

# HEALTH ADVISORY



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH**

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum  
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

**TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers**

**Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

**Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH**

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

**Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH**

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, (360) 414-5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, (360) 795-6207

### **Alert categories:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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To subscribe or unsubscribe from this listserv, email: [Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov).

**Background**

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Washington currently is experiencing its biggest outbreak of mumps disease in at least 10 years. The outbreak was first identified in November 2016, with a total of 349 confirmed and probable cases reported to date. Affected counties include King, Ferry, Grant, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston and Yakima Counties. No mumps cases have been reported to date in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, or Wahkiakum counties. However, as the outbreak continues, we would like to remind providers of the reporting and testing criteria.

**Requested Actions**

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- Consider mumps in the differential diagnosis of patients with compatible symptoms:**  
Any person who has parotitis should be evaluated. Even fully vaccinated persons can develop parotitis or mild nonspecific findings such as upper respiratory infections and abdominal or testicular pain. It is important that you as clinicians evaluate the full differential diagnosis of mild nonspecific etiologies before requesting mumps testing in the absence of parotitis.
- Report suspect and confirmed cases to your local health jurisdiction (LHJ) within 24 hours**  
In Washington state, a suspect mumps case is reportable to Public Health within 24 hours. Please notify your LHJ even if you decide to test for mumps through a commercial lab. Early notification allows early follow-up by public health.
- Request permission to test through the Public Health Lab from your LHJ prior to specimen submission**  
All requests for mumps testing through the Washington State Public Health Lab must first be approved by your LHJ prior to specimen submission. For Clark County, providers are encouraged to use the enclosed Suspect Mumps Screening Worksheet.
- Consider ordering mumps serology (IgG and IgM) through commercial labs.**

To report or for questions about testing, please contact your LHJ.

LHJ	Phone	Fax
Clark County Public Health:	(360) 397-8182	(360) 397-8080
Cowlitz County Health Department:	(360) 414-5599	(360) 425-7531
Skamania County Community Health:	(509) 427-3850	(509) 427-0188
Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services:	(360) 795-6207	(360) 795-6143

**Thank you for your partnership.**

## **Resources**

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- Clark County Public Health Suspect Mumps Worksheet:  
<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/resources-healthcare-providers>
- WA State Dept. of Health Mumps Outbreak Information:  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Mumps/MumpsOutbreak>
- WA DOH Mumps Outbreak Toolkit for Health Care Providers  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/348-591MumpsOutbreakToolkitforHCP.pdf>
- CDC Laboratory Confirmation by IgM Serology and Questions and Answers:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mumps/lab/overview-serology.html>