

## Legislative and Policy Update

### 2019 Legislative and Budget Planning

The Office of Immunization and Child Profile is continuing discussions with Department leadership about the need for sustainable funding around immunization work because this work is almost fully funded by federal dollars. Unfortunately, the federal funding isn't keeping up with the increased costs to do business. This work is part of the overall conversation within the agency around Foundational Public Health Services. Our identified gaps include state match needed for IIS data exchange, IIS data quality improvements, more epidemiology and assessment support for use of IIS data for performance management, support for a comprehensive system for school and child care immunizations, and training for healthcare providers.

### Legislative Proposal to Modernize RCW 70.24 *Control and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases*

The End AIDS Washington report (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/410-069-EndAIDSWashington2016Recommendations.pdf>) recommends that Washington's HIV laws are updated to reflect current science and reduce HIV-related stigma. In response to the report and with input from many partners and the community, Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has developed a DRAFT legislative proposal that modernizes RCW 70.24 (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70.24>), reduces HIV/AIDS exceptionalism, and addresses HIV criminalization.

The following documents are posted on the End AIDS Washington legislative proposal website (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/HIVAIDS/AgencyRequestLegislation>):

1. Bill DRAFT (proposed language changes to RCW 70.24 and other applicable statutes)
2. Bill DRAFT Summary (brief summary of proposed changes)
3. Summary Table (table outline of proposed changes)

To continue the development of the legislative package, DOH would like to receive input on the proposed language from members of the community, medical providers, local health jurisdictions, educators, partners, and anyone else interested in joining the policy discussion. DOH's Office of Infectious Disease will hold public meetings across Washington in June and July to gather additional feedback before the proposal is finalized.

### Stakeholder Meetings:

- **Monday, June 18th**, 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm; Lifelong, 3501 Colby Avenue, Suite 100, Everett, WA 98201

- **Tuesday, June 19th, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon; Lifelong**, 1016 E. Pike Street, 3rd Floor, Seattle, WA 98122
- **Thursday, June 21st**, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon; BF Health District, 7102 W. Okanogan Place, **Kennewick**, WA 99336
- **Monday, June 25th**, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm; Lifelong, 115 Unity Street, Suite 302, **Bellingham**, WA 98225
- **Thursday, June 28th**, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon; Pacific Continental Bank, 101 E 6th St, Suite 100, **Vancouver**, WA 98660
- **Monday, July 9th**, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon – Tacoma – PCAF, 3009 S. 40th Street, **Tacoma**, WA 98409
- **Monday, July 16th**, 1:30 pm – 3:30pm; Yakima Health District, 1210 Ahtanum Ridge Drive, **Union Gap**, WA 98903
- **Friday, July 27th**, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm; Spokane Regional Health District, 1101 W College Ave, **Spokane**, WA 99201
- **Saturday, July 28th**, Time and Location TBD; **Spokane**

Comments on the draft proposal can also be submitted via email to [HIVleg@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HIVleg@doh.wa.gov). The draft proposal will continue to evolve based on input we receive. DOH plans to submit a proposal to the Governor’s Office in fall of 2018 for consideration during the 2019 legislative session.

For more information, please contact Tamara Jones, Policy and Systems Coordinator by email at [tamara.jones@doh.wa.gov](mailto:tamara.jones@doh.wa.gov) or by phone at 360-236-2564.

### **Immunization Compliance Rulemaking**

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) filed a CR-101 Preproposal Statement of Inquiry for Chapter 246-105 WAC, Immunization of Child Care and School Children against Certain Vaccine-Preventable Diseases announcing to the public that the Board is considering updating the rule regarding:

- Documentation of immunization status
- The process for students who are in conditional status
- The reference to the national immunization standards set by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
- Improving clarity and usability of the rule

As part of the rulemaking process, the Board and the department are coordinating a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> in Kent, Washington to provide input on potential updates to Chapter 246-105 WAC. Dr. Kathy Lofy and Dr. Tom Pendergrass from the Board will co-chair this TAC. The Washington State Board of Health has the authority to outline immunization requirements of children attending schools and child care centers in the state.

