



For Your Information – July 2005

At the State Board of Health (SBOH), we believe information is essential. For several years we have been making SBOH and health-related information available through the distribution of our Board meeting agendas with an attached segment simply called, "FYI". To make this information more accessible we have created this Web page. This page will be updated on a regular basis and should be considered the go-to source for current information on correspondence to and from the Board, a selection of health publications, and health-related conferences.

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Announcements and Press Releases

- **Washington State Department of Health**
Release date: July 8, 2005
Notice of public hearing regarding PSP fee revision for commercial shellfish harvesters. The public hearing will take place on Tuesday, August 9, 2005 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Point Plaza East building in Tumwater, Washington.
- **Washington State Department of Health**
Source: Ms. Jan Fleming, Maternal and Child Health Director, Department of Health
Vaccine supply update on Menactra. Sanofi-Pasteur has announced that they are limiting orders for their meningococcal conjugate vaccine, Menactra, to 20 doses per month per provider. Demand has outpaced production resulting in this limitation on orders. In addition, the latest information from Sanofi-Pasteur indicates that delays in Menactra shipments may extend to August 30, 2005.

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Events and Conferences

July 2005

- | Date | Name and Location |
|------------|--|
| July 11-22 | 2005 Executive Management Program: Foundations for Strategic Leadership www.cascadecourses.org The University of Washington Seattle Campus Seattle, Washington |
| July 25-26 | How to Design: Learn Essential Graphic Design and Layout Skills That'll Make Every Project You Produce More Visually Powerful and Effective! Howard Johnson Tacoma, Washington |
| July 25-27 | Comprehensive Health Education Foundation's 10th Annual National Prevention Symposium For more information: www.chef.org or 1-800-323-2433 Marriott Marina del Rey Marina del Rey, California |
| July 27-28 | How to Design: Learn Essential Graphic Design and Layout Skills That'll Make Every Project You Produce More Visually Powerful and Effective! Red Lion Hotel Olympia, Washington |

August 2005

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|--|
| August 5-8 | Creating Healthy Lifestyles for the 21st Century Conference on Food, Soil, and Environmental Chemical Connections to Health Using the Wisdom of the True Health Pioneers, Past and Present Ocean Shores Convention Center Ocean Shores, Washington |
| August 6-9 | The 5th Annual Life's End Institute Retreat Missoula, Montana |
| August 7-9 | NASHP's 18th Annual State Health Policy Conference www.nashp.org Nashville, Tennessee |
| August 8-12 | The Art of Leading through Others For information: http://www.cascadecourses.org or 206-616-1748 Cascade Center for Public Service and Leadership, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs University of Washington Seattle, Washington |

- August 10-13 National Association of Local Boards of Health
13th Annual Conference
Hilton Suites Downtown
Nashville, Tennessee
- August 11 National Health Center Week
For information: 253-597-4550
Community Health Care's Lakewood Clinic
Lakewood, Washington
- August 15-19 2005 International Congress on Medical Law and The 1st World Conference on
Public Health Law & Ethics
COEX InterContinental Hotel
Seoul, Korea
- August 24-26 20th Annual Merrill Scott Symposium on Alcoholism
For information: <http://www.sundown.org>
Yakima Convention Center
Yakima, Washington
- September 2005
- | Date | Name and Location |
|-----------------|---|
| Sept. 8-9 | Washington Summit on Alcohol & Other Drug Issues Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center Tacoma, Washington |
| Sept. 13-15 | 2005 Syndromic Surveillance Conference: Advancing Modern Disease Surveillance Renaissance Hotel Seattle, Washington |
| Sept. 28-29 | Build a Better Tomorrow...Practice Safety and Health! 54th Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference For information: www.WaGovConf.org Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center Tacoma, Washington |
| Sept. 30 | Diversity Health Summit SeaTac Doubletree Inn SeaTac, Washington |
| Sept. 30-Oct. 2 | Washington State Medical Association's 2005 Annual Meeting For information: wsma@wsma.org Sheraton Hotel Tacoma, Washington |

