

WINTER 2026

Immunization & Provider Engagement Newsletter



Pediatric vaccine recommendations

On Jan. 5, 2026, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its child and adolescent immunization schedule to significantly reduce the vaccines it recommends for United States children.

This decision did not follow established procedure for vaccine policy recommendations and threatens an increase in vaccine-preventable diseases in children. Children getting sick from these diseases leads to:

- Missed school for children.
- Missed work for parents.
- Hospitalization and death of some children.

We encourage you to rely on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) vaccine schedule. Continue to recommend hepatitis B vaccine for all eligible newborns. Give the first dose within 24 hours of birth to newborns who weigh at least 2,000 grams (4 pounds, 7 ounces), then complete the vaccine series.

For more information, view our [health advisory](#). Find upcoming childhood vaccine events at tpchd.org/kidsvax.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2... First measles outbreak in Washington since 2023 | 3... Smile Survey |
| 2... End of seasonal maternal RSV vaccination | 4... HIV prevention |
| 2... Respiratory illness data dashboard | 5... New World screwworm outbreak moves into northern Mexico |
| 3... Maternal Mortality Review Panel Report | 5... Blood supply dangerously low |
| 3... HPV vaccine and resources | 5... Community health improvement planning underway |
| | 5... Sign up for notifications |

Washington State Immunization Summit

Mark your calendar for a full-day, hybrid event that brings together public health professionals, healthcare providers, community leaders, and advocates dedicated to strengthening immunization efforts across Washington.

Learn more and register at wsis.withinreachwa.org.



Thursday, March 19, 2026
8 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Greater Tacoma Convention Center **or** online via Zoom

First measles outbreak in Washington since 2023

As of Feb. 25, 2026, Washington has 26 confirmed measles cases. Washington State Department of Health (DOH) confirmed a measles outbreak and multiple unrelated cases in 4 counties other than Pierce.

This marks the first measles outbreak in Washington since 2023 and comes amid rising measles activity nationwide. DOH urges vaccination to prevent further spread of this highly contagious disease and has issued new [interim pediatric measles outbreak vaccination recommendations](#).

For more information, view [DOH's news release](#).

DOH measles resources:

- [Washington measles cases](#).
- [Washington measles exposure tracker](#).
- [More measles information](#).
- [Measles communication toolkit](#).
- [Measles immunization response guide](#).
- [Measles, mumps, rubella \(MMR\) vaccine frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#).



End of seasonal maternal RSV vaccination

Seasonal administration of maternal RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) ended Jan. 31, 2026.

Providers should continue to:

- ✓ Administer RSV monoclonal antibodies (nirsevimab or clesrovimab) to eligible infants and children through March 31, 2026.
- ✓ Offer RSV vaccine to all adults 75 years or older and adults 50–74 years old at increased risk of severe RSV.

Respiratory illness data dashboard



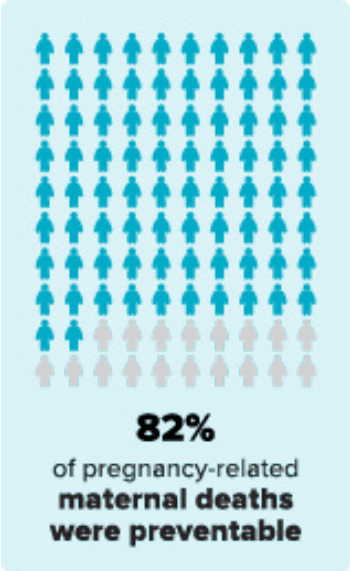
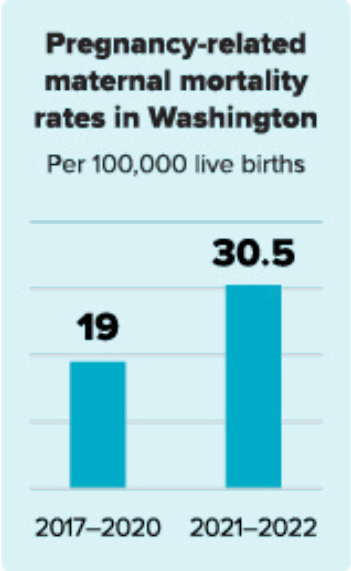
Check out our dashboard at tpchd.org/respiratory-illness-data.

We track the percent of emergency visits where acute respiratory illness (ARI)—like COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)—is diagnosed in Metro Puget Sound (Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties). When we're above the transmission alert threshold, respiratory viruses are spreading a lot, and:

- Healthcare facilities might require masks.
- You might take extra precautions, like wearing a mask in crowded spaces and washing your hands and cleaning more often.
- People at higher risk of severe illness might take extra precautions even when ARI is low.

Maternal Mortality Review Panel Report

DOH released its [2025 Maternal Mortality Review Panel Report](#). This report helps us understand how to make pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care better for people in Washington. It presents findings from 2021–2022 and offers recommendations to improve care and save lives.



