

UPDATE for the Community



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Alliance Issues 13th Community Checkup Report

If it is true what they say, that “data get better with use,” then we are truly fortunate here in Washington. The latest edition of the Washington Health Alliance’s Community Checkup report is our biggest ever with results on more than 110 performance measures for 1,978 clinics, 376 medical groups, 123 hospitals, 16 health plans, 39 counties and all nine Accountable Communities of Health measures for four million people for calendar year 2018. There is something for everyone in this release, as the *Community Checkup* will be useful to individuals and purchasers to locate high quality health care and health plans and providers to track and compare their performance to others.

What is most exciting is that with this edition, the Alliance now has five years of publicly-accessible data on our website at WACommunityCheckup.org. That means you can search all of those measures any way that you want. By going to the [Scores](#) page and selecting a county, for example, you can see how it compares to the state average on all measures or just the those you’re interested in, such as access to care, behavioral health, cardiovascular disease, potentially avoidable care, preventive health, etc., You can also drill down and see all or individual results for each Accountable Community of Health, clinic, health plan, hospital, or medical group [here](#).

[Read Nancy's full letter HERE](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Alliance Webinar *Embracing Today, Sprinting Towards the Future*](#)
- [National Off-Site Testing Guidance](#)
- [Joining the Alliance](#)

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Are you interested in learning more about membership in the Alliance? [Learn more about the value of Alliance membership.](#)

Choosing Wisely

Choosing Wisely is a campaign designed to provide easy-to-understand guides for getting better, safer, more effective care. It is a partnership between the Alliance, The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the Washington State Medical Association and others. [Learn more.](#)

Visit the Community Checkup website

The Community Checkup website helps consumers make informed choices by giving them access to a robust and accessible supply of data and resources. [Learn more.](#)

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Alliance Webinar *Embracing Today, Sprinting Towards the Future*

In the Alliance's second webinar, "Embracing Today, Sprinting Towards the Future," Nancy Giunto led a panel

discussion on where we are now and where we are heading post-COVID. President of the Washington Roundtable Steve Mullin said the state economy is taking a hit, with an estimated 850,000 jobs that will be lost due to COVID-19 by the end of May, that's 25% of jobs in the state. About 700,000 people have already lost their jobs and applied for unemployment insurance. "What is particularly concerning," Mullin said "is that 60% of those jobs are in what we would consider vulnerable households, with an income of less than \$50,000 a year."

Looking at it by sector, Mullin said the largest group, 110,000 people that filed for unemployment are in the food service industry. The next largest, 80,000 people, are from the health care and social assistance sector, predominantly in the elective health care and dentistry fields. The other categories of highest job losses are construction, retail, and manufacturing. Mullin predicted that keeping safe social distancing will be key to re-opening businesses. "It won't be a light switch, it'll be a dial and the presumption there is that those that demonstrate they can operate most safely should have an opportunity to open perhaps quicker than those that cannot. Businesses have a strong incentive and don't want us to spike in public health outcomes that would lead to re-establishment of the 'Stay Home Stay Healthy' restrictions."

Public health outcomes are key for panelist John Wiesman, Secretary of Health for the Washington Department of Health (DOH), too. Wiesman said 9/11 helped give them an advantage in terms of emergency planning, but the way DOH is structured, "it's more of a planning organization with 35 public health agencies." Wiesman acknowledged that the pandemic has shown the public health system's weaknesses; it is under-resourced, under-staffed and with data systems in need of modernization.

"To really get to the place where we can return safely to public life, we have got to have much larger numbers of testing occurring, so that we are really identifying anybody who's got symptoms and getting them tested quickly." Wiesman said currently Washington state's labs can test at least 21,000 a day and DOH is adding about 750 trained contact investigators from the National Guard to help those identify anyone who may have been in contact with those who test positive for COVID-19.

Looking at reducing COVID-19 long-term is Dr. Lisa Jackson, Senior Researcher at Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute. Jackson is leading phase 1 of a federally sponsored clinical trial of the first COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA-1273, made by Moderna. Unlike other vaccines that have been traditionally made by grinding up the virus and injecting it into the body, Jackson calls this vaccine "21st century technology," that identifies the genetic code for what the body should react to. "The genetic code is synthetically made in the laboratory, involving no component of the actual virus, it's then packaged up and when injected, it goes into cells in the body and has those cells make that spike protein. So then, having been primed in that way, should

The Washington Health Alliance brings together those who give, get and pay for health care to create a high-quality, affordable system for the people of Washington state.

the person become infected with the actual coronavirus, the cells are sort of lying in wait and ready to respond more quickly and more robustly.”

Jackson said they injected the first person with the vaccine on March 16th, which was only two months after the genetic sequence was posted on an international website for researchers. Jackson called it an “amazingly rapid entry of a vaccine into a clinical trial,” but warned that it is likely a vaccine will not be available for widespread public use for a year to 18 months.

While we wait for a vaccine, staying well can be challenging, according to panelist Katrina Egner, Vice President and Chief Programs Officer at Sound. She offered several techniques for being and staying well, among them: understanding the various stages from the beginning, the heroics and honeymoon phases, that commonly give way to feelings of disillusionment, apathy, and anxiety. She recognized that we are seeing those responses more and more with the increase in substance abuse, depression, and domestic violence.

Egner suggested people take some deliberate actions, such as limiting news intake and to think about “What’s one good habit you could form? Habits take about 66 days, to be exact, to form, when you look back on this period of time, is there one thing you can be proud of that you did that maybe you wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise? Is there one thing that makes you happy? Do it every single day.” Lastly, she advised people to “be kind and patient with people around you” and understand that everyone may be dealing with their challenges differently.

Both All-Alliance webinars have been recorded and are available for members to view. The opportunity to attend All-Alliance meetings is one benefit of membership in the Washington Health Alliance. For information on becoming a member, click [here](#).



National Off-Site Testing Guidance

The Alliance participated in a rapid response project on COVID-19 off-site testing with the Network for Regional Health Improvement (NRHI) and Qualidigm. Key considerations and

lessons gleaned from interviews with individuals on the front line of planning and delivering the testing were released last week. Briefly summarized, the one pager outlines the practical steps to conduct safe off-site testing by:

- identifying leaders and partners;
- determining testing capacity and the follow up process;
- deciding who will be tested;
- developing protections for testing staff; and
- figuring out funding sources.

Nancy Giunto served as an advisor on the project and presented during the unveiling of the results. “This is remarkable work done in very short order. While we may be ahead of the country because many of our testing sites have been operating for some time, that’s where our experience can help others. Now the key is to get this guidance into the right hands.”

The results are available for distribution [here](#). The peer-reviewed report is expected to be published later this month.

Joining the Alliance

Our members can be the best ambassadors for our work. If you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, we have an online tool to help you talk about the value of Alliance membership. [Learn more at our Join Us website](#).

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