About The Office of Infectious Disease





QUICK POLL

Syndemics Explained

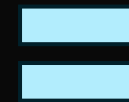
SYNERGY

Interaction of two or more conditions that produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate efforts.



EPIDEMIC

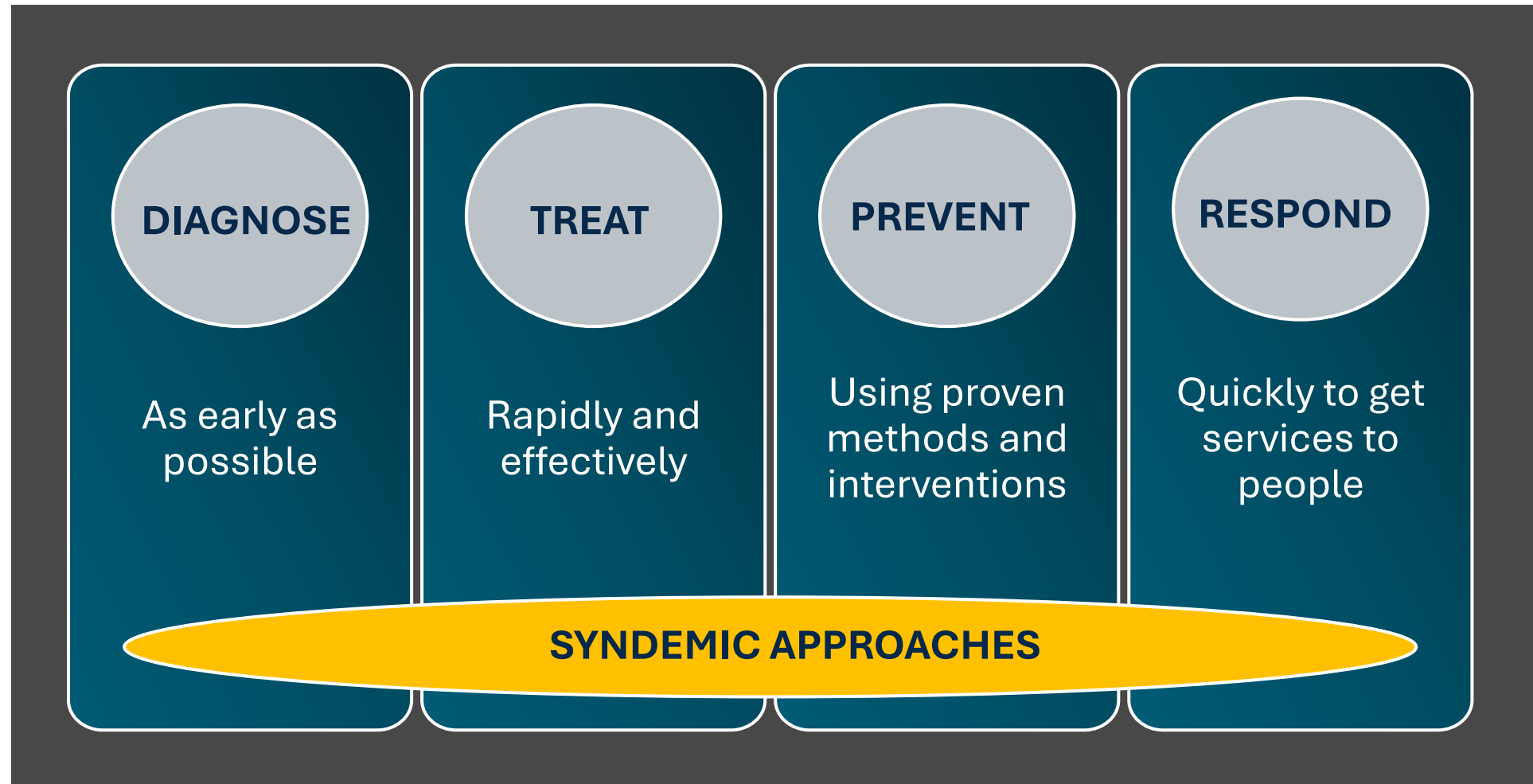
Widespread occurrence of an infection or other health condition in a community at a particular time and set of social contexts.