October 2005

| Date | Name and Location |
|------------|--|
| Oct. 10-12 | 12th Annual Joint Conference on Health Partnering for a Healthier Tomorrow For information: www.wspha.org Yakima Convention Center Yakima, Washington |

November 2005

| Date | Name and Location |
|----------|--|
| Nov. 5-9 | American Public Health Association's 133rd Annual Meeting & Exposition For information: http://apha.org/meetings/ Ernest N. Morial Convention Center New Orleans, Louisiana |

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Correspondence

Correspondence to the Board

- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Ms. Jami Roach, Local Health Services Associate, Michigan Department of Community Health
E-mail from Ms. Roach regarding local health services in Washington State wondering if there is a guide available to the public.
- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Source: Dr. Doug Trotter
E-mail from Dr. Doug Trotter regarding new HIV/AIDS rules. Dr. Trotter asked about finding documents on the Board's Web site.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Ms. Katherine Hammad
Testimony given by Ms. Katherine Hammad via the Board's Web site. Ms. Hammad testified about industrial-grade fluoride that is given to children.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Lemoine Erhart
E-mail from Lemoine Erhart regarding failing water systems in Grayland Water District #1 and water service to homes being ignored.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Ms. Nancy Napolilli, Office Director, Department of Health
Letter from Ms. Napolilli regarding the updated fee schedule for PSP testing. The fee revision returns fees to amounts set in 2002 when the fees were originally established, and realigns geoduck PSP fees.
- **Dr. Thomas Locke, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Source: Ms. Carolyn Tolas, President, Washington State Board of Education
Testimony from Ms. Tolas on behalf of the Washington State Board of Education (SBOE) regarding item No. 7 on the Board's July 13, 2005 agenda pertaining to proposed revisions to WAC 246-100-166 Varicella Immunization. The SBOE supports the immunization requirements but has concerns about implementation challenges.

- **Washington State Board of Health Members**

Source: Ms. Kim Leeming

E-mail from Ms. Leeming regarding the chickenpox vaccine. She wondered if her son, who has already had chickenpox, would be required to receive the vaccine before the upcoming school year.

- **Washington State Board of Health Members**

Source: Ms. Gloria C. Hemmen, Administrative Office of the Courts

E-mail request for copies of the Board's *A Report to the Washington State Legislature: Genetic Privacy, Discrimination, and Research in Washington State*. Ms. Hemmen also wondered if there has been a follow-up report regarding implementation of the recommendations to the Legislature.

- **Ms. Tara Wolff, Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health**

Source: Ms. Patty Wermuth

E-mail from Ms. Wermuth asking for direction about her daughter's psychologist charging her for information regarding her daughter.

- **Keith Higman, Washington State Board of Health Member**

Source: John Glassco, Eco-nomic

E-mail from Mr. Glassco requesting a copy of the minutes from the Boards July 13, 2005 meeting.

Correspondence from the Board

- **Dr. Thomas Locke, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**

Letter to The Honorable Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, regarding adding varicella (chickenpox) to the lists of vaccines required for school entry. The proposed rule change would require that children who are under the age of 13 years and who are entering school or child care after July 1, 2006 be immunized against varicella unless they have developed natural immunity from exposure to the virus.

- **Ms. Lonnie Peterson, Public Information Officer, Washington State Board of Health**

E-mail response to Ms. Jami Roach, Local Health Services Associate, Michigan Department of Community Health regarding her e-mail request for Washington State's guide to local health services. An electronic copy of the Board's *Welcome to Public Health* brochure was e-mailed to her.

- **Ms. Lonnie Peterson, Public Information Officer, Washington State Board of Health**

E-mail response to Dr. Doug Trotter regarding his e-mail regarding the new HIV/AIDS rules and where to find them on the Board's Web site. Information regarding the rules including the revised code are available on the Board's home page.

