



Board of Health

June 26, 2025



SRHD Board of Health

Health Officer's Report

Thursday, June 26, 2025
12:30 p.m.

Francisco R. Velázquez, MD, SM, FCAP
Health Officer
Spokane Regional Health District

I. Communicable Disease Update

- a. Pertussis
- b. Animal Bites
- c. COVID-19, LP.8.1 Variant

II. Public Health Update

- a. Measles Outbreak U.S. and Canada

III. Community Collaborations



Communicable Disease Update



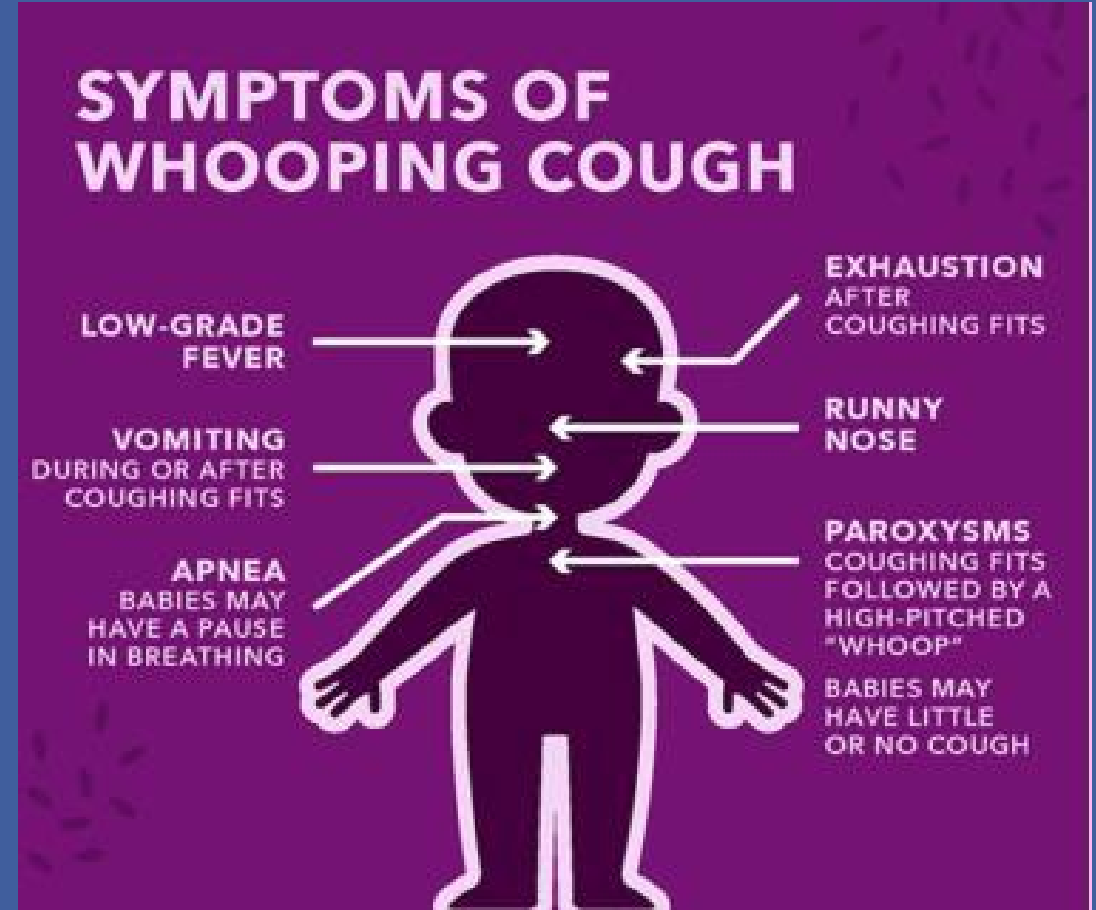
Pertussis

Current Situation in Washington State

There have been a total of 1,347 (554 in Spokane County) confirmed and probable cases reported statewide during 2025 as of 5/10/2025, compared to 343 cases during the same period in 2024 (State Average 85 cases/Year). Multiple jurisdictions have reported increases.

