

Washington State Department of Health Update

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04/10/24 | Spokane

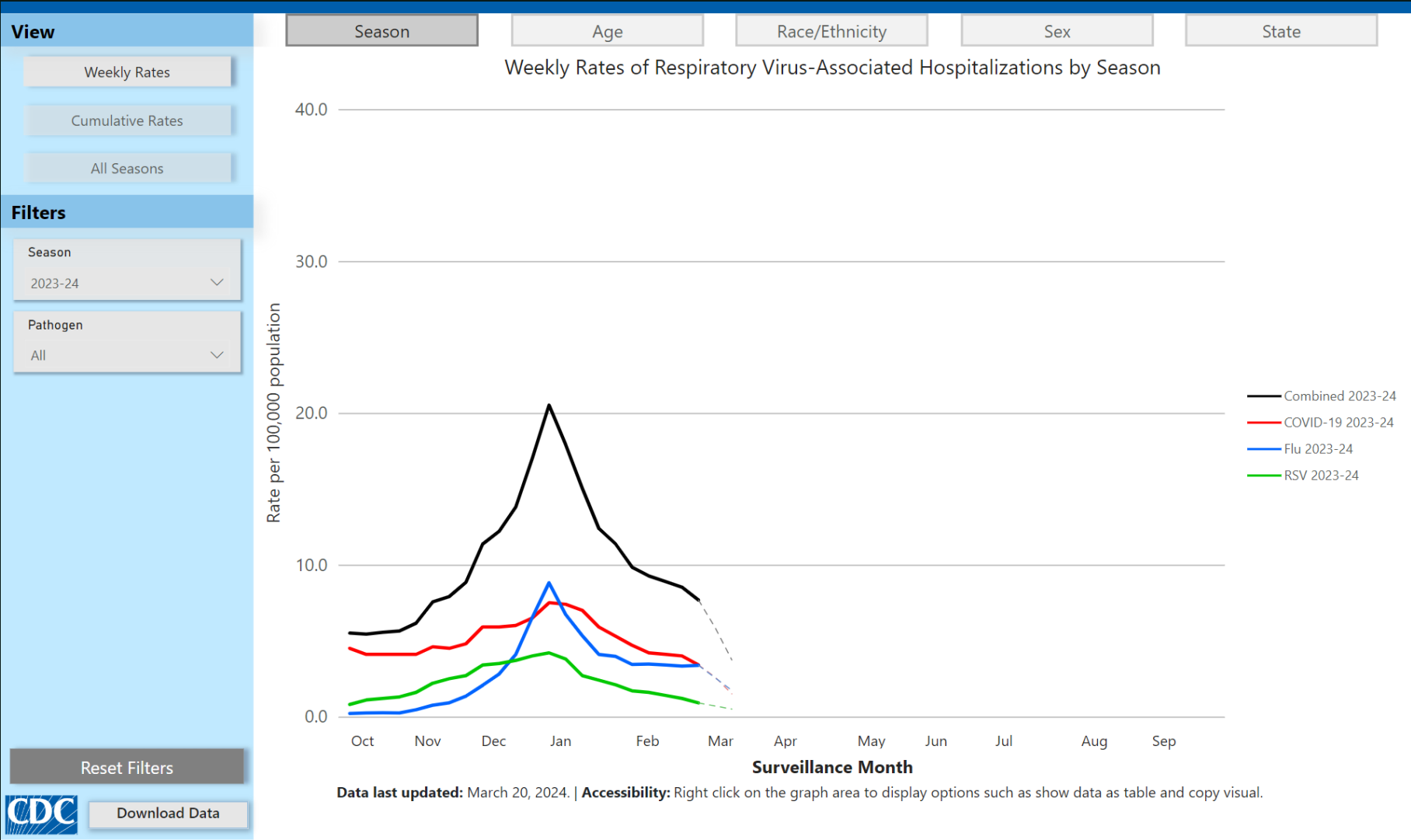


@WaDeptHealth
@WaHealthSec



2023-2024 Respiratory Disease Activity Update

U.S. Respiratory Disease Activity



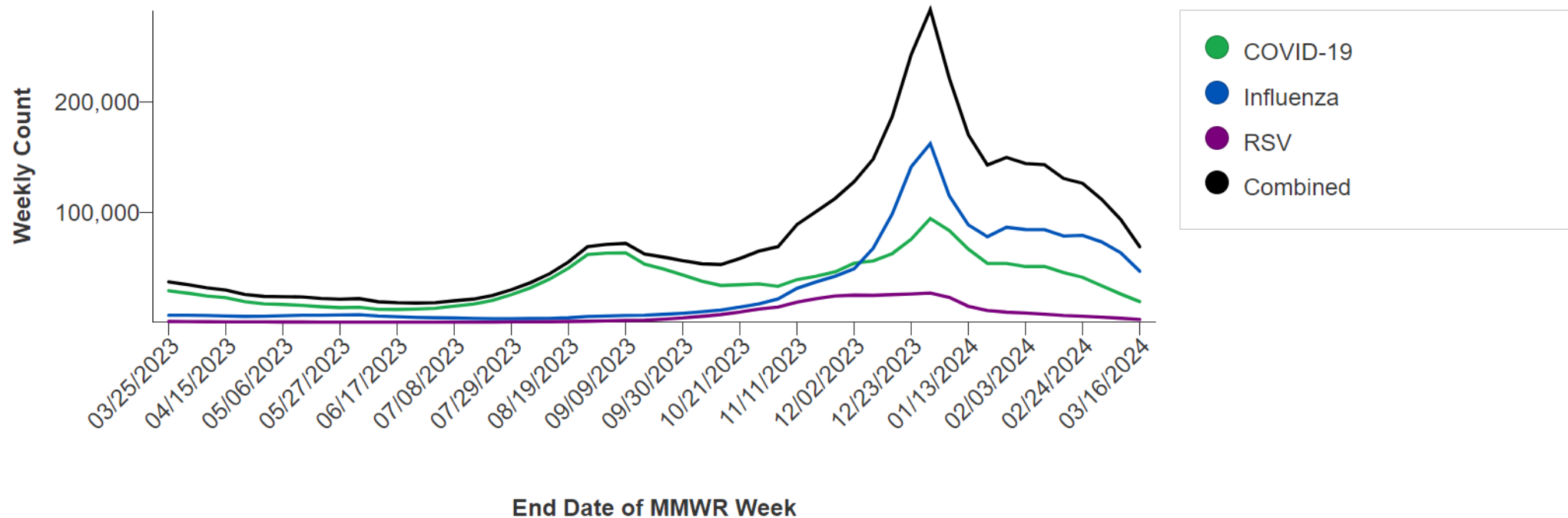
U.S. Respiratory Virus Emergency Department Visits

Weekly Emergency Department Visits by Age Group

Make a selection from the filters to change the visualization information.

Age Group

All Ages



Washington Respiratory Disease (Covid-19) Activity



DISEASE ACTIVITY

COVID-19

Influenza

RSV

Disease Trends

Season Totals

Health Disparities

DATA AS OF 03/18/2024 11:59PM PT

[Click here for dashboard user tips](#)

Typically, the respiratory disease season starts in October and ends in September the following year. This chart compares the current respiratory disease season's COVID-19 hospital admissions (dark pink line) to the two previous seasons. New hospital admissions track the spread of disease in communities and show how severe the disease is compared to past years. [Learn More](#)