- **Ms. Denise Lahmann, PE, Regional Manager, Department of Health**

E-mail response to Lemoine Erhart regarding the e-mail about failing water systems in Grayland Water District #1 and water service to homes being ignored. Ms. Lahmann referred the case to Regional Engineer John Blacklaw who has begun investigating the situation.

- **Ms. Lonnie Peterson, Public Information Officer, Washington State Board of Health**

E-mail response to Ms. Kim Leeming regarding her e-mail about the chickenpox vaccine. Ms. Leeming wondered if her son, who has already had chickenpox, would be required to receive the vaccine before the upcoming school year. Because he has had chickenpox, he will not be required to get a shot, however, the fact that he has already had chickenpox will need to be stipulated on the form she will be required to fill out.

- **Ms. Lonnie Peterson, Public Information Officer, Washington State Board of Health**

E-mail response to Ms. Gloria C. Hemmen regarding her e-mail request for copies of the Board's

A Report to the Washington State Legislature: Genetic Privacy, Discrimination, and Research in Washington State. Fifty copies of the report were sent to Ms. Hemmen. There has not been a follow-up to the 2002 report.

- **Ms. Tara Wolff, Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health**
E-mail response to Ms. Patty Wermuth regarding her e-mail about her daughter's psychologist. Ms. Wolff forwarded Ms. Wermuth's e-mail to the Department of Health who is responsible for regulating psychologists.
- **Ms. Lonnie Peterson, Public Information Officer, Washington State Board of Health**
E-mail response to Mr. John Glassco regarding his request for a copy of the minutes from the Boards July 13, 2005 meeting. Mr. Glassco was mailed an audio version of the minutes on CD.

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General Interest

- **Call for Proposals: Changes in Health Care Financing & Organization 2005**
Two sizes of grants are available: small grants for projects requiring \$100,000 or less and projected to take 12 months or less; and large grants for projects requiring more than \$100,000 and/or projected to take longer than 12 months. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis. Applications may be submitted at any time.

The complete Call for Proposals is available on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Web site at www.rwif.org/cfp/hcfo and the Program Web site at www.hcfo.net or by calling 202-292-6700.

- **Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Summary for Physicians and Other Health Care Providers**
Medicare's new Prescription Drug Coverage will begin in January 2006. This coverage will be available to all Medicare beneficiaries regardless of how they get their health care today or whether they have existing drug coverage. People with both Medicare and Medicaid ("Dual Eligibles") will transition from Medicaid prescription drug coverage into a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan effective January 1, 2006.

This new benefit requires every Medicare beneficiary to make an important health care decision. Patients may ask you, a trusted source as their healthcare providers, for information about the new drug coverage. Helping can be as simple as referring patients to beneficiary educational resources such as 1-800-Medicare and www.medicare.gov.
- **Back-to-School 2005: Washington**
Tuesday, August 1 Covering Kids and Families will release new national and state data as part of the Back-to-School Campaign 2005. The Web site www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org lists specific events here in Washington.

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Local Boards of Health: Agendas and Meeting Minutes

- **Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health**
July 6, 2005
 - Comments by the Public
 - Consent Agenda
 - Regular Agenda
 - Director of Health Comments
 - Comments by Board of Health Members
 - Executive Session
- **Grant County Board of Health**
July 13, 2005
 - Approval of June 8, 2005 minutes
 - Public Forum for Citizen's comments and applications
 - Environmental Health Report
 - Personal Health/Administrator Report
 - Health Officer's Report
 - Approval of Vouchers for June 30, 2005
 - Other Business
 - Executive Session
- **Grays Harbor County Board of Health**
July 21, 2005
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Health Officer Report
 - Public Health and Social Services Director Report
 - Environmental Health Report
 - Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan
 - Public Health and Social Services Structure and Overview
 - West Nile Virus Update
 - Water Recreation Program
 - Public Comment
- **Jefferson County Board of Health**
July 21, 2005
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2005 Board of Health Meeting
 - Public Comments
 - Old Business and Informational Items
 - New Business
 - Activity Update
 - Agenda Planning

