



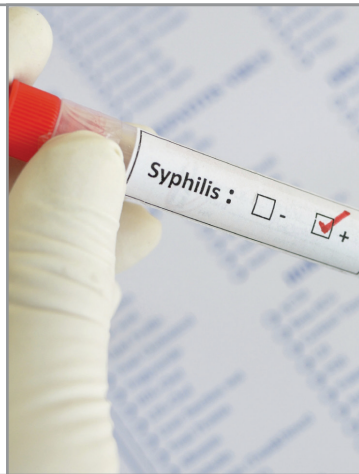
Budget cuts have left areas in Northwest Washington struggling to keep up with outbreaks – requiring staff to shift time away from important prevention activities.

## PRESCHOOL CLOSED TO PREVENT SPREAD OF E. COLI



When two children were hospitalized with complications from E. coli, the Snohomish Health District had to close the preschool they attended to prevent the spread of this serious disease. Working closely with school staff, the Department of Early Learning, and the state's Public Health Lab, more than 70 children and employees were tested in a matter of days. Health District staff also worked with the school to thoroughly sanitize the facility prior to re-opening. The school lost income during the closure, and families were forced to miss work until kids were cleared to return. Outreach to child cares on developing and enforcing health policies is critical to preventing closures like this.

## INCREASING STD RATES REGIONWIDE



Snohomish County's syphilis rates have increased 123% in one year, but the local health department does not have the staff or resources to do more than triage high-risk cases after they have been reported. Many local health departments around the state face the same lack of capacity for partner notification and, as a result, are seeing increased STD rates. With additional state funding, staff would be able to ramp up efforts to not only respond, but prevent and educate.

## SOME OF THE LOWEST VACCINE RATES IN U.S.



When it comes to getting kids ready for school, many parents seem to be forgetting their immunizations. In 2015, San Juan County found that 58% of kindergarteners did not meet school entry requirements for immunizations, compared with 17% of kindergarteners in Washington State. In Whatcom County, 76% of 11-12 year olds and 65% of 13-17 year olds are out of compliance with the CDC required vaccines for their age groups. San Juan County did a pilot project reaching out to each non-compliant family in one school district. It resulted in 36 of 38 students being vaccinated. However, the County lacks the resources to extend the project to other school districts or the preschool community.