SYNDEMIC

When two or more health conditions or infections and the social contexts in which they occur, interact with and worsen one another's impact.

The Office of Infectious Disease's Approach to Syndemics



About Washington Syndemic Planning Group

- A community advisory group comprising those with lived experiences to improve health for people living with HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and drug users.
- Feedback and recommendations help integrate person-centered care and evidence-based practices that can be applied across programs and systems-level strategies.
- 23 members: 11 male, 7 female, 2 non-binary, and 3 unspecified gender
- 6 people living with HIV
- 8 Black; 8 white; 2 Hispanic; 4 AI/AN; 1 Pacific Islander; 1 Asian; 1 North African/Middle Eastern; 1 undisclosed

Innovation Committees: Approaches to Problem Solving

Syndemic Alignment

- Linkage, engagement, postvention
- Testing, clinical and social services

Public Affairs

- Outreach and engagement
- Communications

Equity and Inclusion

- Amplifying underrepresented communities
- Intersectionality of experiences

Data Collection and Evaluation

- Requisites to succeed
- Performance Indicators

WSPG Current Planning and Engagement Efforts

WSPG Annual Syndemic Action Plan 2024-2025

Strategies to address interconnected health and well-being issues and their root causes

Revise

Update charter so WSPG members may confirm agreement to Mission and Purpose

1

Conferences

Contribute to abstracts and present findings.

3

Launch

More opportunities for members to lead in cross-sectoral efforts to create a web of information exchange.

5

Committees

WA State Integrated Plan and Office Strategic Plan development.

2

Caucuses

Convene 4 relevant topics. Report out at annual convening. Share report with OI, HRSA, CDC

4

Prioritized Intersections

Racial/ethnic	2sLGBTQ+	Social Determinants	Health / Wellbeing	Other
• Asian American NHPI • AI/AN • Hispanic or Latina/o/x • Black, African American • Limited English-speaking communities	• Transgender • Gender expansive • Gender fluid • 2 spirit	• Poverty • Housing • Employment • Criminal justice system involvement • Barriers to accessing health services (e.g., affordability, transportation, stigma and discrimination)	• Domestic Violence • Suicidality • Exchanging Sex for goods	• Age and genetics • Intergenerational • Adolescents and transitional aged youth • People with disabilities • Faith-based organizations • Agencies or organizations who offer case management

Learn More



Join the WSPG General Meeting

November 25
6:00 – 7:30p.m.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

One tap mobile:

US: [+12532158782,,82505953045#](#)

or [+12532050468,,82505953045#](#)



Starleen Maharaj-Lewis
Syndemic Coordinator

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Starleen.maharaj-lewis@doh.WA.gov