- **Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health**
July 22, 2005
 - Introduction of Connie Ladenburg
 - Proposed Health Department Budget for 2006
 - Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - Final Budget Review at the August 3, 2005 Regular BOH Meeting
 - Direction from the BOH Members
- **Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health**
July 28, 2005
 - Citizen Input
 - Chair Report
 - Health Officer Report
 - Approval of Minutes of June 23, 2005
 - Approval of Vouchers of June 1-30, 2005
 - Action Items:
 - Board Member Concerns
 - Executive Session
- **Benton-Franklin District Board of Health**
July 28, 2005
 - Introduction of Visitors
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Building Committee Report
 - Mid-Year Budget Review and 2005 Challenges
 - Flu Update
 - Announcements
 - Approval of Vouchers

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Publications - General Media

- ***Convergence*, Ternary Ezine from the Center for Health Improvement**
Vol. 1 : Issue 2
Articles of interest: "HCV Policy Roundtable Focuses on Stealth Virus," "School-Linked Health Care Study Released," and "Consumer HMO Needs Assessment Launched."
- ***Advances*, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Quarterly Newsletter**
Issue 2, 2005
Articles of interest: "Action Plan for Halting the Alarming Trend of Childhood Obesity," "RWJF Launches Partnership with *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*," "Working Toward a Stronger Public Health Infrastructure," "Synthesizing Complex Health Care Concepts for Policy-Makers," "Rev. Michael Elliott: Advocate for the Homeless in Savannah," and "RWJF President Among Top 25 Women In Health Care."

- **Public Health Reports**
Volume 120/Supplement 1
<http://www.publichealthreports.org>
- **EPI-LOG, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology News**
Vol. 45, No. 7, July 2005
Articles of interest: "The Medical Monitoring Project (MMP)," "2003 Nationwide Hepatitis A Incidence at a 40-Year Low," "Campylobacteriosis Outbreak Associated with a Camping Trip to a Farm," and "Spokane Woman Tests Negative for West Nile Virus."
- **Cell Phones and Novice Drivers**
Source: LEGISBRIEF, June/July 2005, Vol. 13, No. 30
The proliferation of cell phones and other wireless communication and information technologies has drawn new attention to an old traffic safety problem--driver distraction.
- **Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign Briefing**
July 2005
Articles of interest: "Who's In?!" "Campaign Materials," "HSIN Outcomes and Measures," "Major Upcoming Events," and "Staff News."
- **Reports, A publication for the members of the Washington State Medical Association**
July 2005
Articles of interest: "Community water fluoridation: Still contentious after all these years," "Contribute today to the Yes on I-330/No on I-336 Campaign," "Important insurance information for residents and fellows," and "On trial: Practicing evidence-based medicine versus practicing as usual."
- **Community water fluoridation: Still contentious after all these years**
Source: Reports, July 2005
After two days of public hearings the Port Angeles City Council last July voted to reaffirm their decision to fluoridate the town water supply serving 20,000 people. The vote came as the result of the persistent efforts of three Port Angeles physicians and a community coalition and climaxed an intense two-and-a-half-year debate over the issue.
- **Water fluoridation confers universal benefit**
Source: Reports, July 2005
According to the Centers for Disease Control, community water fluoridation benefits everyone, but especially those without access to regular dental care. Even with fluoridated toothpaste, mouth rinses, varnishes, and tablets, it is the most efficient and cost-effective way to prevent dental disease in children, reports the CDC.
- **A short history on community water fluoridation**
Source: Reports, July 2005
In 1916, Frederick S. McKay, a dentist in Colorado Springs, Colorado, began to suspect that something in the town's drinking water was causing the brown stains he commonly found on residents' teeth. By 1928 he had confirmed that the mottling (dental fluorosis) was positively associated with reduced dental decay. By 1931, he and others verified that the unusually high concentration of naturally fluoridated water the residents were drinking was the source of the stains--and the preventive against cavities.
- **New Booster Vaccine Urged to Fight Whooping Cough**
Source: The New York Times, July 1, 2005
To reduce the rising number of whooping cough cases in this country, a panel advising the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended Thursday that a new booster vaccine be routinely given to all 11-and 12-year-olds. During a two-day meeting here, the 15-member panel, known as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, also strengthened recommendations on vaccines against hepatitis B and chickenpox.

