

Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Division Briefing

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2/8/2023

Public Works and Health Committee



WHATCOM COUNTY
**HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



- Agenda
- Introductions
- Division Overview
- Programs Overview



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Communicable Disease Program

Zac Doobovsky BSN, RN

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Key Program Activities



**Investigation of
notifiable conditions
and infection
prevention**

**Rabies post-exposure
prophylaxis (PEP) and
Blood Lead
investigation.**

**Syndromic
Surveillance
Influenza Reports
Death Reconciliation
(COVID)**

Adult Health Clinic: Provides limited screening services and STI treatment for residents of Whatcom County who are experiencing barriers to receiving healthcare through a primary care provider

Key Program Activities



Healthcare Response Team

works with healthcare partners in Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and other healthcare congregate settings including shelters in response to MDROs and HAIs

School and Child Care Response Team

offers Sector-specific disease response to child care and k-12 school settings. Serves as Nurse Health Consultant for Child care settings that have an established agreement with the WCHD

Sexual Health Team

Investigates STIs and offers prevention education and referral. Convenes Sexual Health Coalition and assists community partners in sexual health promotion activities.

Post Pandemic Priorities



- Robust staff training/education program
- EPIC onboarding and standardization
- Decrease response time all case investigations
- Reduced lapse in care coordination
- Completeness of race/ethnicity data
- Create standardized annual and quarterly public-facing reports
- Geographic assessment and outreach for enteric illnesses
- Offer Provider HIV PrEP Training
- Implement new HAI grant activities (train our staff for ICAR visits, fit testing support for LTCF partners)
- Expand our understanding of supply chains & ability to assist facilities in filling in the gaps of PPE/testing past WA DOH/COVID support
- Work with State and Local partners to offer STARS training for child care workers

TB and Harm Reduction Services Program Overview

2/8/2023

Public Works and Health Committee

Lela Riherd



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TB Program Objectives



Early recognition and referral to TB program of suspected active TB cases

Timely and complete contact investigations

Accept referrals of high-risk patients to WCHD TB program for preventive and LTBI treatment

Provide clinical guidance & support for providers initiating and monitoring treatment for latent TB

Provide education and expertise to community partners to support national, and state efforts to eliminate TB

Increase community awareness and recognition of individuals at risk for TB infection & progression to disease

TB program focus for 2023



- **Improve communication with the use of electronic medical records.**
- **Work with local providers and community partners to strengthen our partnership.**
- **Work with populations in our community at high risk for TB infection.**

Syringe Services Program

[Whatcom County Syringe Services Program](https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3252/Syringe-Services-Program)
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3252/Syringe-Services-Program>

Local Resources
<https://whatcomhope.org/>

Monday

- EWRRRC 11-12
- York St Parking Lot 2p-4p

Tuesday

- Eve Outreach

Thursday

- York St Parking Lot 2p-4p



Harm Reduction Program Objectives



Provide access to low barrier testing and vaccinations.

Provide safe disposal of used sharps

Lessen harm associated with drug use and related behaviors.

Provide a safe nonjudgmental environment for clients to engage in service.

Reduce the risk of overdose by providing overdose reversal medications and access to drug testing supplies such as fentanyl test strips.

Reduce transmission of infectious diseases and prevention of overdose by mitigating the risks associated with drug use.

Harm reduction program focus for 2023



- **Work with local providers and community agencies to strengthen our partnership.**
- **Incorporate additional wraparound services for the program.**
- **Expand outreach and prevention opportunities.**
- **Conduct a comprehensive assessment to understand how we can best serve our population.**

Immunization Program

Nicole Miller, MSN, RN

2/8/2023

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Program Objectives



Reduce incidence of disease

Improve Vaccination rates

Reduce burden on our healthcare systems

Identify Gaps and Increase Vaccine accessibility and support equitable access

Provide Essential education and resources to our community members and partners

Connect and support partners: School districts, childcares, provider offices, pharmacies, LTCFs, other health agencies and other stakeholders and community organizations.

Key Program Activities



**Vaccines for Children
(VFC) Program**

**Adult Vaccine (AVP)
Program**

**COVID Vaccine
Program**

Focus for 2023



- **Continue to participate in community coalition groups and partner meetings**
- **Offer ongoing consultation and support to our community members and partners**
- **Reducing school exclusions by working with school partners to host back-to-school clinics.**
- **Complete an Immunization Community Health Assessment (ImmsCHA) to help us evaluate existing access and uptake of immunizations in our community and develop a plan for minimizing barriers.**

**Thank you for your time today and
continued support.**