

# PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND OTHER HEALTH THREATS

### Summary for PHIP

December 2, 2013

#### BACKGROUND

One of the key priorities of the *Agenda for Change* is to 'focus our communicable disease capacity on and enhance the most effective and important elements of prevention, early detection, and swift responses to protect people from communicable diseases and other health threats.'

In 2011, the former Communicable Disease and Other Health Threats Subgroup under the *Agenda for Change*, was tasked to develop recommendations to move this work forward. Representatives from local and state public health agencies identified a goal and three objectives to support the *Agenda for Change* in an action plan in 2012. This is being operationalized under the leadership of Disease Control and Health Statistics Division at the Department of Health.

#### UPDATE ON ACTIONS

- **GOAL:** Implement the most effective and important elements of prevention, early detection, and swift responses to protect people from communicable diseases and other health threats
  - **Objective 1.1:** Increase immunization rates
    - **Strategy 1.1.1:** Improve our understanding of immunization coverage in Washington State by enhancing the completeness and quality of data entered in the Washington Immunization Information System (WIIS) (adults and children)
      - ✓ **November 2013 Update:** We expect the new coverage report to be functional by the end of 2013 and we will market the report to local health agencies and providers in 2014. Our work to evaluate the completeness of the IIS data is ongoing.
      - ✓ **August 2013 Update:** A report that shows the actual coverage rate in each county or select providers is in development. It is expected that local health agencies will use this information extensively. Promoting and training local health agencies to use this report will begin when the report is fully functional by the end of 2013. Enhanced assessment activities associated with **Strategy 1.1.2** have already started to better evaluate the completeness of IIS data.

- **Strategy 1.1.2:** Identify and implement evidence-based practices to improve immunization coverage rates. Emphasize the individual immunizations in the series rate that bring down our overall rate.
  - ✓ **November 2013 Update:** We have shared our concept coverage rate maps with our Vaccine Advisory Committee and our partners in the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington. Based on feedback we are planning to share revised concept maps with local health in early 2014. We continue to explore ways to make the work the sustainable
  - ✓ **August 2013 Update:** This work was started in 2012 and proof-concept maps were completed in June 2013. The Department of Health Immunization Program will present concept coverage rate maps to local health in the fall of 2013 to get feedback on the most useful coverage rates and maps. Based on this feedback, a core set of immunization coverage maps will be developed for local use by early 2014. We continue to work with our partner *WithinReach* to explore additional opportunities for working with UW bioinformatics, public health agencies and geography programs during the 2013-2014 school year.

The Immunization Program is working with health plans to partner on activities to improve how their enrolled providers use the IIS, in addition to continuing to promote the system through our standard activities with existing partners.

- o **Objective 1.2:** Standardize and prioritize communicable disease surveillance and response activities
  - **Strategy 1.2.1:** Prioritize communicable disease surveillance and response activities
    - ✓ **November 2013 Update:** We are currently working on implementing the strategy for prioritizing chronic hepatitis work.
    - ✓ **August 2013 Update:** The overall prioritization matrices are complete.
  - **Strategy 1.2.2:** Establish evidence-based statewide recommendations around communicable disease control
    - ✓ **November 2013 Update:** A proposed update to the rabies control guidelines was completed with a committee of local and state public health staff. A draft is out to local health jurisdictions for review and comment (due November 26). We expect to finalize the guidance in the next several months.
    - ✓ **August 2013 Update:** This work is underway. Recommendations for controlling communicable disease have been updated for the pertussis. A review of the rabies control guidelines is currently being done with a committee of local and state public health staff and is expected to be completed within the next two months.

- **Objective 1.3:** Develop, maintain and integrate a data collection system for communicable disease tracking, monitoring and response
  - **Strategy 1.3.1:** Modernize our data systems for disease tracking, monitoring and response
    - ✓ **November 2013 Update:** The Governor's budget will be out in December and the Legislature will meet in January.
    - ✓ **August 2013 Update:** A feasibility study has been completed. A funding request to support the modernization/replacement of the current Notifiable Conditions data collection system(s) has been submitted for consideration to the Secretary of Health for the 2013 state supplemental budget. Further work on this strategy is dependent on funding.
  - **Strategy 1.3.2:** Increase capacity to receive electronic laboratory reporting of communicable diseases through a health information exchange (HIE)
    - ✓ **November 2013 Update:** This work is on track and we are ready to receive information from laboratories through the HIE. Hospital laboratories will be the first to send information and we are currently going through data validation and verification processes for interested labs.
  - **Strategy 1.3.3:** Implement an updated secure communication alerting system to send urgent messages from public health agencies to community partners
  - **August 2013 Update:** This work had been completed.