



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay

January 30, 2026

Re: Informative – Provisional Reporting and Surveillance of Invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* Disease in Washington State

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are writing to share information regarding a recent and ongoing outbreak of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* serotype b (Hib) disease among adults in Washington and Oregon and a related provisional enhancement to public health surveillance.


In January 2026, the Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH) [provisionally expanded reporting](#) for invasive *H. influenzae* disease to include all ages through May of 2029. Previously, invasive *H. influenzae* disease was only notifiable for children less than 5 years of age. This change was made in response to an ongoing outbreak of invasive *H. influenzae* serotype b (Hib) disease among adults in King County that was identified in 2024.

To better understand invasive *H. influenzae* in individuals aged 5 years and older, WA-DOH is requesting provisional reporting of cases, including submission of isolates from normally sterile sites for serotyping and other laboratory characterization. This data will help collect the information needed to explore potential public health measures—such as identifying individuals who may benefit from vaccination or preventive medication and informing broader response strategies.

Please note that this does not change or alter existing reporting and investigation requirements for those under 5 years.

For additional information about the recent changes, please contact the Vaccine-Preventable Disease (VPD) Program, Washington State Department of Health at vpd-cde@doh.wa.gov or 206-418-5500. For general questions, please contact Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Respectfully,


Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH
State Health Officer
Washington State Department of Health

cc: Dennis Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH