



Zoom link (both days): [click here](#) | Meeting ID: 898 0808 4428 | Passcode: 648388

Day 1: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 8:30a-12:45p PST

- 8:30 – 8:50** **Welcome and Introductions**
Lauren Sarkissian, Washington State Department of Health
Beth Lipton, Washington State Department of Health
Pilar Fernandez, Washington State University
Amber Itle, Washington State Department of Agriculture
Katherine Haman, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Session 1**
- 8:50 – 9:15** **Washington State Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease Surveillance Update**
Mariah Harper, Washington State Department of Health
- 9:15 – 9:40** **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Cross-sector Playbook**
Erin Coyle, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- 9:40 – 9:55** **Flock of the Dead: Engaging Cross-sector Partners in HPAI Tabletop Exercise**
Elizabeth Cox, Snohomish County Health District
- 9:55 – 10:10** **Public Health Response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N5) Infection in an Adult – Washington, November 2025**
Keely Paris, Washington State Department of Health
- 10:10 – 10:25** **A New Tool for Real-Time Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Surveillance in Washington State**
Connor Whalen, University of Washington
- 10:25 – 10:40** **Session 1 Q&A**
- 10:40 – 10:55** **BREAK**

Session 2

- 10:55 – 11:10** **Poop in the Coop: Operationalizing Wastewater Surveillance for Influenza A H5 Preparedness**
Piper Brase, Washington State Department of Health
- 11:10 – 11:25** **Application of Next-Generation Sequencing Workflows to Track the Emergence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wildlife and Livestock in the Pacific Northwest**
Azeza Falghoush, Washington State University
- 11:25 – 11:40** ***Corynebacterium bovis* Surgical Site Infection Outbreak in an Outpatient Surgical Facility – King County, Washington, 2024–2025**
Saba Zewdie, Public Health – Seattle and King County
- 11:40 – 11:55** **I Wasn't Expecting Bats as Bunkmates! An Investigation Following a Mass Bat Exposure at a Local Overnight Youth Camp**
Sierra Kerns-Funk, Clark County Public Health
Haley King, Clark County Public Health
- 11:55 – 12:10** **Genomic analysis of Sin Nombre virus (*Orthohantavirus sinnombreense*) sequences from the Northwestern United States, 2023**
Ricardo Rivero, Washington State University
- 12:10 – 12:25** **Detection of *Echinococcus multilocularis* in coyotes in western WA highlights need for wildlife surveillance**
Yasmine Hentati, University of Washington / University of California - Berkeley
- 12:25 – 12:40** **Session 2 Q&A**
- 12:40 – 12:45** **Day 1 Wrap-up**

Day 2: Thursday, May 14, 2026, 8:30a-12:30p PST

- 8:30 – 8:40** **Welcome to Day 2**
Lauren Sarkissian, Washington State Department of Health

Session 3

- 8:40 – 8:55** **Culture of Care as Relational Infrastructure for One Health Collaborations**
Rita Bellanca, University of Washington
- 8:55 – 9:20** **Building Veterinary Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Capacity for One Health Preparedness**

Minden Buswell, Washington State Department of Health

- 9:20 – 9:35** **Building a Local One Health Communication Framework: Implementation of the Spokane Veterinary Health Alert System**
Lisa Jones, Spokane Regional Health District
- 9:35 – 9:50** **Public Health Meets Public Works: A One Health Investigation of a Legionella Cluster**
BreeAnna Dell, Public Health – Seattle and King County
- 9:50 – 10:05** **Histoplasmosis: Eastern Washington**
Shelby Bafus, Whitman County Public Health
- 10:05 – 10:20** **Session 3 Q&A**
- 10:20 – 10:35** **BREAK**
- 10:35 – 11:05** **Poster Q&A session**
- Session 4**
- 11:05 – 11:20** **Locally Acquired Mosquito-Transmitted *Plasmodium falciparum* Malaria**
Carolyn Otakan, Tacoma-Pierce County Health District
- 11:20 – 11:35** **Unusual life history and pathogen loading of Ixodes ticks in the San Juan Islands**
Russel Barsh, Kwaiht
Nasa Sinnott-Armstrong, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, University of Washington
- 11:35 – 11:50** **West Nile Virus Surveillance: Mosquito Abundance and Geographic Factors in Yakima County, Washington**
Sophia Li, University of Washington
- 11:50 – 12:05** **Session 4 Q&A**
- 12:05 – 12:20** **Day 2 Wrap-up**