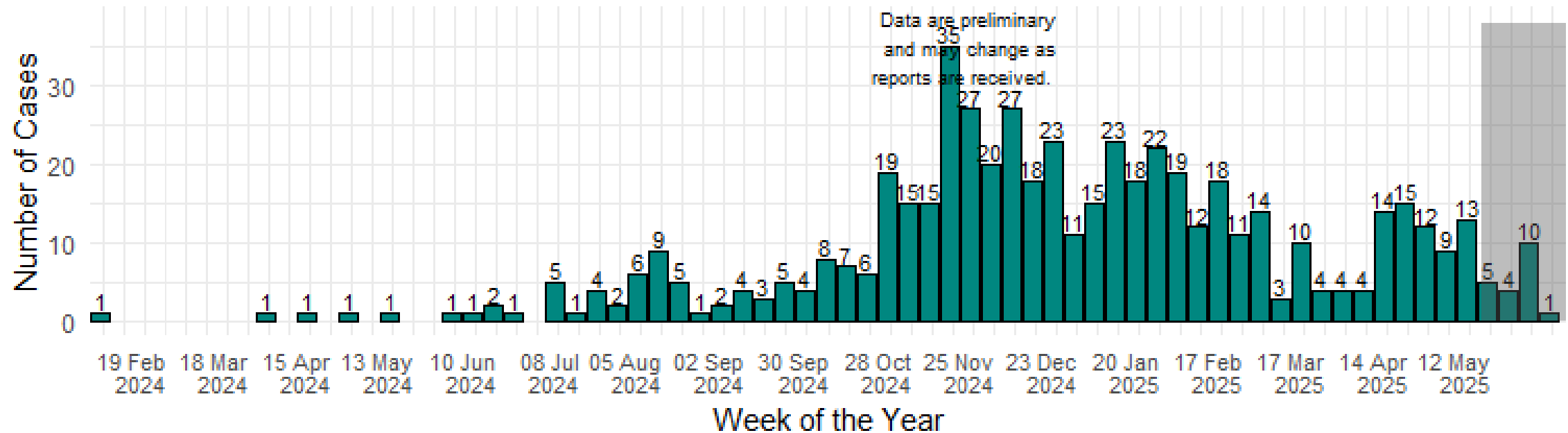
Persons at high risk for pertussis:

- Infants <1 year old (who are at greatest risk for severe disease and death)
- Pregnant women in the last trimester (who may expose infants)
- Healthcare workers with direct patient contact (who may expose infants, pregnant women, or others who have contact with infants or pregnant women)
- Anyone who may expose infants < 1 year old or pregnant women (e.g., childbirth educators, childcare workers, members of a household with infants).



Epidemiological Curve for Pertussis Cases in Spokane County

Lab confirmed, suspected, and probable cases



n = 552 Pertussis Cases; Data aggregated by week based on lab collection date

Exposure Setting of Pertussis Cases

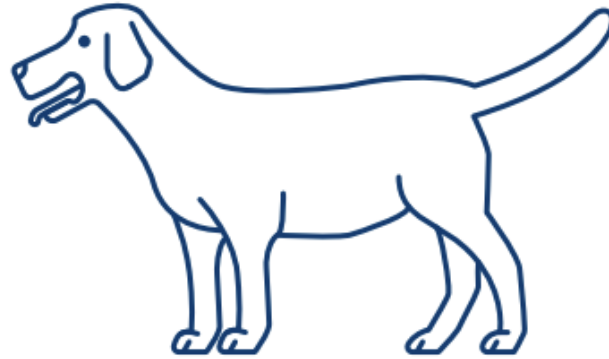
Suspected Exposure Setting	Count	Percentage
College	5	0.9%
Day care/childcare	7	1.3%
Home	193	36.2%
Hospital	1	0.2%
K-12	160	30.0%
Large public gathering	1	0.2%
Not Specified	68	12.8%
Other	53	9.9%
Out of state travel	5	0.9%
Place of worship	9	1.7%
Social event	15	2.8%
Work	16	3.0%



Animal Bites

90M DOGS

in the United States



45% of homes have
at least 1 dog

4.5M PEOPLE

bitten by dogs each year

Top 10
states
reporting
dog bite
claims
in 2023



Why do dogs bite?

- Defending themselves or their territory
- Feeling scared or startled
- Sensing a threat
- Guarding something valuable to them, like their puppies, their food, or a toy
- Feeling unwell or in pain, as when sick or injured
- Dogs also might nip and bite during play. Even though this may be fun for the dog, it can be dangerous for people if not properly managed.

