



Immunizing Rural Washington

September 2026

Northeast Tri County

- Predominantly white, non-Hispanic, 72-88%
 - Ferry Co. reports 16-18% American Indian or Alaska Native
- All 3 counties are considered rural
- 28-36% of individuals live at or below 200% FPL
- Public transportation is limited or non-existent
- Medical care is limited to more populated areas



Background & Goal for Childhood Immunization Program (CIP)

- The Northeast Tri-County area has consistently been among the lowest childhood immunization rates of all the counties in Washington state.
 - Bottom 5 of the 39 counties in Washington State for completion rates multiple times over the last decade
 - 2025-2026: #5 Ferry – 81.4%; #4 Stevens – 79.2%; #1 Pend Oreille – 69.1%
- Barriers: lack of transportation, limited access to providers
- Goal: To increase childhood vaccination rates by increasing access to and opportunities for childhood immunization across our 3 counties

CIP Focus Areas

- Pop-up Immunization Clinics
 - Immunization Liaison Program
- Medical Providers
- Schools
- Parents

VFC vs AVP Funding

Vaccines for Children (VFC)



- Created in 1993 by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
- Law under section 1928 of the Social Security Act
 - Federal entitlement program
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approves funding yearly, allocates to CMS -> CDC, buys the vaccines -> distributed to states
- List of vaccines covered is by the ACIP

Adult Vaccine Program/ 317 Immunization Program



- Authorized by Section 317 of the Public Health Service Act in 1963
- Federal Grant Program
 - Discretionary
- Annual congressional appropriation
- Uninsured Adults, Outbreak response & Infrastructure
- States determine vaccines

Types of Pop-Up Immunization Clinics

1 Immunization Liaison Program

- Modeled after Spokane Health District Vaccine Liaison Program
- School nurse provides immunizations at school under NETCHD standing orders as a volunteer
- MOU with School District to provide immunizations on school grounds
- NETCHD provides the immunizations and administrative support

2 Back-to-School Events

- Work with schools and local partners to bring immunizations to already occurring back-to-school events or set up an event with schools that are willing
- Utilize mobile clinics/vans already providing immunization services: WSU Range Health, NEW Health mobile

Immunization Liaison Program



8 school districts enrolled – 5 Full, 3 Partial



Partial – allows NETCHD to come onto school grounds to do pop-up immunization clinics, but school nurse is not a vaccinator



Full – School Nurse is a vaccinator, and MOU is used in full capacity for the school nurse to vaccinate at school as needed for students, NETCHD provides the vaccine for the nurse to use

Immunization Liaison Clinics 2025-26 SY

- Orient SD
 - 3 clinics
 - 10 immunizations
- Mary Walker SD
 - 1 clinic
 - 10 immunizations
- Columbia SD
 - 3 clinics
 - 32 immunizations
- Chewelah SD
 - 1 clinic
 - 27 immunizations



- Curlew SD
 - 1 clinic
 - 8 immunizations
- Colville SD
 - 4 clinics
 - 21 immunizations
- Kettle Falls SD
 - 3 clinics
 - 20 immunizations
- Summit Valley SD
 - 3 clinics
 - 7 immunizations

Total: 135 Immunizations

Back-to-School Events 2026

- 08/05 – Northport Round Up
 - WSU Range Health
- 08/06 – North Pend Orielle
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 08/11 – Kettle Falls HS
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 08/12 – Colville HS
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 08/13 – Curlew Back-to-School
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 8/18 – Mary Walker Community Block Party
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 08/19 – Columbia SD Back-to-School
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 8/20 – Republic Back to School Fair
 - NEW Health & Republic Medical Clinic
- 8/20 – Chewelah Open House
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 8/24 – Valley SD Open House
 - NEW Health Mobile
- 8/25 – Colville Back to School Fair
 - NEW Health
- 8/26 – Newport Back to School Fair
 - WSU Range Health
- 8/27 – Keller SD Open House
 - Table only no services
- 8/27 – Kettle Falls Middle School
 - NEW Health Mobile

Total: 53 Immunizations

Other Areas of Focus

- Medical Providers
 - In-person Motivational Interviewing (MI) training in June 2025 for medical providers in Colville and Newport
 - Follow-up virtual session in November 2025
 - 2 Virtual MI training series offered in March 2026 & April – June 2026
 - Email list – quarterly (or so) emails with new resources and webinars/educational opportunities
 - Created fact sheets based on provider input for needed resources
- Schools
 - School Newsletter blurbs during the school year
 - Email list for school nurses similar to medical providers list
- Parent Education
 - Immunization Corner on website
 - Social Media

Motivational Interviewing for Vaccine Hesitancy

- Motivational Interviewing is a helping conversation where the mindset, skillset, and heartset are different
- Mindset – there are 2 experts in the room, not just 1. The person you're interacting with is the expert on their life and their abilities.
- Skillset – OARS
 - Open-ended questions
 - Affirmations
 - Reflections
 - Summaries
- Heartset – lead with genuine curiosity towards the person, the goal is to connect & build a relationship

Call to Action



Get involved with your local health department



Support WithinReach & their immunization team



Pay attention to vaccine related legislation and write/call your local representatives urging them to support pro-vaccine bills

Vaccine Information Resources

- American Academy of Pediatrics
 - Professionals: <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immunizations/>
 - Family: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 - <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center>
- Vaccinate Your Family
 - <https://vaccinateyourfamily.org/>
- Voices for Vaccines
 - <https://www.voicesforvaccines.org/>

MI Resources

- Motivational Interviewing book by Miller & Rollnick (the developers of MI) : <https://www.amazon.com/Motivational-Interviewing-Helping-People-Applications/dp/146255279X>
- Motivational Interviewing in Healthcare Guide:
 - <https://a.co/d/9lZmny1>
- Free video demonstrations on <https://changecompanies.net/>



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