



## Communicable Disease eNewsletter



### Inside this Issue

STD Updates ..... 1  
Mumps ..... 2  
Antibiotic Resistance ... 2  
Influenza ..... 3  
Notifiable Conditions ... 3

### Sexually Transmitted Disease Updates

#### Friendly Reminder to Report Herpes Simplex

Health care providers are to report all initial genital herpes simplex virus (HSV) infections, and all neonatal infections, to the Whatcom County Health Department by using the [STD case report form](#). The diagnosis can be made by a clinician, and cases should be reported with or without lab confirmation. Laboratories are not required to report HSV, so we rely on our clinician partners for this important data. HSV positive serologic tests done for asymptomatic screening are not reportable. Moreover, in November 2016, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force released a [recommendation against routine serologic screening for genital \(HSV\) infection in asymptomatic adolescents and adults including those who are pregnant](#). Also of note, we do not perform case investigations for HSV infections. We request health care providers give STD prevention messages and advise the infected individual to inform their sexual partners of the possible exposure.

#### Gonorrhea Is Not Gone

Whatcom County continues to receive new Gonorrhea cases each week. 2016 saw 101 cases, up from 61 in 2015. Cases occurred in both males and females, heterosexuals and men who have sex with men (MSM), and in all age groups, with the majority of cases occurring among 20-29 year olds. We need your help! Please offer routine STD screening for gonorrhea to all women younger than 25 and to those at risk, and perform STD testing on all your symptomatic patients with risk factors. For positive gonorrhea cases, please inform the patient that he/she will be receiving a confidential phone call from a Public Health Nurse as we perform investigations and assist in partner management on all cases. Follow the [CDC treatment guidelines](#). Also, we ask that you recall patients for repeat testing in 3 months. Notify us of any suspected or documented gonorrhea treatment failures. And finally, send in your [case report](#).

#### Staff Education

Public Health Nurses are available to provide education to your staff on notifiable conditions and reporting (like STDs), and other current Communicable Disease and Infection Prevention issues. Call Kim at 360-778-6109 to discuss your clinic's needs.

[Click here to find out where vaccines are offered locally!](#)

### FREE IMMUNIZATION CLINIC



**What:** Twinrix Vaccine (Hepatitis A and B combo)  
HPV Vaccine (Human Papilloma Virus)

**When:** Wednesday February 22, 2017 1:30 to 4:30pm  
Wednesday March 1, 2017 1:30 to 4:30pm

**Where:** Whatcom County Health Department  
1500 N State St, Bellingham, WA  
360-778-6100

**Who:** Men and Women over the age of 19 (19 to 26 for HPV)

*No appointments are necessary but plan for a half-hour time frame to complete your registration and vaccination.*

We will utilize the Washington State Immunization Registry in order to avoid duplication of vaccine and to document all shots given.

**Why get the HPV Vaccine?**

- I am a woman 19 through 26 and haven't completed a 3-dose series of HPV shots.
- I am a man 19 through 26 and haven't completed a 3-dose series of HPV shots.

**Why get the Twinrix Vaccine (Hepatitis A and B combo)**

- I want to be vaccinated to avoid getting hepatitis A and/or B and spreading it to others.
- I was vaccinated with hepatitis A and/or B vaccine in the past but never completed the full series.
- I am in one of the following risk groups, and I haven't completed the vaccine series:
  - I travel or plan to travel in countries where hepatitis A is common.
  - I have (or will have) contact with an adopted child within the first 60 days of the child's arrival from a country where hepatitis A is common.
  - I live with or am a sex partner of a person with hepatitis B.
  - I have been diagnosed with HIV
  - I am sexually active.
  - I use street drugs.
  - I have chronic liver disease.
  - I have a clotting factor disorder.



Made possible in part by a grant from the Group Health Foundation

## Mumps

Mumps cases are still increasing in Washington State. Please be on the lookout for potential cases within our community.

### Common Signs and symptoms

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle Aches
- swelling of the cheeks and jaw (parotitis)
- Up to 30% of people with mumps infection will have no symptoms.

### Testing

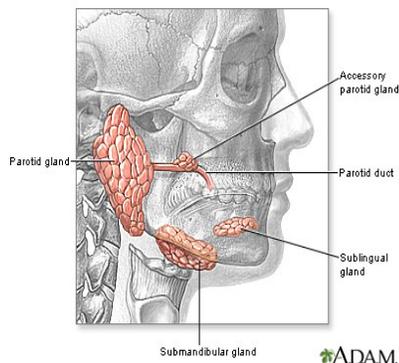
Please consider Flu and Mono testing depending on clinical presentation.

Collect serum for mumps IgM and IgG antibody at first clinical encounter using a commercial lab, otherwise collect buccal swab and urine for PCR testing at the Public Health Lab depending on timing of specimen collection. The Whatcom County Health Department must approve Mumps PCR tests before being done at the Public Health Lab.