- Rabies is a viral disease that infects the central nervous system. If a person does not receive the appropriate medical care after a potential rabies exposure, infection with the virus is almost always fatal. All warm-blooded mammals including humans are susceptible to rabies.
- All mammals can carry the rabies virus, which is primarily spread through saliva via a bite. Dogs have historically been a major carrier of the virus and, unfortunately, still are in many parts of the world. Canine rabies is preventable, and thanks to robust animal vaccination programs and wildlife management, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared the United States free of canine rabies in 2007.

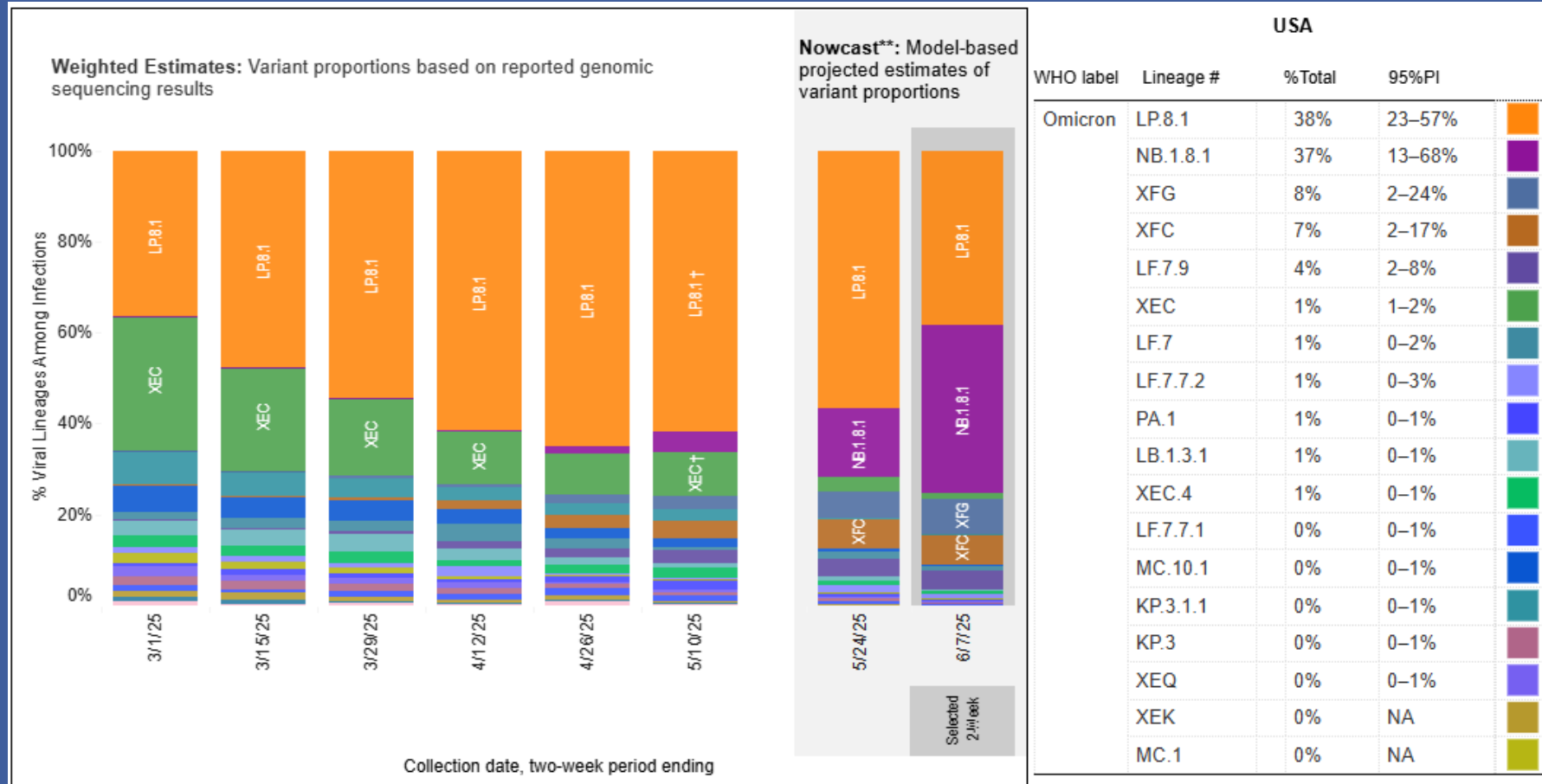
- Other mammals in the U.S. are known to transmit rabies. In some parts of the country, skunks, raccoons, and foxes are common carriers. This is referred to as “terrestrial rabies.”
- In Washington state, bats are the primary carrier of rabies. In 2024, 15 of 255 bats tested for rabies in Washington were rabid – including one in Spokane County, according to data from the Washington State Department of Health.
- During the last 30 years, four domestic animals in Washington have been diagnosed with rabies. In 2015, a cat infected with bat rabies virus was identified in Jefferson County. Previous identifications of animals infected with bat rabies virus include a cat in Walla Walla County in 2002 and a llama in King County in 1994. In 1992, a horse in Benton County died of an unidentified strain of rabies. The last suspected rabid dog was identified in Pierce County in 1987.

