

ATTENDEES

Margie Boyd, Kate Deveaux, Marie Dressler, Jamie Hoobler, Vicki Kirkpatrick, Apple Martine, Lisa McKenzie, Lori Fleming, Molly Parker, John Polm, Rick Thompson, Amy Tichgelaar

NOTES

Introduction of new member, Amy Tichgelaar, Port Townsend School Nurse for Blue Heron Middle School and High School.

Agenda Item One: School Immunization Data

- Introduction: the CHIP Immunization group has been working on immunization projects for about three and a half years, since spring 2016. Some projects were started while we were writing our plan and the work has been building step by step. This current school year is the first year that all of the schools have had policies for enforcing the immunization compliance law. The schools have done a lot of work to get to this point.
- Data sheets include rates for kindergarten, 6th grade, and K – 12 total. We began our work focusing more on the kindergarten data. This is what the WA Department of Health (DOH) highlights in their reports and as each kindergarten class moves up it improves the overall school rate. This past year we have been looking more at the 6th grade and K-12 data as well.

School data highlights

- The percent of kindergarten students complete for all immunizations has been at or above 67% for the past three years in a row. This is actually an improvement for Jefferson County. We are expecting greater improvement this year with all schools focusing on this. DOH expects to publish school data in May.
- The percent of kindergarten students out-of-compliance with immunization requirements has been below 16.5% for the past three years in a row, also an improvement for Jefferson County compared to previous years when 20 – 30% was common.
- State and neighboring county rates have been added to the data sheet for comparison.
- The K-12 complete immunization rate shows the continued efforts that schools and providers are making to get children caught up. This rate is has been higher for the past three years than the kindergarten or 6th grade rates, showing ongoing efforts for all ages.
- Going forward we would like to see what we can do to better support the 6th grade Tdap.

Agenda Item Two: School Project Updates

- Port Townsend Schools have been making many phone calls to parents to discuss the requirements and develop a plan of action. Their process is two robo calls followed by a mailed letter followed by a phone call from the school nurse, then for the few left a call from the principal giving an exclusion date. In the High School there were three or four who were absent on the day they would have been excluded. They received their immunizations that day, so no one was officially excluded.
- The WA State Auditor's office included the Port Townsend School District in their audit of school immunization compliance rates. They looked at four districts with high rates and four with low rates. They met with staff this fall. The report will be published soon. The District developed a new policy over the last year that is now in effect for this year. The improvements we will see this year are a result of that process, not a result of the audit this fall.
- Chimacum Schools have had a remodeling project going on since 7/18/19. The school-based health clinic space should be completed in one to two months. The elementary students have been moved to the Middle School building. That is now called the Elementary School with grades 3 – 6. The Jr. High and High School now has grades 7 – 12.
- Once the clinic is open Tdaps could be given by appointment to a few late 6th grades who have been unable to make it to their provider or the JCPH clinic. Susan O'Brien, ARNP, will be covering for Sarah until another provider is hired.
- The Jefferson Healthcare South County Clinic is giving all childhood immunizations this fall so that is available for Quilcene and Brinnon students.
- The Brinnon School immunization clinic was organized by John Nowak again this year. They immunized 14 children, some only needed flu shots. Some families still need to get MMRs due to the new MMR rule. John talked to the school about following up with these families.

Agenda Item Three: Other Project Updates**Jefferson Healthcare (JHC):**

- Updating standing orders for children's and adult vaccines, training staff on lowering barriers for families, looking at how the nurse visits are being used.
- Port Ludlow Clinic: has freezer and all DOH paperwork, waiting on data loggers and final sign off from DOH. Staff are all on board now. Discussion of power outage plan needed for South County Clinic and Port Ludlow Clinic.
- Nurse visits are all being booked. Daily flu clinic has been held late September through October at the Sheridan Clinic. JHC had a Facebook post about it.
- Education of front staff about looking at what immunizations adult patients' insurance will cover and scheduling more nurse visit appointments for all immunizations.

- Produced an immunization schedule magnet to hand out, highlighting the combination immunizations.
- This year's quality metrics are going to focus on well child visits and adult wellness exams. There is a drop off in adolescent well exams, will work on that.
- Standing orders for Hepatitis B birth dose immunization are in place and are working well. Consent is documented at a prenatal visit so birth center nurses don't have to do this. Timing of the immunization has been standardized for the same time the vitamin K is administered. Birth doses administered should increase, this may vary by provider.
- JHC held one after hours clinic at the beginning of the school year. There wasn't a large response, four children in the afternoon, none later. This is similar to the experience JCPH had with their late hours clinic last year.
- JHC will continue to monitor adult pneumonia immunization rates. This was the quality improvement measure for 2018. 2019 rates continue to increase in response to systems changes made in 2018.

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH):

- Held immunization clinic at PTHS on 8/9/19 during one of the sports physicals days at the school-based clinic. Clinic was planned in response to the MMR law change. PTHS sent post cards in June with dates for sports physicals and included this immunization clinic. Clinic was by appointment and saw 18 students, mostly middle and high school with a couple of elementary. JCHP had planned to do a clinic at Chimacum High School but construction has delayed that.
- Walk-in immunization clinics have been very busy with MMR requests. Many families have had exemptions for all other vaccines, some will accept a Tdap as well. Fielding many MMR exemption law questions by phone.
- Margie trained Amanda, a new staff member at Brinnon School, to use WAIS. This included how to check the WAIS record for inconsistencies with the Skyward record and printing off prefilled CIS forms for parents.
- WAIS is going to be shifting to a new secure account access system. DOH is starting to send out information. The date has not been set.
- Private schools receive all of the same immunization information and submit the same reports to DOH as do the public schools.
- Question about pharmacies submitting immunization data to WAIS. Safeway, QFC, and Costco submit data. Port Hadlock Pharmacy, and Port Townsend Family Pharmacy are not submitting data.

Agenda Item Four: Next Steps**Messaging:**

- JCPH has been posting immunization messages on Facebook and Instagram. JHC has Facebook. We aren't coordinating as much as we could, sharing each other's posts. This could broaden the reach of the messages.
- Request for members to think about other messaging and outreach activities we could do. We have wanted to focus on evidence based strategies and avoid unintended consequences.

Looking at remaining barriers:

- Ongoing work on barriers: increasing nurse visit appointment access for immunizations, piloted extended hours clinics, back to school clinic in Brinnon for the past three years, South County clinic now has vaccines, Port Ludlow clinic will soon have vaccines. Look at what other access issues we can address.

Next meeting, 2/20/2020, 9am, JCPH's Pacific Room

- Go through the strategic framework list that was used in the plan writing process to see what we have completed. This will help us to plan the next steps. Much of the unfinished work is likely around messaging.
- Community Health Assessment (CHA) update with information about priorities for the next CHIP cycle.
- Plan next steps

Plan for a data update meeting in late spring when DOH school reports and 19 – 35 month and other age group reports are released. We will include adolescent HPV and meningococcal immunization rates. We could include JHC data on Tdap for pregnant women and adult pneumonia if that data is available.