Hospitalizations

Emergency Visits

Deaths

Positive Clinical Tests

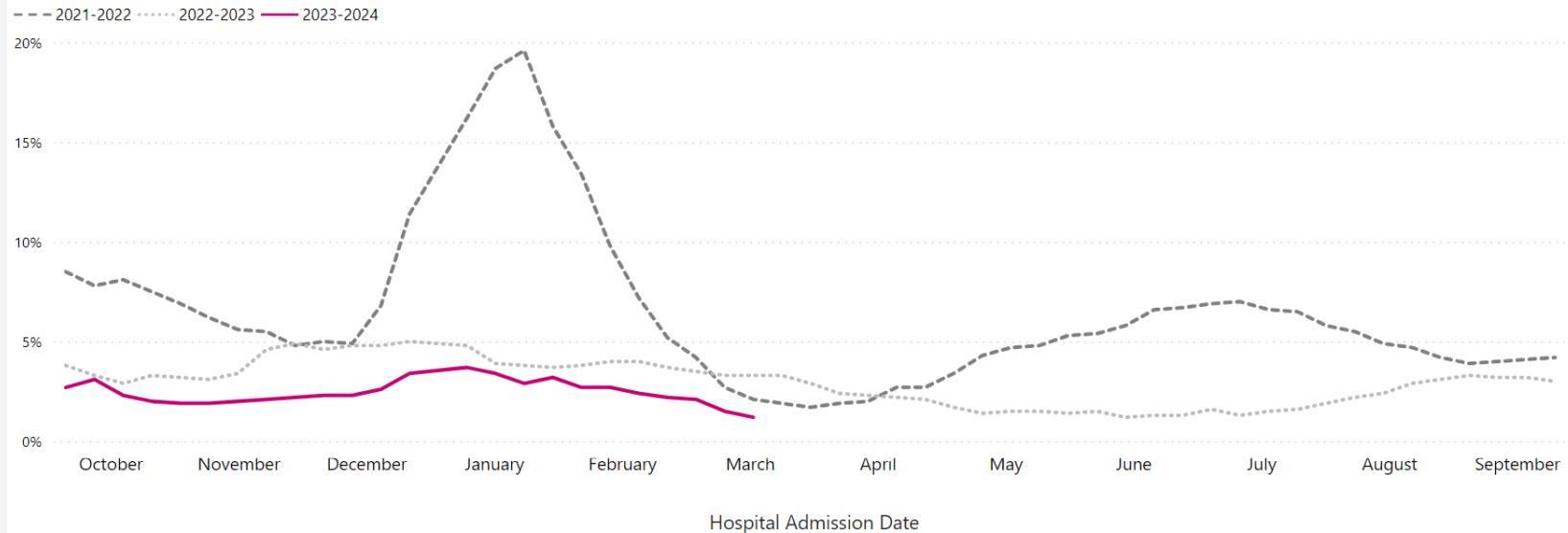
Variants

SELECT LOCATION

- Statewide
- ACH Region
 - Better Health
 - Cascade Pacific
 - Elevate Health
 - Greater Health Now
 - Healthier Here
 - North Sound
 - Olympic
 - Southwest