- The post-exposure protocol for rabies involves a four-dose vaccine series and is very effective at preventing rabies. What to do if bitten by an animal such as a cat, dog, etc.:
- Report animal bites to Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Services (SCRAPS) at 509-477-2533 and to Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) at srhd.org/report-a-bite or call 509-324-1560, ext. 7.
- Consult your provider for appropriate wound care, etc.



COVID-19; LP.8.1 Variant

Currently, the dominant variant nationwide is LP.8.1, with 38% of cases, followed by NB.1.8.1, with 37% of cases, and XFG, with 8% of cases



NB.1.8.1

- NB.1.8.1 derives from the recombinant variant XVD.1.5.1, which is a descendant of the omicron variant.
- The symptoms appear to be similar to infection with other variants. There is a large range of symptoms and severity.
- Some patients may have allergy-like symptoms, such as stuffy and runny nose.
- Others may have cold- or flulike symptoms, with fever, sore throat, fatigue, headache and muscle or body aches.
- Some people may develop cough and difficulty breathing. Some may have nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

NB.1.8.1

- The NB.1.8.1 also known as the "Nimbus" variant of COVID-19 many patients have reported a painful symptom they're calling "razor blade throat."
- "Your throat is so dry, so cracked, it's so painful, it's even hard to drink sometimes."
- If you have a severe sore throat, it's important to get tested to rule out strep throat to avoid severe complications.



Public Health Update



Measles Outbreak U.S .

Measles Cases in 2025

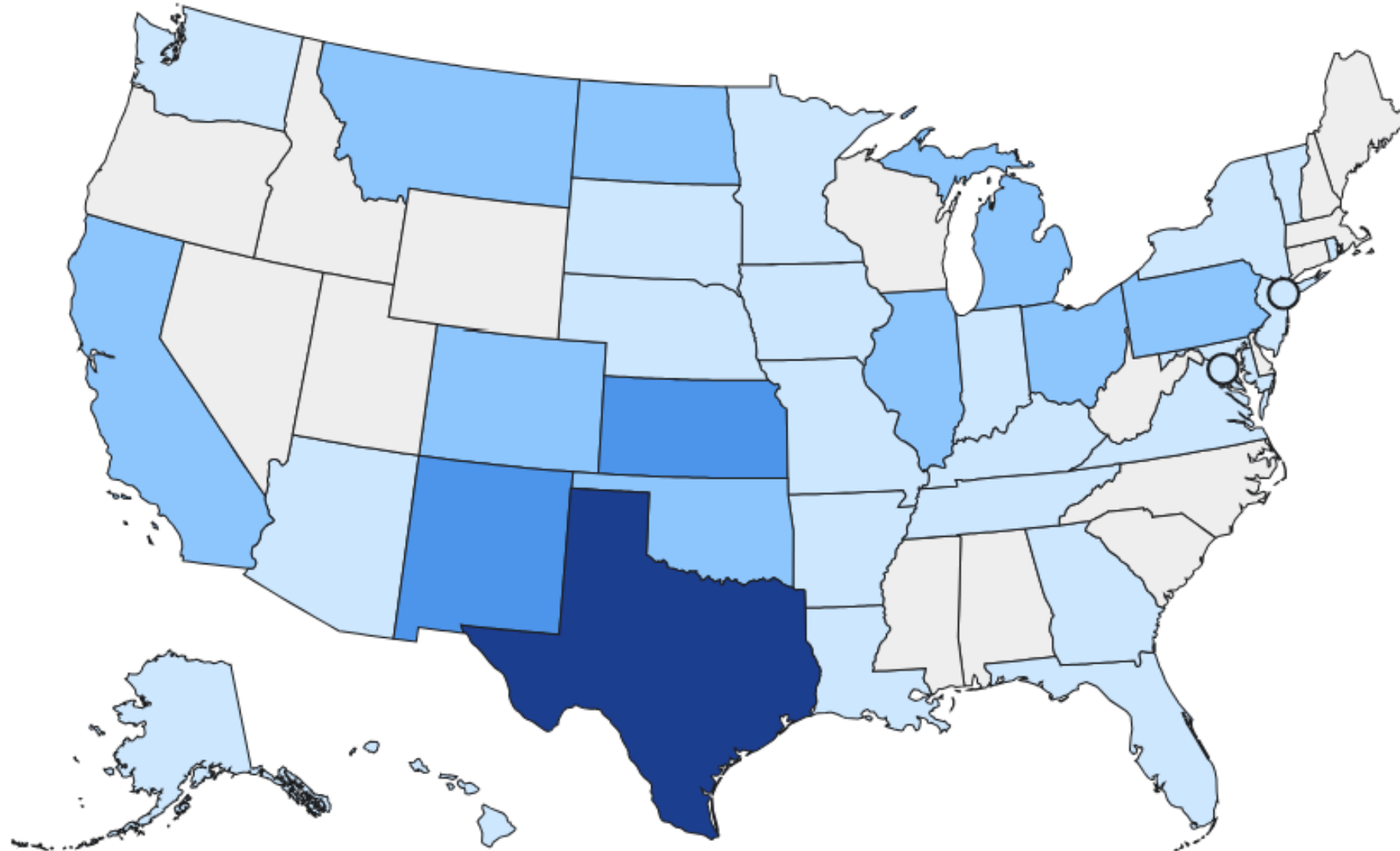
As of May 15, 2025, a total of 1214 confirmed* measles cases were reported by 36 jurisdictions:

Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

- 12% of cases hospitalized.
- 29% Under 5 years of age.
- 37% 5-19 years of age
- 33% 20+ years of age
- 1% age unknown
- 3 confirmed deaths

2025

2024





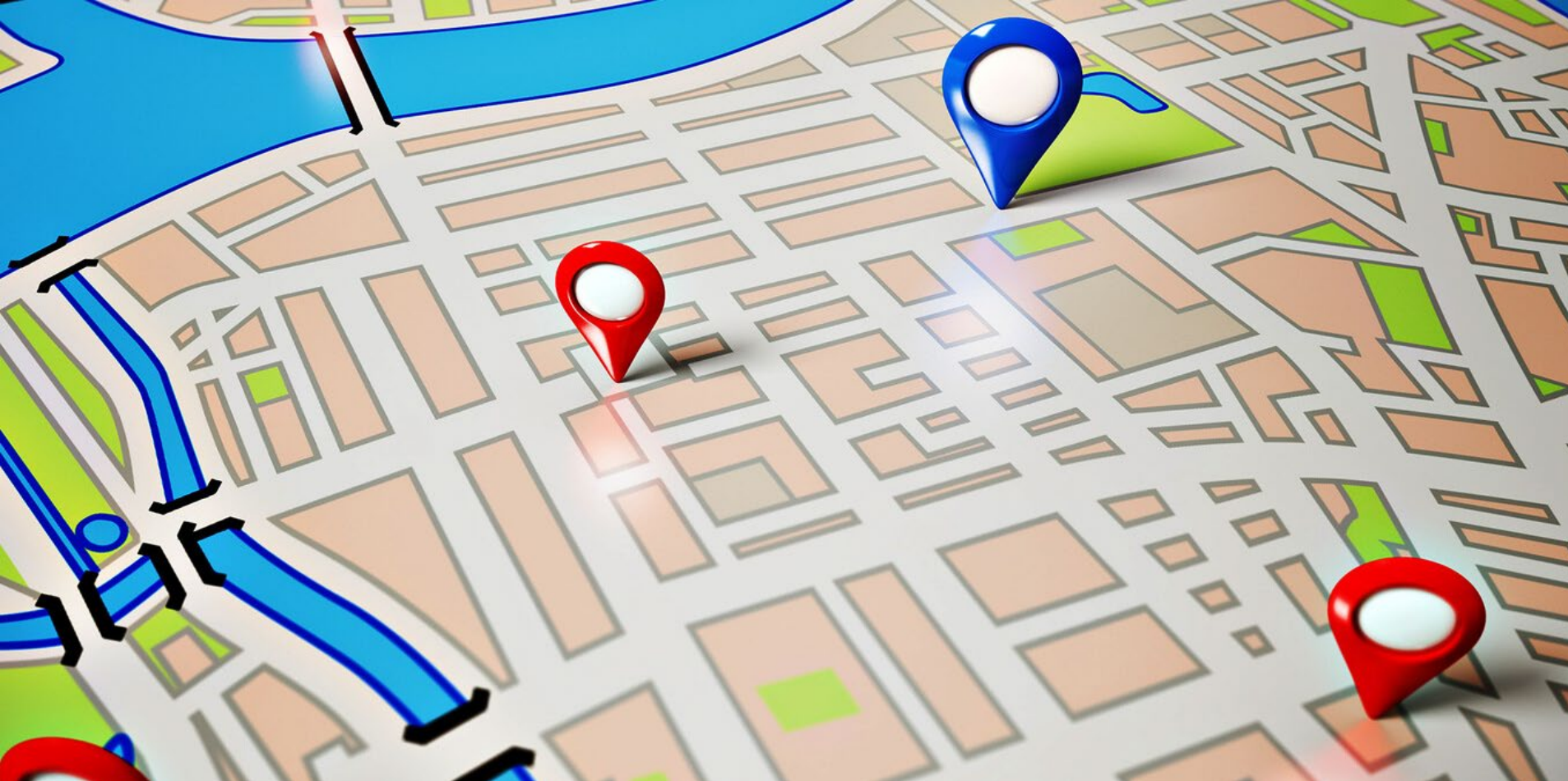
Community Collaborations



Spokane Regional Health District

Gabrielle's Challenge:
Spokane City Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Francisco R. Velázquez, MD, SM, FCAP
Health Officer
Spokane Regional Health District



- ✓ Fentanyl Roundtable
- ✓ Opioid Dashboard
- ✓ Treatment Services
- ✓ Naloxone Distribution
- ✓ Community Education
- ✓ Outreach Efforts
- ✓ Spike Alerts

What is SRHD Doing?





Activity Summary

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

This report presents the impact of various MRC activities, identifying key metrics, trends, and areas for improvement.

Impact	Number of Activities
Developed/Strengthened MRC unit	29
Improved community preparedness/resilience	38
Served a vulnerable population	8
Supported a non-emergency community event	8
Strengthened public health	25
Conducted training/exercise to improve unit or community response	24

2024

60 Activities

Economic Impact

\$16,921.67

Volunteers

149

7,592 People served

2025 (through 5/31)

45 Activities

Economic Impact

\$13,059.92

Volunteers

70

4,016 People served



**2025 WAMOA
REGION 1
TRAINING SEMINAR**

**J U N E
2 5
2 0 2 5**

**SHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL
4106 N COOK ST.
SPOKANE, WA 99207