Webpage

www.doh.wa.gov/syndemic-planning-group



WIC UPDATES

Immunization Update

- **Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD MPH**

WA DOH State Health Officer

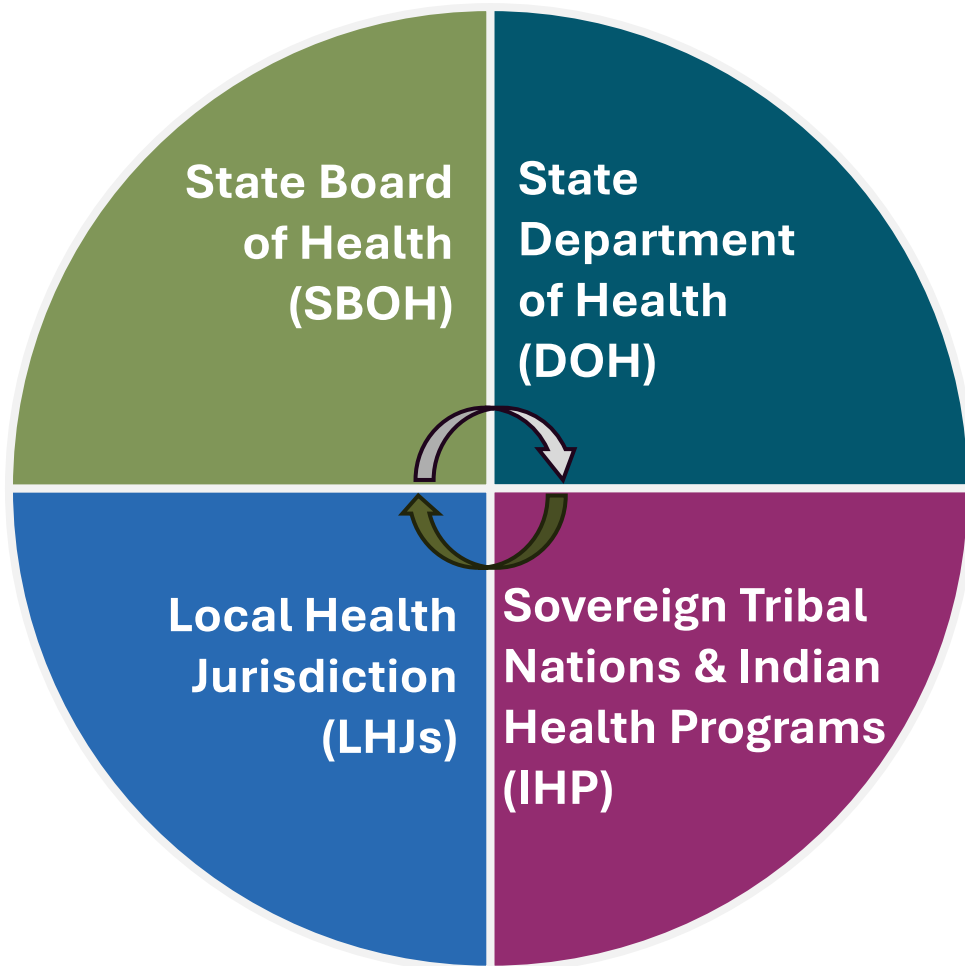
- Washington's Governmental Public Health System
- West Coast Health Alliance
- WA DOH COVID-19 Standing Order

- **Dr. Jamilya Sherls, DNP, MPH, RN, CPN, CDP**

Director, Office of Immunization

- WA DOH Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations
- Vaccine Coverage & Access
- WA DOH Respiratory Immunization Dashboard

Washington's Governmental Public Health System



A citizen forum that recommends strategies and promotes health goals to the Legislature and regulates a number of health activities.

Promotes and protects public health through education, illness and injury prevention, maintaining standards for quality health care delivery, emergency preparedness, and planning activities related to the health of Washington citizens.

Tribes and urban Indian health clinics promote locally relevant and culturally appropriate approaches to issues of mutual interest or concern.

Washington State law gives primary responsibility for the health and safety of Washington residents to county governments.

West Coast Health Alliance

- **Overview:** Partnership between Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii
- States work together to align science-based health policies, share data, and issue joint vaccine recommendations
- **Read:** [Concerns Raised Over Impact of ACIP Recommendations on Vaccine Access, Equity, and Parental Choice | Washington State Department of Health](#)



WASHINGTON STATE COVID-19 VACCINE STANDING ORDER

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/4/2025

AUTHORITY: This standing order is issued under [RCW 43.70.183](#), which authorizes the Secretary of Health or their designee to issue a prescription or standing order for any biological product, device, or drug for purposes of controlling and preventing the spread of, mitigating, or treating any infectious or noninfectious disease or threat to the public health.

PURPOSE: To reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, this statewide COVID-19 vaccine standing order authorizes qualified health care providers to vaccinate persons aged 6 months and older, including pregnant individuals.

AUTHORIZATION: This standing order authorizes health care providers to administer the most updated versions of the COMIRNATY, MNEXSPIKE, SPIKEVAX, and NUVAXOVID COVID-19 vaccines to all persons aged 6 months and older, including pregnant individuals, consistent with applicable law and the terms and conditions below.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

COVID-19 vaccination is authorized under this standing order and recommended for all eligible persons aged 6 months and older. Any available COVID-19 vaccine appropriate by age and health status, as determined by the administering health care provider by exercising reasonable medical judgment and consulting the guidance noted above, that is approved by the United States Food & Drug Administration can be used. The most updated version of the COVID-19 vaccine that is available must be used.