Map of ACH Regions

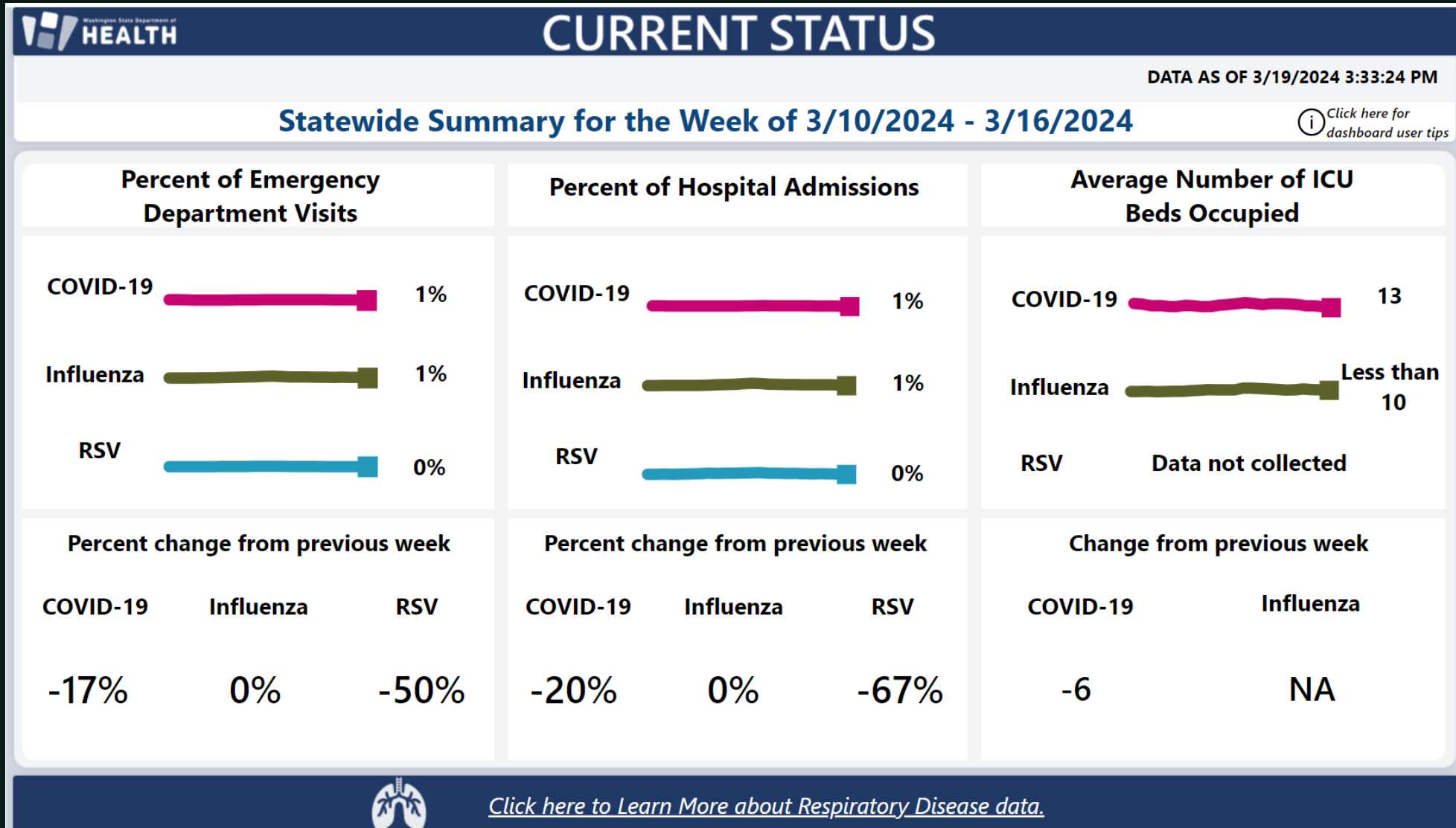
Trend: Percent of COVID-19 Hospitalizations for Statewide



0 of 165 hospitalizations from the most recent complete week do not have an assigned county.

Download

Washington Respiratory Disease Emergency Department Visits



CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance Update

Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot



Core prevention strategies

Immunizations



Hygiene



Steps for Cleaner Air



Treatment



Stay Home and Prevent Spread*



Additional prevention strategies

Masks



Distancing



Tests



Layering prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- ✓ Respiratory viruses are causing a lot of illness in your community
- ✓ You or those around you have risk factors for severe illness
- ✓ You or those around you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering

- * You can go back to your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both:
 - Your symptoms are getting better, and
 - You haven't had a fever.

When you go back to your normal activities, take **added precaution over the next 5 days**, such as taking additional steps for cleaner air and/or hygiene, masks, physical distancing, and/or testing when you will be around other people indoors.

WA-DOH Respiratory Virus Guidance Update



News Release

www.doh.wa.gov/newsroom

For immediate release: March 18, 2024

(24-030)

Contact: [DOH Communications](#)

Department of Health announces updated guidance for COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses

The new recommendations streamline guidance across multiple illnesses

U.S. Health and Human Services'
Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System Overview

What is the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)?

- National system in place to monitor vaccine safety
- Established in 1990
- Maintained, operated, and monitored by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Collects information about possible side effects that occur after administration of a United States-licensed or authorized vaccine for follow-up investigation
- Helps scientists notice trends or reasons they should investigate a possible problem
- VAERS website also shares vaccine safety-related information with parents/ guardians, health care providers, vaccine manufacturers, state vaccine programs, and others
- Anyone can report to and access information from VAERS
- Find more information, review data, or submit a VAERS report at vaers.hhs.gov

What is the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)?