- **New rules may ease HIV testing**

Source: The Seattle Times, July 9, 2005

More than 3000 people in Washington State are infected with HIV but don't know it, state health officials estimate. They hope to reduce that number with recently revised rules on counseling and notification that make HIV testing easier for both doctors and patients.

- **The CDC Public Health Law News**

July 13, 2005

Articles of interest: "City officials aim to track how diabetics manage illness," "TX first state to adopt safe patient handling law for nurses," "Changes in state smoking restrictions for private-sector worksites, restaurants, and bars--United States, 1999 and 2004," "Health screenings for Teflon to start," "Should you worry about the chemicals in your makeup?" "UPS reviews cigarette shipments," and "European court upholds limits on sales of food supplements."

- **Florida Muffles 'Boom Cars'**

Source: Christian Science Monitor, July 13, 2005

It's high summer on Miami's world-famous South Beach, and the sounds of the season are pumping from the open windows of cars cruising past the cafes and bars of Ocean Drive. Along with perfectly toned roller skaters and attractive young Latinas, rap music that blares from car stereos and rattles windows has become a hallmark of one of American's trendiest strips. But now, a new state law is turning down the volume on Florida's notorious "boom cars."

- **Group Calls for Soft Drink Warnings**

Source: New York Times, July 14, 2005

An organization that lobbies for increased regulation of the food and drug industries call on Wednesday for cigarette-style warnings on soft drinks to alert consumers that too much of the beverages can cause obesity and other health problems.

- **Sewage and chicken pox subjects of hearings**

Source: The Olympian, July 14, 2005

The state Board of Health will have public hearings on rules for onsite sewage systems and chicken pox immunizations during its Wednesday meeting, according to an agency news release. In March, the board proposed changes to the rules governing onsite sewage systems. The most significant change involves reverting to the minimum lot-size restrictions in the current rule.

- **Septic systems face rule change**

Source: The Olympian, July 14, 2005

The state Board of Health approved changes in on-site septic system rules Wednesday that could require thousands of homeowners in South Sound to routinely inspect their systems. Just how strongly the recommendations in the new rule are enforced will be up to individual county health department plans, which must be completed by July 2007.

- **Chickenpox vaccine mandated**

Source: The Seattle Times, July 14, 2005

Starting next year, children entering schools and child care facilities in the state will have to be immunized for chickenpox, the State Board of Health unanimously voted yesterday. The requirement takes effect next July 1 and applies to children under age 13. But state health

officials proposed that the requirement be phased in over several years, beginning with children in child care, preschool, kindergarten, and sixth grade.

- **Washington to require chickenpox immunization for schoolchildren**

Source: Tri-City Herald, July 15, 2005

Washington will become one of the last states in the country to require vaccination of schoolchildren for chickenpox, the state Health Board has decided. The panel voted unanimously this week to require that children 19 months to 12 years old submit proof of immunization against chickenpox before being allowed to attend day care or public school.

- **Judge orders quarantine for evicted TB patient**

Source: The News Tribune, July 15, 2005

A tuberculosis-infected woman who has refused to follow her treatment regimen will be sent to the Washington Corrections Center for Women for 45 days in quarantine, a Pierce County sheriff's spokesman said. A Superior Court judge ordered the quarantine Thursday after the woman was evicted from a Lakewood motel where she spent one night guarded by sheriff's deputies, spokesman Ed Troyer said.

- **Schools and day cares to require chickenpox vaccine**

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 15, 2005

For the first time, children in Washington State will be required to receive the chickenpox vaccine before starting school or day care. The rule, approved in a unanimous vote this week by the state Board of Health, makes Washington one of the last states in the country to add chickenpox to its list of required immunizations for schoolchildren.