For some individuals, vaccination under this standing order will be “off-label” use of currently licensed COVID-19 vaccines. Health care providers can adhere to guidelines developed by professional associations and use their best medical judgement in vaccinating their patients.

Procedure

Assess the individual for COVID-19 vaccination consistent with reasonable medical judgment and the following guidance that is most suitable for the individual being vaccinated:

- **Pediatrics (ages 6 months–18 years):** American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at [www.AAP.org/ImmunizationSchedule](#)
- **Pregnant Individuals (all ages as applicable):** American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at [www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care](#)
- **Adults (ages 19 years and older):** American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at [www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunization-schedules/adult0immunization-schedule](#)

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [doh.information@doh.wa.gov](#).

Visit the Department of Health’s website to confirm that this standing order is currently in effect and to find relevant resources: [doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/standing-orders](#)

All resources linked in this document can be found on the DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Information webpage.

Screen for Contraindications and Precautions

Screen the individual for the contraindications and precautions for COVID-19 vaccination found in Table 3 in the CDC’s *Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States* ([https://www.cdc.gov/covid/media/pdfs/2025/07/iCC_document_7.18.25.pdf](#)) and proceed with vaccination according to the recommended actions in the table and reasonable medical judgment.

Administer the Vaccine

Administer the vaccine according to the package insert and best practices.

Document Vaccination

Document each patient’s vaccine administration information in the patient’s medical record and the Washington State Immunization Information System.

Be Prepared to Manage Medical Emergencies

Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications. Maintain and follow policies in accordance with *General Best Practices for Immunization* ([https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-best-practices/preventing-managing-adverse-reactions.html](#)) and see *Considerations for people with a history of allergies or allergic reactions* ([https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/vaccine-considerations/contraindications-precautions.html#cdc_vaccine_special_topics_research-considerations-for-people-with-a-history-of-allergies-or-allergic-reactions](#)) for more information.

Report All Adverse Events to VAERS

Report all adverse events following the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) ([https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html](#)).

EXPIRATION, RENEWAL AND REVIEW: This standing order will expire on the date that the physician who signed the order revokes it or ceases to act as the Secretary of Health’s designee, whichever comes sooner. This standing order shall be reviewed annually against current best practices and may be revised or updated if new information about COVID-19 vaccines necessitates it.

September 4, 2025

Physician Signature

Date

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD MPH MD00031968 1225130941

Physician Name (Printed)

License Number

NPI Number

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WA State DOH Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations

Age/Condition	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Children	• All 6 months and older	• All 6 months and older	• All younger than 8 months • All 8-19 months with risk factors
Pregnancy	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating	• 32-36 weeks gestation
Adults	• All	• All	• All 75 years and older • All 50-74 years with risk factors

Vaccine Access

- [Where To Get Vaccinated | Vaccine Information](#)
- **Reach out to your:**
 - [Local Health Jurisdictions](#)
 - **Local Pharmacies**
 - **Health Care Provider**
 - [Tribes](#) *(if applicable)*
- **Adult Vaccine Program ([AVP](#)):** uninsured adults 19 years of age and older are eligible.
- **Childhood Vaccine Program ([CVP](#)):** all children less than 19 years of age are eligible.
- **AVP and CVP [Provider Map](#)**
- **FluMist:** The nasal spray influenza vaccine FluMist for self-administration (*for 18-49 years*) or administration by a caregiver ≥ 18 years (*for ages 2-17 years*). Use [FluMist Home program](#) to provide information to determine your eligibility to order the vaccine. For eligible persons, vaccine will be shipped under temperature-controlled conditions to the address provided by the person placing the order.
- ****Care-a-Van no longer provides vaccines***