- VAERS is designed to receive reports from healthcare providers, patients, parents, or anyone who witnessed or heard of a possible adverse reaction that occurred after getting any vaccine.
- Healthcare providers are required by law ([42 USC 300aa-25](#)) to report to VAERS when:
 - Any adverse event listed in the [VAERS Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination](#) that occurs within the specified time period after vaccination.
 - Any adverse event listed by the vaccine manufacturer as a contraindication to further doses of the vaccine.
- Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to report to VAERS when:
 - Any adverse event occurs after the administration of a vaccine licensed or authorized in the United States, **whether it is or is not clear that a vaccine caused the adverse event.**
 - Vaccine administration errors occur.
- Vaccine manufacturers are required to report to VAERS all adverse events that come to their attention.

How does VAERS work?

- Anyone can submit a report to VAERS.
- A VAERS report **does not** mean the vaccine caused the reaction or outcome.
- It is not possible to use VAERS data to calculate how often an adverse event occurs.
- VAERS offers a quick way for scientists to identify potential vaccine safety concerns for further follow-up.
- When safety concerns are identified, further studies are conducted using systems such as the CDC's [Vaccine Safety Datalink \(VSD\)](#) and [Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment \(CISA\)](#) to determine possible connections and health risks.
 - The VSD conducts vaccine safety studies based on questions or concerns raised from the medical literature and reports to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) and other vaccine safety systems. Since 1990, VSD published many studies to address vaccine safety concerns.
 - The CISA Project is a network of vaccine safety experts to improve understanding of possible reactions related to vaccines.

VAERS WONDER SYSTEM

- VAERS data are available to the public through a system called WONDER
- Data in WONDER may contain information that is incomplete, coincidental, or not able to be verified
- Data available to the public only includes the initial reports to VAERS
 - Updated data from medical records and corrections reported during follow-up are used by CDC and others for analysis. These data are not available to the public.
- Reports of death in WONDER may be misinterpreted or inaccurately analyzed
- **Ultimately, the data available in WONDER requires further investigation and should not be used to determine vaccine safety.**

VAERS and the WA-DOH

- It is the responsibility of the federal government (CDC, FDA) to monitor vaccine safety.
- VAERS staff may contact WA-DOH if assistance is needed for more information about specific cases, such as vaccination data.
 - CDC's Immunization Safety Office contacts State Vaccine Safety Coordinator or Immunization Managers to initiate conversation.
 - Follow-up can be challenging if limited information is submitted in VAERS.
- WA-DOH, like members of the public, can access the available [VAERS WONDER System](#).
 - DOH may also receive communication from CDC of VAERS reports that impact our state.
- WA-DOH encourages people to report to VAERS.

Do Your Part for Vaccine Safety —

Report to

VAERS

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System

A National Program for Monitoring Vaccine Safety

Find more information or submit a VAERS report at vaers.hhs.gov

WA-DOH State Legislative Update

WA-DOH Agency Request Legislation

- SB 6095 – Providing the Secretary of Health clear standing order authority
- SB 5982 – Updating the state's vaccine definition
- SB 2721 – Uniform facilities enforcement framework



Public Health Bills

SB 5983 – STI
Workgroup
Recommendations

SB 5829 –
Congenital
Cytomegalovirus

SB 6234 – Newborn
Screening for
BCKDK

Opioid Crisis

Substance Use Prevention
Education and Campaigns

HB 1956, HB 2396, SB 5906

Decontamination Guidance

HB 2396



Budget

- \$ 90M in new investments for DOH (including SBOH and LHJs)
- \$19M investments to address opioid crisis - data dashboards, naloxone distribution, prevention campaigns.
- Funding to review and update School Environmental Health Rules
- Expansion of Health Disparities Council

KEY TAKE AWAYS



- Updated guidance streamlines for multiple respiratory diseases. Protect yourself and loved ones from respiratory diseases by getting updated vaccines, washing your hands, covering cough.
- The Washington State Legislature had a productive session passing bills to increase access to syphilis treatment, enhance response to opioid crisis, and strengthen public health capacity.
- VAERS has been around for more than 30 years and is one tool of many to make sure vaccines are safe and efficacious.



IN IT TOGETHER!

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