- **New codes on school health weighed**

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 15, 2005

The state Board of Health is considering sweeping changes to school health and safety rules that could offer better protection to children, but whether those changes will result in regulations rather than guidelines remains to be seen. Representing the first major overhaul of the state code governing health and safety in K-12 schools since it was adopted more than 30 years ago, the proposed changes focus on three areas: safety, drinking water, and indoor air quality.

- **Inspectors often find problems with pools**

Source: Orlando Sentinel, July 17, 2005

Health inspector Andy Anderson dipped a test tube into a hotel swimming pool in Orlando last week, dropped a tablet into the water and watched for the blossoming of pink that would indicate a chlorine reaction. Nothing happened. So he repeated the test. The Orange County Health Department inspector was soon certain that the Holiday Inn Select pool near Orlando International Airport contained almost none of the disinfectant required to kill germs that can cause nausea, prolonged vomiting, or recurring illness.

- **Accused HIV spreader puts Atlanta's gay community on edge**

Source: AccessNorthGa.com, July 18, 2005

Garry Wayne Carriker was a fourth-year medical student with a charming style that he worked to his advantage around the city's bustling gay scene. But just months after he would have graduated from Emory University Medical School, Carriker's career is on hold as he sits in jail, awaiting trial on sex-crime charges that have put Atlanta's gay community on edge. His crime? Police say the 26-year-old knew he had the HIV virus but went ahead with unprotected consensual sex with another man without warning him.

- **Feds Again Dispute Vaccine-Autism Link**

Source: Comcast.net, July 19, 2005

The government assembled some leading scientists Tuesday to try again to lay to rest public suspicions that a mercury-based preservative once used in childhood vaccines causes autism. A day before parents who blame the chemical were to complain to Congress, federal health officials stressed that the only childhood vaccines that still contain the preservative are some, but not all, flu shots--and that there's no credible evidence that it caused the brain disorder anyway.

- **Hamster With Virus Traced to Ohio Center**

Source: Comcast.net, July 19, 2005

A pet hamster blamed for spreading a virus that killed three transplant patients in April has been traced to an Ohio distribution center that supplies hamsters to pet stores throughout the East Coast, officials said Tuesday. State and federal investigators quarantined the distribution center Monday and plan to test the animals for the virus in an effort to trace its origin.

- **The CDC Public Health Law News**

July 20, 2005

Articles of interest: "Florida muffles 'boom cars,'" "Inspectors often find problems with pools," "Appeals court rules against prisoner in second-hand smoke dispute," "A challenge for Drug Court program," "Pennsylvania finds high toll in hospital-acquired infections," "New codes on school health weighed; some parents, activists press for regulations, not just guidelines," "*Thomas v. Mallet*," "Federal proposal sets priorities for epidemic," "Food fight begins over children's ads; Obesity concerns spur workshop on weighing stronger federal rules," "Tobacco ruling appealed to high court," and "*Falls Management Company v. Canada (Minister of Health)*."

- **Schools' drinking water still fails lead test**

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 20, 2005

Recent tests show that about 60 percent of new drinking fountains in Seattle's public schools--installed to reduce the levels of contaminants in water--have themselves failed to meet the district's standard for lead contamination, raising the possibility that more extensive repairs may be needed.

- **Chickenpox vaccine fights more than scars**

Source: The Everett Herald, July 20, 2005

Look closely, my face reveals a mark of health history that may well be unknown to my children's children. On my forehead with the age lines--to be kind, the traces of expression--is a tiny chickenpox scar. My daughter has one, too, on her shoulder, where she couldn't keep from scratching. Now 22, she weathered chickenpox as a girl, years before the varicella vaccine was approved in the United States in 1995.

- **US Will Offer Doctors Free Electronic Records System**

Source: New York Times, July 21, 2005

There is no one in medicine who does not consider it both crucial and long overdue to have electronic records in doctor's offices and hospitals. With electronic files, patient records are not stuck on pieces of paper in endless files, but are on a screen at the touch of a key. The computers alert doctors to do medical tests and avert errors by warning when they write a prescription for the wrong drug or the wrong dose.