HPV vaccine and resources

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a powerful tool in cancer prevention. You can start the vaccine at age 9 to ensure immunity is in place before any exposure to the virus. Providers can access up-to-date HPV resources, patient handouts, and guidance to support vaccine discussions at tpchd.org/preventHPV.

Protect their future
with HPV vaccine

Learn more tpchd.org/preventHPV



Smile Survey

Tooth decay is the most common chronic condition among children. Children with cavities are more likely to miss school and earn below-average grades than their peers without tooth decay. Preventing cavities helps children:

- Avoid pain.
- Stay healthier.
- Connect with friends and peers.
- Achieve academic success.

For the last 30 years, DOH has monitored the oral health of children using an assessment known as the Smile Survey. Past Smile Surveys were conducted in 2015–2016, 2010, 2005, 2000, and 1994. Results are used to advance policies and programs that help children achieve better health outcomes.

Washington’s oral health programs have slowly rebounded after the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of schools and school-based oral health programs reduced access to dental care and kept children from preventive services and restorative care.

Learn more on DOH’s [oral health](#) and [oral health data](#) webpages and [Washington State Oral Health Coalition’s website](#).



We take PrEP.



PrEP
gives us the
power to stay
HIV negative.

Ask your provider
about PrEP today.



HIV prevention

In June 2025, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved lenacapavir, a prescribed medication, for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). In September 2025, CDC released new clinical recommendations for twice-a-year lenacapavir injection as an additional option for HIV prevention in the United States.

This is a significant step in expanding prevention options and reflects decades of research, partnership, and commitment to ending the HIV epidemic.

The clinical recommendations for lenacapavir are an addition to CDC’s current clinical guidance for PrEP, which also recommends daily oral pills or cabotegravir injected every two months.

All FDA-approved PrEP options are highly effective in preventing HIV when taken as prescribed.

CDC recommends healthcare providers inform all sexually active adults and adolescents about proven options for PrEP and prescribe PrEP to anyone who requests it. The addition of lenacapavir provides another powerful option in HIV prevention. Because lenacapavir only needs to be administered every 6 months, it may help some people overcome challenges with adherence or more frequent healthcare visits associated with other PrEP options.

According to the most recent CDC estimates, more than 31,000 people acquire HIV in the United States each year. FDA approved the first HIV PrEP in 2012, and PrEP has become a vital part of HIV prevention efforts in the United States. Combined with HIV testing and effective treatment, PrEP has contributed to significant reductions in new HIV infections. Reaching people with more options for PrEP—including lenacapavir—will further strengthen national efforts and accelerate progress toward ending the HIV epidemic.

New World screwworm outbreak moves into northern Mexico

CDC issued a [health advisory](#) about recent New World screwworm (NWS) cases in animals in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, which shares a border with Texas.

As of Jan. 20, 2026, no NWS cases related to this outbreak have been found in people or animals in the United States. However, given the potential for geographic spread, CDC issued the health advisory to increase awareness; summarize recommendations for case identification and reporting, specimen collection, diagnosis, and treatment; and provide guidance for the public.

For information about NWS symptoms and treatment, visit [CDC's website](#).

Community health improvement planning underway

The Health Department is entering the next phase of countywide health planning through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Building on community health assessment work in progress, the CHIP will focus on translating data and community input into shared priorities, strategies, and actions.

Providers and partners play a key role in aligning efforts and advancing equitable health outcomes across Pierce County.

Learn more about the [CHIP process](#) and what's ahead. Have questions? Email chip@tpchd.org.

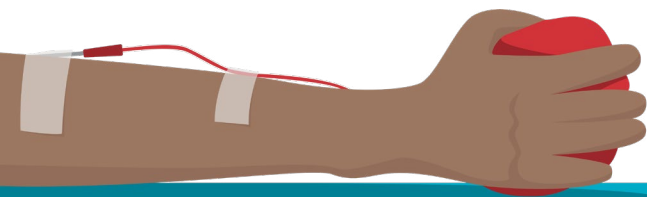


Blood supply dangerously low

DOH declared a [Code Red](#) as dangerously low blood supplies impact hospitals and emergency centers. Two of the three regional blood banks that serve Washington are facing a severe blood shortage due to the lingering effects of heavy rains and floods, combined with slowing donations. The shortage is especially bad for type O blood and platelets.

[Learn more and how to help today.](#)

Save a life. Donate blood.



Sign up for website and email notifications

Check out tpchd.org/providers for:

- Health news and alerts.
- Notifiable conditions and reporting guidelines.
- Disease information.
- Resources for schools, childcares, long-term cares, homeless service providers, and more.

Sign up to receive email notifications when we publish health advisories or newsletters:

1. Go to tpchd.org/notify.
2. Enter your contact information.
3. Choose **Health Advisories/Disease Alerts for Providers**.