

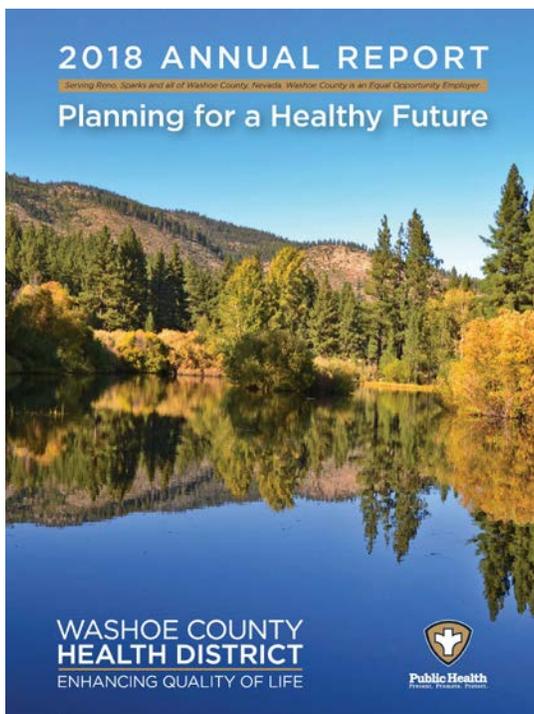
February/March 2019

From the Office of the District Health Officer

Annual Reports Released

Several annual reports have been released and are now available on the Washoe County Health District website for review.

The [2018 Washoe County Health District Annual Report](#) reviews important activities and highlights within each division during the last calendar year. It also features some very beautiful local landscapes captured by Cindy Hawks from the Washoe County Health District Health District Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Division.



In this issue:

- Annual Reports Released
- Record Breaking Burn Code Season Ends
- 2018 Measles Outbreak Featured Twice by CDC
- Washoe County Health District Featured in World Premier Film on Superbugs
- Waste Info and Recycling Get Stuffed
- Outbreaks Tough on Washoe County Schools and Daycares this season

The [2018 Community Health Improvement Plan Annual Report](#) and [Executive Summary](#) are also available now, as are the [2018-2020 Community Health Needs Assessment](#) and [Executive Summary](#). All four of these documents are important in "Planning for a Healthy Future," the theme of the 2018 Annual Report.

Record Breaking Burn Code Season Ends

For the first time since the Know the Code Burn Code Program began, no Yellow Code recommendations, or Red Code restrictions were called during the burning season. A winter of unsettled weather and mixing meant fewer people were burning their wood stoves, pellet stoves and fireplaces, bringing us No Bad Days this season!

The Burn Code Program, which runs from November through February started in 1987, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began enforcing stricter regulations for particulate matter. The *uber-clean* season is very impressive if you consider the unprecedented growth in Washoe County since 1987.

2018 Measles Outbreak featured twice by the Centers from Disease Control and Prevention

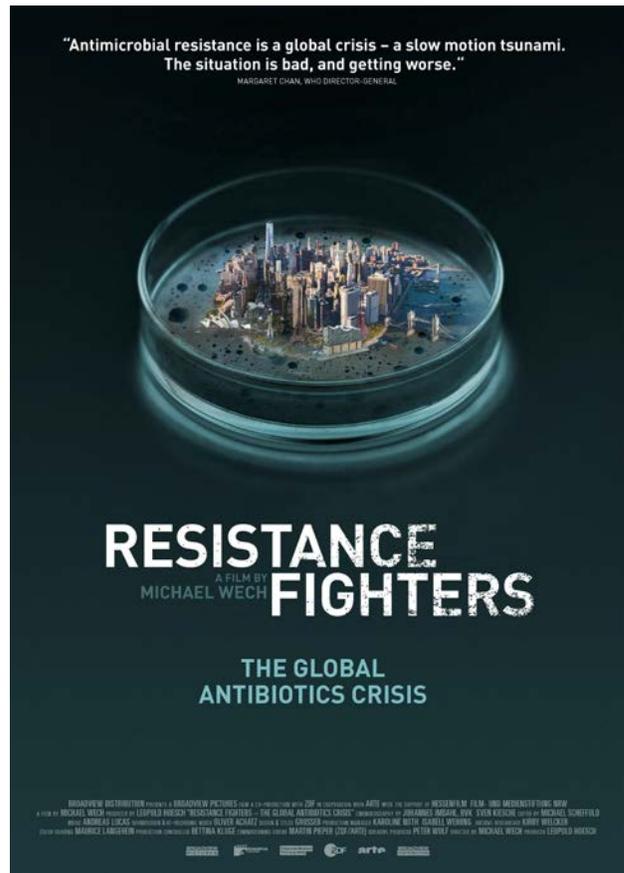
The 2018 Measles outbreak involving a University of Nevada, Reno student was featured in March in the CDC's MMWR *Notes from the Field: Measles Outbreak in an Era of Stricter Immunization Requirements*. Quick response with public information and outreach, interviews, screenings, and exclusion proved critical in halting further spread of the highly-contagious disease at the university and throughout the community. Congratulations to Epidemiologist Heather Holmstadt and the rest of the Epi staff.

Washoe County Health District's CDC Public Health Associate Sophie Banspach was also recognized by the CDC when her abstract on the 2018 outbreak was accepted for presentation in Atlanta March 19 -22. Sophie interviewed Health District personnel who played key roles in coordinating our response to the incident which involved working with local, state, regional and national offices at both the private business and government levels.

Washoe County Health District featured in World Premier Film on Superbugs at the 2019 Copenhagen Film Festival

The Washoe County Health District and footage of the Reno skyline and other sites will be featured briefly in a German documentary entitled *Resistance Fighters* which premieres this March at the 2019 Copenhagen Film Festival.

According to the film's promoter, "Each year, 700 000 people worldwide are killed by multi-resistant bacteria – microbes which cannot be wiped out by any antibiotic. According to a recent study, this death toll could rise by factor ten until the year 2050: without powerful agents up to



10 million people could die each year due to such superbugs. The film tells us how we got there: It is a story about how negligence, greed, and short-sightedness have rendered the lifesaving effects of antibiotics powerless. It is a science-thriller about disillusioned, fighting doctors, rebellious scientists, patients wrestling with life-threatening diseases and diplomats searching for a global solution."

[Here is a link to the trailer.](#) Dr. Lei Chen, can be seen at about 1min 48sec. into the clip. Lei also co-authored the #1 MMWR read in 2017, along with Dr. Randall Todd, about the Washoe County Health District's work in investigating the death locally of a patient due to the superbug **New Delhi Metallo-Beta-Lactamase-Producing Klebsiella pneumoniae**.

See if you can recognize the other Reno scenes in the brief clip.