Virtual Poster Presentations – [click here to access](#)

One Health Mosquito Surveillance at the Seattle Aquarium

Hannah Fenelon, Center for One Health Research – University of Washington

Mapping the distribution of *Culex pipens* in the City of Spokane

Oluwapelumi Sonoiki, Eastern Washington University

Characterizing Mobile Elements of Antimicrobial Resistance Genes in Washington Wastewater using Targeted Long-Read Sequencing

Megan O'Brien, University of Washington

Development of an in-house dPCR assay to detect tick-borne pathogens in Ixodes spp.

Jacoby Clark, Washington State Department of Health

Respiratory health in dairy workers: findings from the Healthy Dairy Workers longitudinal study in Yakima, WA

Marion Fischer, University of Washington

One Health Updates from the Washington Integrated Surveillance for Antimicrobial Resistance (WISAR) Database

Hilary McLeland-Wieser, University of Washington

Analysis of Patients with Lyme Disease Concerns in a Low Prevalence Region

Jefferson Nguyen, University of Washington

Using physiology to model current and future distributions of the saline-tolerant mosquito, *Aedes togoi*, in Washington state

Elissa Khodikian, University of Washington

The Seasonality and Community Composition of Mosquitoes at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

Jonathan Becerra, Eastern Washington University

Speaker Bios

Mariah Harper is an epidemiologist with the Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Program at the Washington State Department of Health. Over the past 10 years, she has worked in public health at the local level in Washington and in Oregon with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. In her current role, she supports local health jurisdictions with zoonotic and vector-borne disease investigations, data analysis, and disease surveillance.

Erin Coyle serves as the Program Manager for Emergency Management at Washington State Department of Agriculture. She is responsible for WSDA's role in FEMA's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program and manages federal investments under the State Homeland Security Program and National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program to secure the agricultural sector from a wide range of hazards. She is the state coordinator for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 (Agriculture & Natural Resources) and works with multi-jurisdictional partners to plan for and respond to emergencies impacting natural resources, agriculture, animals, and food. During natural disasters and statewide emergencies, Erin works alongside state, tribal, and federal government agencies and volunteer organizations at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) for centralized response coordination and incident management.

Elizabeth Cox is an Emergency Management Specialist at the Snohomish County Health Department, where she coordinates the county's ESF-8 Taskforce and conducts assessments and evaluations to improve program and departmental emergency preparedness. She graduated with her MPH from the University of Washington's Community-Oriented Public Health Practice program in 2023.

Keely Paris is an epidemiologist working on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) surveillance and preparedness with the influenza team at the Washington State Department of Health. Prior to working on HPAI, they served as a CSTE fellow with the zoonotic and vector-borne disease team at WA DOH, where they led several One Health-related surveillance projects.

Connor Whalen is a third-year graduate student in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington. Primarily, his research focuses on the responses of parasites in wildlife hosts to environmental change and he is interested in exploring how environmental factors influenced by climate change impact the transmission and impact of infectious diseases in wildlife populations.

Piper Brase, MPH is a wastewater surveillance epidemiologist with the Washington Wastewater-Based Epidemiology (WAWBE) Program at the Washington State Department of Health. She analyzes pathogen signals in wastewater and collaboratively translates these findings into public health action with disease subject matter experts. Her work is rooted in strong partnerships with wastewater treatment plants, state and local health jurisdictions, laboratories, and academic institutions across Washington.

Dr. Azeza Falghoush is a Scientific Researcher at WADDL- WSU, with PhD. in Immunology and Infectious Diseases. Specializing in Medical Microbiology, Tick Borne Diseases, and Next-Generation Sequencing, her work focuses on pathogen genomics and infectious disease surveillance, with contributions to research on antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases.

Saba Zewdie is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with Public Health – Seattle & King County where she works primarily on communicable diseases. She is a veterinarian with interest in human-animal interfaces and One Health approaches. She earned her DVM from University of California, Davis and MPH in Epidemiology from University of Michigan.