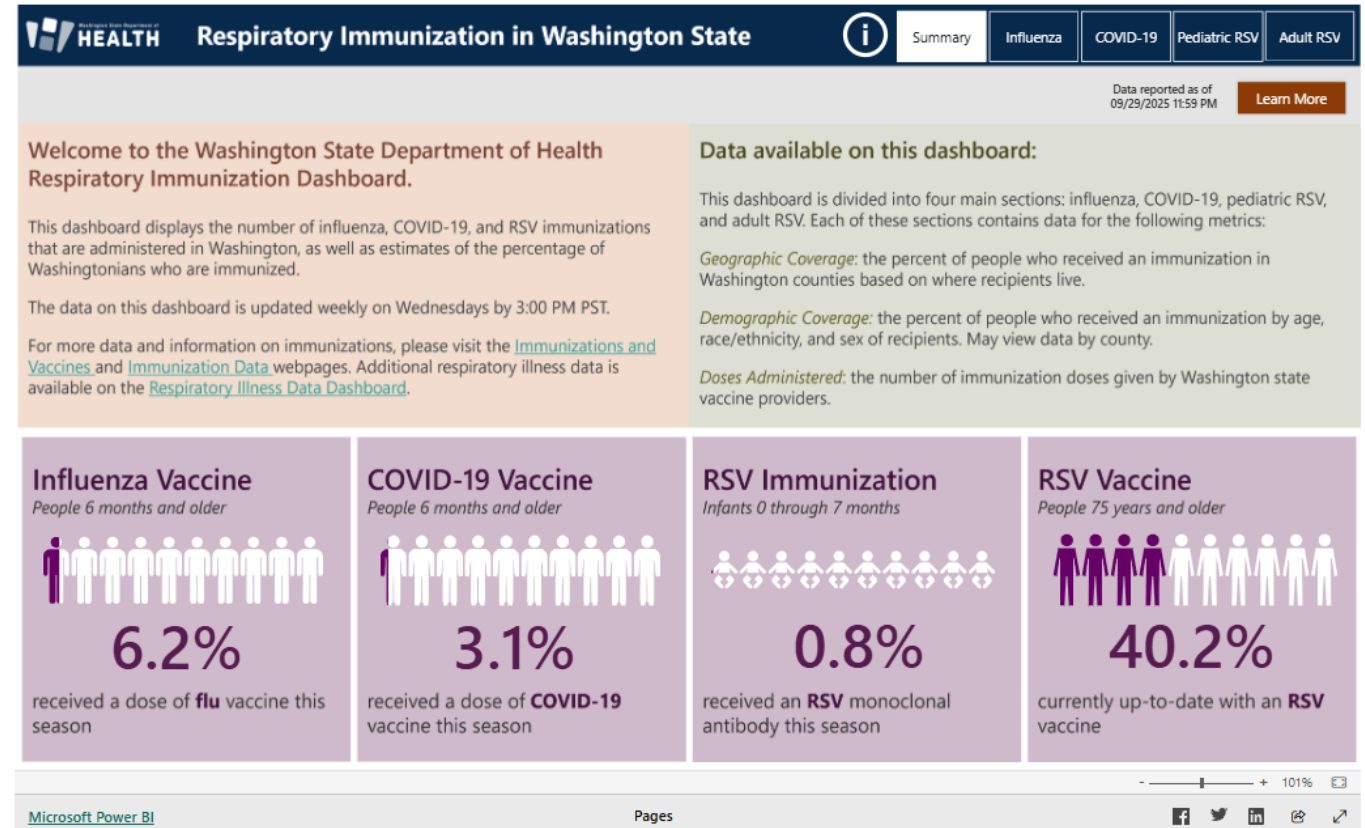
Vaccine Coverage

Health insurers are required to cover all ACIP recommended vaccines per the Affordable Care Act.

- **Private insurance:** To confirm if a vaccine is covered, contact your health plan administrator or the [Office of the Insurance Commissioner](#).
- **Washington Apple Health (Medicaid):** Continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for members, including children, adults, and pregnant people.
- **Medicare:** Continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone with Medicare, including people 65+ and those who are immunocompromised.
 - The vaccines are covered under Part B as a preventive service, so Medicare pays 100%.

Now Live: WA Respiratory Immunization Dashboard

- Public-facing dashboard brings together vaccination data for
 - influenza (flu)
 - COVID-19
 - and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
 - Both pediatric and adult
- [Respiratory Immunization Data | Washington State Department of Health](#)



Resources

- [Standing Orders | Washington State Department of Health](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order FAQs
 - [Public FAQ \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Health Care Provider FAQ \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information | Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Respiratory Immunization Data | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Please contact oi@doh.wa.gov with questions!