Neither nasopharyngeal swabs nor throat swabs are acceptable specimens for mumps PCR testing.

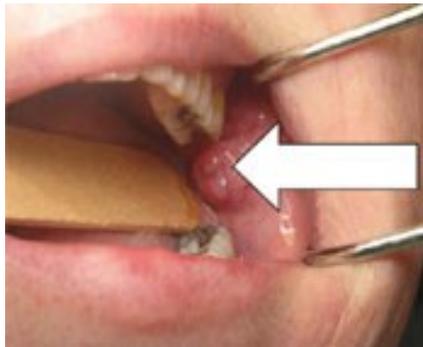
### Timing of specimen collection

- Onset to day 3: Collect Buccal only
- Days 4-10: Collect buccal and urine
- After day 10: Consult with the Whatcom County Health Department



### Buccal swab instructions for viral and PCR Testing

Massage the parotid (salivary) glands for 30 seconds. Swab the buccal cavity (photo below), which is the space near the upper rear molars between the cheek and the teeth. Swab the area between the cheek and gum by sweeping the swab near the upper molar to the lower molar area.



### Specimen Preparation

Swabs should be placed in 2 ml of standard viral transport medium. Allow the swab to remain in VTM for at least 1 hour (4°C). Ream the swab around the rim of the tube to retain cells and fluid in the tube. The swab can be broken off and left in the tube or discarded.

### Storage and Shipment

Following collection, samples should be maintained at 4°C and shipped on cold packs (4°C) within 24 hours. If there is a delay in shipment, the sample is best preserved by freezing at -70°C. Frozen samples should be shipped on dry ice.

### Testing schedule at Public Health Lab

Mumps PCR testing is performed at the Public Health Lab on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Turnaround time varies depending on when the specimens are received and current workload of the microbiologists. Please call the Whatcom County Health Department instead of calling the lab directly if you are waiting on a test result.

## Report

Call the Whatcom County Health Department 24 hour report line:  
**360-778-6150**

### Report

All suspected mumps cases are required to be reported.

Healthcare personnel born in 1957 or later without serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination need 2 MMRs to be considered immune.

How to access your immunization records and confirm you and your family are up to date.

## Antibiotic Resistance

Antibiotic resistance is widely viewed as the most serious threat to public health. In an effort to better understand and track antibiotic resistance, Washington State Department of Health has expanded its surveillance and testing to include:

- Carbapenem-resistant (CR) Pseudomonas species and CR-Acinetobacter species
- Colistin-resistant E. coli, Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Pseudomonas and Acinetobacter
- Unusual Candida species e.g., C. auris, C. glabrata, C. haemulonii, and any Candida not identified when species identification is performed (i.e. not in laboratory database)

Providers and laboratories are asked to contact Whatcom County Health Department to coordinate testing and investigation of these organisms.

## Influenza Update

Flu activity in Whatcom County appears to be leveling off. We saw an earlier peak in influenza related hospitalizations (lab confirmed) this year than we have in the last five years.

Healthcare providers are required to report influenza-associated deaths or novel/unsubtypable strains of influenza to their local health departments. A report can be left on our report line (360-778-6150).

To be added to the distribution list for Whatcom County Health Department's weekly flu report please email Wendy at whancock@whatcomcounty.us

## Confirmed/Probable Cases of Notifiable Conditions, Whatcom County

Condition	2016	2015
<b>Campylobacteriosis</b>	55	60
<b>Chlamydia</b>	692	767
<b>Giardiasis</b>	7	28
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	101	61
<b>Hepatitis B, acute</b>	0	1
<b>Hepatitis B, chronic</b>	15	17
<b>Hepatitis C, acute</b>	4	3
<b>Hepatitis C, chronic</b>	269	296
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	4	3
<b>HBsAg + pregnancy</b>	2	3

Condition	2016	2015
<b>Measles</b>	0	1
<b>Meningococcal Disease</b>	0	0
<b>Mumps</b>	0	1
<b>Pertussis</b>	50	58
<b>Rubella</b>	0	0
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	23	26
<b>Shiga toxin-producing E. coli</b>	15	75
<b>Shigellosis</b>	23	26
<b>Syphilis</b>	11	17
<b>Tuberculosis, Class 3</b>	3	7

Cases listed are preliminary and represent only those reported to the local health department. Cases are counted at the time of report to the Health Department, not by date of onset.

Print out an updated Notifiable Conditions poster for your office:

**Health Care Provider Notifiable Conditions Poster**  
**Health Care Facility Notifiable Conditions Poster**  
**Laboratory Notifiable Condition Poster**



WHATCOM COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Whatcom County Health Department is to lead the community in promoting health and preventing disease.

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