Sierra Kerns-Funk, MPH, she/her pronouns: Infectious Disease Epidemiologist at Clark County Public Health. Received her MPH from The Colorado School of Public Health.

Haley King, MPH, she/her pronouns: Infectious Disease Epidemiologist at Clark County Public Health. Received her MPH from OHSU/PSU School of Public Health.

Ricardo Rivero is a PhD candidate at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington. His primary research interests include the intersection of viral evolution and public health.

Yasmine Hentati recently earned her PhD in wildlife ecology from the University of Washington. Her dissertation investigated the organismal health of coyotes, raccoons, and river otters in the Seattle-Tacoma region, focusing on three main aspects: diet, gastrointestinal helminths, and exposure to contaminants. Her work focuses on zoonotic diseases at the human-wildlife-domestic animal interface in urban ecosystems, with an emphasis on how socioecological factors such as landscape use and legacies of pollution shape wildlife health and pathogen transmission. She is currently a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California - Berkeley working on various urban wildlife projects in the SF Bay Area, though she is based out of Seattle.

Rita Bellanca is a Research Scientist and Head of Behavioral Management Services at the University of Washington's Washington National Biomedical Research Center, where she works at the intersection of animal welfare, research best practices, and a culture of care. She is a co-founder and Vice Chair of Dare2Care: Compassion in Science, a University of Washington program that provides tools and resources to strengthen the well-being and resilience of laboratory animal professionals. Rita is also a graduate student in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington, focusing on One Health and Occupational Health at the Human-Animal Interface.

Minden L. Buswell, DVM, MPH, DACVPM Dr. Buswell is a Zoonotic Infection Preventionist at the Washington State Department of Health with over 10 years of experience and expertise in the

surveillance, prevention, and control of diseases that spread between animals and humans. With a background in veterinary medicine, public health, epidemiology, and animal emergency response she works at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health to implement One Health strategies that reduce the risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks. Her work focuses on strengthening public health preparedness through community engagement, infection prevention and control and biosecurity protocols, intersectoral collaboration, and education.

Lisa Jones is an epidemiologist with the Spokane Regional Health District. Her work reflects her commitment to the connections between human, animal, and environmental health. In her current role, she supports communicable disease surveillance, outbreak response, and data analysis, and works closely with schools and veterinary partners to enhance coordinated public health response.

BreeAnna Dell is a veterinarian and epidemiologist who leads the Zoonotic and Emerging Infections program at Public Health - Seattle & King County.

Shelby Bafus is an epidemiologist at Whitman County Public Health. Her passion for public health is rooted in the One Health approach, inspired by growing up in an agricultural community and shaping her commitment to the connections between human, animal, and environmental health.

Carolyn Otakan, BSN, RN, serves in Disease Prevention & Management at the Tacoma–Pierce County Health Department, where she has contributed to multiple outbreak responses. With 14 years of nursing experience, she is committed to advancing infection control and safeguarding the health of her community.

Russel Barsh taught at the University of Washington, and spent 20 years with United Nations agencies advising on environmental conflicts with Indigenous and Tribal peoples, before returning to the Salish Sea as founding director of Kwiaht, a community-based, cooperative conservation biology laboratory in the San Juan Islands. He is an ecologist studying long term change in marine and terrestrial food webs.

Nasa Sinnott-Armstrong studies the biology of ticks and tick-borne diseases as an Assistant Professor at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and University of Washington. They focus on building tools that connect molecular and ecological questions to public health.

Sophia Li is an undergraduate researcher in the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. She is the President of the Pre-Veterinary Society, Mary Gates Leadership Scholar, and in the Center for One Health Research. She was a 2025 Environmental Health Intern at Yakima Health District and plans to be a public health veterinarian and community zoonotic disease researcher.

Hannah Fenelon (she/her) is an epidemiologist working as the University of Washington's Center for One Health Research's (COHR) data manager and analyst. She supports COHR's diverse portfolio of One Health research projects and COHR's students since graduating with her MPH from the University of Washington's Department of Epidemiology.

Oluwapelumi Sonoiki is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern Washington University, where her research focuses on mosquito ecology and larval surveillance. She aims to pursue future work at the intersection of microbiology, disease ecology, and vector-borne disease epidemiology.

