Protecting Washington communities from the threats of communicable disease is one of our state’s Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS).

Kitsap Public Health District

The Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) has a slogan: We safeguard our community’s health. And they take that slogan seriously, monitoring the safety of a wide variety of issues from septic systems to shellfish harvesting.

A quick look at the KPHD website provides a wealth of health and safety information. You can learn how to limit your potential exposure to rabies, or check the safety score of your favorite restaurant.

Like other public health departments, KPHD also protects its communities by responding to communicable disease cases. Making sure one reported case of an infectious disease doesn’t turn into an outbreak rarely makes headlines. But the time, skill and expertise behind that process is noteworthy, and essential to the continued vitality of a community.

KPHD used its FPHS funds to improve response to communicable diseases in their county. By streamlining tracking and assessment, implementing new provider outreach plans, training staff and strengthening surveillance, they were able to move toward their goal of 100% response rates.

What does this mean to the people in Kitsap County?

- Easier access to treatments.
- Better disease investigation processes.
- Faster follow-up.

All of which adds up to one important thing: safeguarding the community’s health.