- **Schools' water safety is challenged**

Source: The Seattle Times, July 21, 2005

Removing lead from drinking water at Seattle public schools is proving more difficult than first thought. The school district has replaced more than 360 drinking fountains over the past three months--but of 234 tested, 56 percent are still failing district lead standards.

- **Work begins in Pa. flu-vaccine factory**

Source: The News Tribune, July 20, 2005

Work began Wednesday on a new \$150 million factory to make flu vaccines, a facility designed to boost the nation's precarious vaccine supply. The new Sanofi-Pasteur SA factory, which company officials said should be ready for production for the 2009 flu season, replaces an existing factory in Swiftwater. It will double the capability for producing flu vaccine and is expected to add 100 production jobs, company officials said. About 1500 people work at the 276-acre campus, about 80 miles north of Philadelphia.

- **County looks for toxins in lakes**

Source: The Everett Herald, July 25, 2005

From her viewpoint just two houses away from the boat launch of Lake Loma, Jayne Hintze has watched the ups and downs of the lake's health for more than two decades. "Lake Loma is a bog lake, there's always lots of sediment," she said. "There were times when it was not so clear and times when it's more clear."

- **Tacoma schools run afoul of PE law**

Source: The News Tribune, July 25, 2005

Amid a nationwide epidemic of childhood obesity, Tacoma's fitness and nutrition committee members discovered sobering news: Tacoma elementary schools aren't complying with a state law to provide 100 minutes a week of PE instruction to students. "We were really surprised. We thought we were meeting the requirements. Apparently, we're not," said Karyn Clarke, adding that the time devoted to physical education has been the practice since before she became assistant superintendent for elementary education."

- **Dentists face deadline on mercury**

Source: The Olympian, July 26, 2005

Hundreds of dental offices across the state could soon be in violation of a 2003 state law that requires them to capture and recycle the mercury from removed and new fillings before it goes down the drain. Dentists outside King County have until July 31 to install the so-called amalgam separator equipment in their offices under an agreement signed two years ago by the Washington State Dental Association and the state Department of Ecology.

- **Record high child vaccinations meet goal**

Source: The News Tribune, July 26, 2005

Almost 81 percent of the nation's toddlers are getting vaccinated on time, a record level that comes five years ahead of government expectations, federal health officials reported Tuesday. "That's a tribute to the fact that parents recognize the benefits and values of these vaccinations and . . . are protecting their children," said Dr. Stephen Cochi, acting vaccine chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- **War's mental wounds command new attention**

Source: The Seattle Times, July 26, 2005

Staff Sgt. Mark MacPherson spent a year with the Washington National Guard patrolling the treacherous turf surrounding a military base near Balad, Iraq. He said his scout platoon acted as bait, deliberately drawing fire so they could counterattack insurgents. MacPherson returned from

Iraq in March but still is not back to his civilian job as an environmental consultant. Instead, the 37-year-old soldier struggles with a debilitating combination of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and concussion-caused brain injury.

- **VA straining to treat post-traumatic stress**

Source: The Seattle Times, July 26, 2005

During counseling, Vietnam veteran Rod Chenoweth always sits in the same place--a blue fabric couch carefully positioned in a corner to give his body the protective cover of a side and rear wall as he talks about his life. He recounts an argument that left him seething in anger. He talks about an evening flashback to the grenade that wounded him in the leg and killed his 19-year-old buddy.

- **How clean is your beach?**

Source: The Seattle Times, July 27, 2005

Troy Trent's daughters have spent a lot of time in Silver Lake, and he never gave much thought about whether the water might make them sick. The sandy beach there is kept neat by the Everett Parks Department. Lifeguards watch over kids splashing in roped-off areas. Docks beckon visitors looking for a place to sun themselves. The sounds of shrieking roll along the beach.