Megan O'Brien is a PhD student in Environmental Engineering at the University of Washington. Her background is in wastewater-based epidemiology, and she has collaborated on several projects in

both Washington and Texas. Currently, her research interests lie in investigating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) within environmental systems.

Jacoby Clark is a Public Health Entomology Fellow working with the Public Health Laboratories to develop a PCR test for tick surveillance in Washington. Prior to WA he worked at CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases in the national tick surveillance program. His passion for public health is rooted in developing tests to better detect pathogens and prevent spread.

Marion Fischer is an MPH student in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Washington, a Health Consultant with the WA DOH Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Program, and a veterinarian. She is passionate about One Health and finding ways to integrate human, animal, and environmental health within equitable public health practice.

Hilary McLeland-Wieser, is a PhD candidate in Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Washington. Her research focuses on using a One Health approach to investigate the ecology and epidemiology of infectious diseases. Her current projects include antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance in Washington State and land use change as a risk factor for mosquito-borne diseases in Brazil.

Jefferson Nguyen is a 3rd year medical student at the University of Washington School of Medicine. He is interested in pursuing a career in Infectious Disease and One Health, particularly at the intersection of zoonotic diseases and climate change.

Elissa Khodikian, BSc, MSc, is a PhD candidate in the Durant Lab at the Department of Biology, University of Washington. Her thesis centers the physiology of saline-tolerant mosquitoes, with a special focus on *Aedes togoi* a species native to the Pacific Northwest. Here, she investigates the water and ion balance strategies of *Ae. togoi* larvae to better understand their success in the supratidal rock pools on the Washington coast. This will inform an evolutionary rescue model of current and future ranges of this species to provide important information for the management of mosquito-borne diseases in coastal environments.

Dr. Pilar Fernandez is an assistant professor at the Allen School for Global Health at Washington State University. As a disease ecologist her research focuses on the eco-epidemiology of zoonotic diseases, and in particular, vector-borne diseases. Her main research interests lay in understanding the transmission of zoonotic diseases as complex socio-ecological systems, combining methods from epidemiology and ecology. The ultimate goal is to identify critical factors affecting disease transmission, which will aid in the design of improved intervention strategies to alleviate the disease burden in affected communities.

Amber Itle is a leading expert in animal health, avian health, and animal disease traceability programs in her role as a State Veterinarian at the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). She brings two decades of experience to WSDA, previously serving as the agency's assistant veterinarian and as a field veterinarian, she also worked in equine and livestock practice for ten years. Today, she spearheads the state's response to critical reportable diseases such as Avian Influenza.

Katie Haman graduated from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 2012 and then went on to a post-doctoral position with the National Institutes of Health and University of British Columbia in molecular epidemiology and parasitology. She began her career with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2014 as a veterinarian with the Fish Program. She quickly moved into the Wildlife Program and has been the diversity taxa wildlife veterinarian since 2016. She is the agency lead for One Health and Zoonotic Diseases, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Katie

is lucky to call the Olympic Peninsula home, and when she's not working she can be found on the beach with her kids and husband, riding a horse, or digging in the dirt (not always in this order).

Peter Rabinowitz MD MPH is a physician and Professor at the University of Washington, where he directs the UW Center for One Health Research. His clinical and research focus is zoonotic infectious disease, health and safety of animal workers, and animals as sentinels of environmental health hazards.

Hanna Oltean, PhD MPH, is a senior epidemiologist at the Washington State Department of Health. She currently leads the Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease Program, in the Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology. Her work focuses on disease prevention and control, as well as surveillance system design, implementation, and evaluation using a One Health approach.

Beth Lipton, DVM, MPH, is the State Public Health Veterinarian at the Washington State Department of Health. She has worked in both local and state public health for the past 18 years. She focuses largely on zoonotic and vector-borne disease prevention and control but is also interested in animal and human health impacts of climate change and environmental exposures, and she strives to approach all her work from an equity and One Health perspective.

Lauren Sarkissian, MPH, is a Health Services Consultant at the Washington State Department of Health, working with the Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases Program. She is a health educator and program manager, overseeing the Washington State One Health Conference, tick and mosquito surveillance programs, and health promotion campaigns. She is passionate about equitable health communications so individuals can make informed decisions about their health.