

CHARG Minutes June 12, 2019
2019 Measles Outbreak and Impact on Clark County
Bud Van Cleve Community Room, Luke Jensen Sports Park, Vancouver

Meeting convened at 9:05 am, with Carolyn Noack, member of CHARG Planning Committee, introducing panel members to group of @43 attendees. Panel: Brianna Dannen, Clark County Public Health; Susan Soetaert, Legacy Health; Ian Mansfield, Vancouver Public Schools; Holly Long, Evergreen Public Schools and Charlie Mitchell, Northwest Health Law Advocates

Brianna Dannen, Public Health

Brianna presented overview of charts and information, school age immunization rates by county, etc. from Washington State Dept. of Health website.

2019 Measles outbreak and timeline: first report to PH 12/31/18, case confirmed 1/3/19. By January 11, 12 more cases; January 15, PH activated team of health professionals and staff to focus on the outbreak. Team included staff from Clark County Public Health, State Health Dept., and volunteers in Medical Reserve Corp. Bulk of work was monitoring clients and possible exposures. Total of 71 cases, 4138 people contacted, 3,300 letters sent, 816 cases were monitored daily for up to 21 days. Team was deactivated in March; outbreak over in April, 2019.

Cost of outbreak high, Public Health spent \$864,679, and 849 students excluded from 15 public schools.

Public Health lacked resources/referral assistance for people quarantined and unable to work.

Need more education/outreach for adults needing vaccination status, finding immunization records, etc.

Brianna noted people who wanted to get immunized was not a big issue; it was people who refused to get immunized. 61 of the cases were not immunized; 7 cases immunization status unverified.

Another challenge was Oregon's unwillingness to share its information; PH had to use "back channels" to get students immunization status.

In Washington can use "MyIR" which is state system for immunization records.

Susan Soetaert, Legacy Health

Biggest problem was determining leadership roles in hospital system. Also, difficulty coordinating with Public Health on hospitals role in process, for example, test results sent to PH but not hospital. More education needed for health care workers to handle clients appropriately, and clearer definition of terms to avoid misinterpretations. Hospitals and clinics need better signage and information on issues such as the use and availability of masks.

Holly Long, Evergreen Public Schools

School districts interface with many in community: bus drivers, kitchen staff, Clark College staff and students through Running Start, vocational schools, etc.; had to identify, notify and determine immunization status of all these people. Logistical issues: call from Public Health required nurse calling 150 families over weekend, telling students not to come to school. Some didn't get message? Showed up on Monday, sent home, angry parents and confusion.

Extra time and resources spent to ensure all children quarantined were able to make up school work, and in cases where high school seniors were involved, help finishing testing and graduation requirements.

Ian Mansfield, Vancouver Public Schools

Vancouver School District less affected by outbreak compared to other districts. Only 2 confirmed cases, all elementary school level, so no issues with missing school/graduation issues.

Mentioned the social impact on children, criticism around “not getting immunized”

Had same issue as Evergreen- how to get information out to families, explaining why and how to get immunizations and dealing with the obstacles and challenges around same.

Charlie Mitchell, Northwest Health Law Advocates

Reviewed HB 1638, which passed legislature this year; eliminates personal exemption for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination. Requires immunization for employees and volunteers at day care centers.

Visit <https://nohla.org> for further information on law and legislative summary for session.

Further information

Seamar will provide free vaccinations for students at “Go Ready” program, August 14th at Hudson Bay HS. Seamar will provide “walk-in” vaccinations in August and September at the Salmon Creek and Battleground clinics. Suggested call ahead before going.