



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

\$30,000 TO TREAT ONE TB CASE IN LEWIS COUNTY



In the last 18 months, staff from Lewis County Public Health have responded to three cases of active tuberculosis. Responding to these complex cases includes medical case management of the patient, as well as daily monitoring to ensure medication compliance. One case in particular had over 80 contacts that needed to be interviewed. Once the response was completed and the patient's TB was under control, the final price tag exceeded \$30,000.

E.COLI SICKENS CLARK COUNTY RESIDENTS



During last year's Chipotle E. coli outbreak, a response team coordinated local, state, and federal partners to analyze supply records to identify and remove the food that sent people to emergency rooms in Clark County. Doctors, nurses, and first responders depend on epidemiologists to track disease outbreaks, and local public health to coordinate a quick response to stop the spread of diseases. We simply can't expect our state and local public health departments to coordinate crisis response, such as E. coli or whooping cough outbreaks in a school, when they don't have the needed resources.

LARGE JUMP IN WHOOPING COUGH



In 2015, Clark County found itself in the midst of a whooping cough epidemic. That year health officials saw more than 230 cases of whooping cough--or pertussis--compared to just 21 the prior year. The highly contagious disease is especially dangerous for newborns and young infants who are not yet able to get vaccines. Disease investigators were kept busy responding to reports of illness while other staff were working to get critical information out to the medical community and media about the importance of immunizations.