For more information regarding this rule revision contact [Alexandra Montañó](mailto:Alexandra.montano@sboh.wa.gov) (Alexandra.montano@sboh.wa.gov) at the State Board of Health, or [Michelle Weatherly](mailto:michelle.weatherly@doh.wa.gov) ([michelle.weatherly@doh.wa.gov](mailto:michelle.weatherly@doh.wa.gov)) at the Department of Health.

### **Clinical and Quality Assurance**

## **Washington School Immunization Data**

On May 1, the Washington State Department of Health released school immunization coverage data for the 2017-18 school year. Here are a couple of highlights:

- 85.7 percent of kindergartners in our state have all vaccines needed to enter school, a similar rate to the past two years.
- About 8.0 percent of kindergartners are out of compliance with immunization requirements.
- 4.7 percent of kindergartners have an exemption on file for medical, religious, or personal reasons. Total exemption rates have held fairly steady since 2011. While it's good that the exemption rate isn't increasing, it's still more than double the national average of 2 percent.

**Access full 2017-18 statewide school immunization data [here](https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/HealthBehaviors/Immunization/SchoolReports)**

(<https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/HealthBehaviors/Immunization/SchoolReports>).

At that website, you'll find coverage maps and graphs, along with full data tables, broken down by county, school district and more. [This page has an explanation of school data](https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/HealthBehaviors/Immunization/SchoolReports/Explanation)

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### Report Cards

In addition to the data on our website, OICP sent a customized Kindergarten Immunization Report Card to principals of all schools with kindergartens who submitted data. It shows how well the school is doing in kindergarten immunization and vaccine coverage and compares the school's rates with the state average. School administrators and nurses can use their report card to develop a plan to improve their school's rates, if they are not satisfied with their results.

If you have a question or feedback about school immunization data, please send it to [oi cpschools@doh.wa.gov](mailto:oi cpschools@doh.wa.gov), which will reach immunization staff at the Department of Health. If you get any calls from schools about the report card, please refer them to this email address as well.

## **Vaccine Supply and Distribution**

### **Office of Immunization and Child Profile (OICP) participates on Health Care Authority Workgroup for the Partnership Access Line**

OICP has been invited to participate on the Alternative Funding Model for the Partnership Access Line (PAL) workgroup organized by Health Care Authority (HCA). HCA asked for our participation to share lessons learned from the Washington Vaccine Association partnership that funds vaccines. SheAnne Allen, Vaccine Management Section Manager, will represent the agency on the workgroup and will share updates as the work progresses. Workgroup meetings will convene between May and September 2018.

### **LHJ regional representative immunization training and full transition of Diamond Project recommendations**

Local health regional representatives contracted to implement immunization site visit work in nine regions completed a four-day training on quality improvement (AFIX) and Childhood Vaccine Program

compliance site visits. The training conducted by several Office of Immunization and Child Profile staff covered program requirements, demonstrations of systems and tools used for site visits, team charter process, and team building exercises.

July 1<sup>st</sup> was the transition date for full implementation of the Diamond Project changes to centralize vaccine ordering and accountability tasks with DOH; contract quality improvement and compliance site visits to nine LHI regional representatives; and begin new funding to local health to support activities that increase immunization rates. This transition is a milestone accomplishment for both DOH and LHI culminating from several years of planning and engagement work.

## Health Promotion and Communication

### Immunize Washington Awards



The Health Plan Partnership, a cooperative alliance of Department of Health, Health Care Authority, Governor Jay Inslee and all the major health plans in Washington is proud to announce the winners of the 2018 Immunize Washington Provider Recognition Awards.

Check out the list of [2018 Immunize WA awardees](https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/ImmunizeWA) (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/ImmunizeWA>)

Providers can use the social media topic #ImmunizeWA to post pictures of their clinic and staff to showcase that they're a proud award winner!

2018 marks the fourth year the Health Plan Partnership has hosted [the Immunize WA provider recognition program](https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/ImmunizeWA) (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/ImmunizeWA>) – an incentive to recognize clinics reaching immunization rates of 70% or higher in child and adolescent patient populations.