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM**

JUSTIN EAST:
justin.east@spokaneschools.org

OR 509.354.7144

JERRY PAGE:
jpage@esd101.net
OR 509.789.3518



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Pools & Water Recreation

Swimming is fun and healthy. Let's keep it that way.

Permits, Inspections & Operations

Construction, Remodeling & Renovation

Drowning Prevention

Contact Us

Complaints and illnesses associated with public or semi-public water recreation facilities are investigated.

📞 509.324.1560 ext 4 ✉ livingenvironment@srhd.org

- Review plans for new pool construction (we are one of 5 counties in the state that does this, along with the State Department of Health Water Recreation Program)
- Inspect public pools (city, county and health clubs) and semi-public pools (apartments, hotels/motels, home owner associations)
- Conduct regular inspections to prevent injury and illness:
- Annual pools (mostly indoor pools and spas) – we inspect twice per year – approximately 150 inspections
- Seasonal pools (outdoor pools, spray pools and a few spas) that operate for 6 months or less – we inspect once per year – just under 250 inspections
- Also inspect other features at these water recreation facilities such as water slides, lazy rivers, play toys and some new features including a climbing wall, Ninja Cross and Aqua Zip'n (rope swing)
- We conduct additional inspections for repeat or critical violations of the regulations



Questions



Board of Health

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