Vaccine Preventable Diseases



**SNOHOMISH
COUNTY** 
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Vaccine Preventable Disease and Immunization

Meet our team!

- Kelly Barrows-Straughn – Vaccine Compliance Coordinator
- Maya Quintero, BSN RN – Vaccine Nurse
- Cheng Huang, RN – Public Health Nurse
- Heather Rodriguez, CMA (AAMA) – Certified Medical Assistant



Current and Future Activities

In mid-2024, the VPD Team started providing vaccines (AVP and CVP) to people in Snohomish County. Our clinic remodel completed in May 2025.

- In-office vaccinations for individuals and families by appointment
- In-home vaccinations for homebound residents
- Back-to-school immunization events
- Education and/or vaccinations at health fairs and community events
- Increasing immunization rates at healthcare clinics
- Ensuring vaccine safety by conducting storage and handling compliance site visits
- Providing immunization records and official CIS to families and individuals, ensuring accuracy of vaccine records
 - Clients must sign ROI either in-person or online to obtain records.
 - Enter historical immunization records into WAIS
 - Translate and enter immunization records into WAIS for those new to the country

Vaccine Services: Events and Outreach

Our team recently has been honored to support vaccination with these local sites/organizations:

- Wellbeing Center
- Therapeutic Health Services
- WA West African Center
- MLK Day at Carl Gipson Center
- Take the Next Step
- LETI
- NASHI Immigrants Health Board
- Marshallese Mini Health Fair
- Mukilteo, Edmonds, Monroe, and Sultan School Districts
- Edmonds College Childcare
- Recovery Café
- Everett Housing Authority
- City of Mountlake Terrace
- Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest
- Harm Reduction Center
- Hope for Homies

Total vaccines
given: 1380

Total persons
vaccinated
661

June 2024- Aug 2025



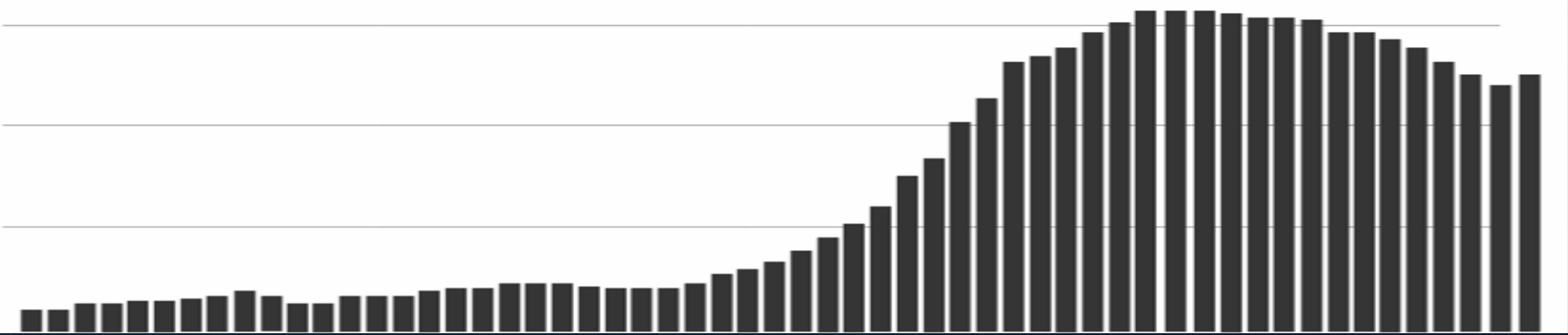


ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NAJMA ABDI!

PATHWAYS
PROFESSIONAL
SUPPORTING THE
COMMUNITY
COLLABORATIVE





JOIN US! Washington State Public Health Association Conference

Health Harms of Incarceration: Centering Lived Experience, Healing, and Action

October 21, 2025
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.



QUICK POLL

NEXT MEETING:
November 12

FOCUS:
**State Health
Improvement
Planning**

VISIT:
[https://waportal.org/partners/
community-collaborative](https://waportal.org/partners/community-collaborative)

“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting our time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

Gangulu activist Lilla Watson



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