This year is the most successful to date, and boasts a 57% increase in qualifying clinic nominations over 2017, with 2018 issuing an impressive 220 awards.

### National Infant Immunization State Champion

As part of NIIW, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, DOH announced the Washington State CDC Childhood Immunization Champion, and two other immunization awards that were given out by the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington. The 2018 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion is John Merrill-Steskal, a doctor in Ellensburg who started an innovative “Vaccines as a Vital Sign” project in his clinic and engages the public via the radio and social media. The IACW gave its Advocate award to Jenny Arnold of the Washington Pharmacy Association and its Collaborator award to the American Indian Health Commission for their excellent work making sure infants in Washington are immunized.

### **Call for Nominations: CDC HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion**

This year, the CDC is also offering a *HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion* award for clinicians, clinics, or health systems who meet certain criteria for fully immunizing their adolescent patients against HPV and have outstanding **Leadership, Collaboration, and Innovation** in HPV vaccination and promotion. Similar to the *Childhood Champion*, they will honor one winner from each state and territory. Nominations are being accepted now through Aug. 10. Email [julia.velonjara@doh.wa.gov](mailto:julia.velonjara@doh.wa.gov) for a nomination packet.



### **National Immunization Conference (May 15-17)**

Department of Health staff attended and presented at the National Immunization Conference this week. Staff presenting include: Barry Iverson (flu vaccine hesitancy - provider conversations with parents), Chas DeBolt (mumps), and Nhan Le (MMR vaccination status among children with and without exemptions).



A highlight of the conference included the Office of Immunization and Child Profile staff receiving a CDC award for outstanding progress toward Healthy People 2020 targets for adolescent immunization coverage. The award was given to 17 out of 64 immunization programs that are "ahead of schedule" for achieving the national Healthy People 2020 target for each of four vaccinations – 1 Tdap (80%), 1 MenACWY (80%), 1 HPV (80%) vaccine dose among females, and 1 HPV (80%) dose among males, based on 2016 NIS-Teen data. The threshold for "ahead of schedule" for each vaccine was based on meeting or exceeding the

"on track" threshold for the next year (2017) based on 2016 estimates.

Washington State was well-represented at the meeting, including staff from several local health jurisdictions.

### **NAIIS – National Adult Influenza Immunization Summit (May 18)**

Office of Immunization and Child Profile's flu health educator Barry Iverson attended the annual NAIIS flu summit (<https://www.izsummitpartners.org>) and participated in a poster presentation (now on display in the OICP office) on the newly published flu vaccine hesitancy discussion guide for providers. Highlights of the summit included news that the CDC will be unveiling their long-awaited toolkit this summer for long-term care facilities to implement mandatory influenza employment policies for health care workers. Notable discussions were held on the topics of state certificate of exemptions (COEs), the ongoing efforts to improve vaccination rates in pregnant women, and the desire for pharmacies to increase their use and access of the IIS.

### **2018 Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) Bull's Eye Award**

The Office of Immunization and Child Profile won the 2018 AIM Bull's Eye award for the College survey work (*Immunization practices and policies at four-year colleges and universities in Washington State*)! Congratulations to OICP staff, Leigh Wallis and Pat DeHart on this important and solid work. The award was presented at the June AIM Leadership in Action conference in San Diego, California. Michele Roberts accepted the award and gave a presentation on the school survey work on behalf of Leigh and Pat. This work has previously been presented to the VAC.

### **Immunization Director elected as Chair-Elect on National Committee**

Michele Roberts was elected as Chair-Elect at the Association of Immunization Managers leadership conference being held in San Diego, CA. The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) enables immunization managers to work together to effectively prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases and improve immunization coverage in the United States and its territories. Michele will serve in this position for three years: chair-elect, chair and then immediate past-chair.

### **Immunization Director wins a leadership award**

Michele Roberts, Director of the Office of Immunization and Child Profile was honored to win an Impact Award at this week's Association of Immunization Managers Leadership Conference. The AIM Impact Award recognizes an AIM member who dedicates a significant amount of time, expertise, and experience toward achieving the organizational goals of AIM.