



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890  
Tel: 360-236-4030 • TDD Relay Service: 800-833-6388*

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**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Kathy Lofy, MD, State Health Officer *Kathy Lofy*

**SUBJECT:** Briefing – Immunization Rates in Washington State

The Washington State Board of Health (the Board) and the Department of Health (the department) work together to ensure that children enrolling in school and child care centers are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

- The Board has authority to mandate which immunizations are required for school and child care entry under Chapter 246-105 WAC (Immunization of Child Care and School Children Against Certain Vaccine-Preventable Diseases).
- The department measures immunization rates, identifies factors that contribute to under-immunization, and implements strategies to increase rates.
- The department also supports parents, schools, child care facilities, and early learning facilities in meeting immunization requirements.

In Washington we are able to track childhood immunization rates through the Washington State Immunization Information System and the National Immunization Survey. At the April 13, 2016 Board meeting, Michele Roberts, Director of the Office of Immunization and Child Profile with the Department of Health, will present information on immunization rates in Washington and actions that the department has already taken and plans to take to increase these rates.