- **Sound gets federal muscle**

Source: The News Tribune, July 27, 2005

A significant federal role in the cleanup of Puget Sound emerged Tuesday from negotiations on the final version of a \$26 billion Interior appropriation bill. Under the language pushed by one of the negotiators, US Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Belfair), the federal Environmental Protection Agency would be required to develop a comprehensive program to clean up Puget Sound.

- **The CDC Public Health Law News**

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Articles of interest: "Group seeks no-smoking money; Advocates launch a campaign for a constitutional amendment requiring the state to spend more on tobacco education," "More travelers face searches on way to city," "Oregon prescription policy may set meth law precedent," "Drill tests health emergency response," "Math tests, history tests--and now, glucose tests," "Bill would let ex-docs help out in a disaster; Retired nurses could help too," "Class-action lawsuit filed against DuPont over Teflon chemical risks," "Lawmakers ask: Are hospitals making us sick?" "Sandstorm over health; At the beach, it's the water that often gets tested for bacteria, but studies say *E. coli* is among risks in sand," and "Victory that may open floodgates for MRSA claims."

- **HSC Alert**

July 27, 2005

Articles of interest: "Many Elderly Medicare Patients Don't Get Preventive Care," "Little Rock Hospitals and Physicians Continue to Vie for Profitable Services," and "HSC's Wall Street Conference Transcript Now Available."

- **West Nile Virus Newsletter**

July 27, 2005, Volume 3: Issue 9

Articles of interest: "Spokane-area woman's blood test is negative for WNV infection," "West Nile virus can have long-lasting repercussions," and "Washington non-human surveillance summary."

- **Valley doctors seek help for whooping cough epidemic**

Source: Yakima Herald Republic, July 28, 2005

Facing epidemic numbers of whooping cough cases, physicians at the Yakima Valley Farm

Workers Clinic earlier this month made a plea for help. The physicians sent a letter to the Yakima County Health District on July 18 asking for assistance in securing a supply of a new adult whooping cough, or pertussis, booster vaccine.

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

- ***MMWR Weekly***
July 1, 2005, Volume 54, No. 25
- ***American Journal of Public Health***
July 1, 2005; Vol. 95, No. 7
<http://www.ajph.org/content/vol95/issue7/?etoc>
- ***MMWR Weekly***
July 8, 2005, Volume 54, No. 26
- **State Smoking Restrictions for Private-Sector Worksites, Restaurants, and Bars--United States, 1998 and 2004**
Source: MMWR Weekly, July 8, 2005/54(26);649-653
Secondhand smoke is a known carcinogen (1). Exposure to secondhand smoke causes approximately 35,000 heart disease deaths and 3,000 lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in the United States every year (2). Implementing policies that establish smoke-free environments is the most effective approach to reducing secondhand smoke exposure among nonsmokers (1).
- ***The Journal of the American Medical Association***
July 13, 2005; Vol. 294, No. 2
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/294/2/153?etoc>
- **Prevention and Control of Influenza, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**
Source: MMWR Weekly, July 13, 2005/54(Early Release); 1-40
Epidemics of influenza typically occur during the winter months in temperate regions and have been responsible for an average of approximately 36,000 deaths/year in the United States during 1990-1999 (1). Influenza viruses also can cause pandemics, during which rates of illness and death from influenza-related complications can increase worldwide. Influenza viruses cause disease among all age groups (2-4). Rates of infection are highest among children, but rates of serious illness and death are highest among persons aged ≥ 65 years, children aged < 2 years, and persons of any age who have medical conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza (2, 5-7).
- ***MMWR Weekly***
July 15, 2005, Volume 54, No. 27
- ***The Journal of the American Medical Association***
July 20, 2005; Vol. 294, No. 3
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/vol294/issue3/index.dtl?etoc>
- ***MMWR Weekly***
July 22, 2005; Volume 54, No. 28

- **Children in the United States with Discontinuous Health Insurance Coverage**

Source: The New England Journal of Medicine, July 28, 2005

Estimates of the number of uninsured people in the United States usually excludes those with discontinuous coverage. The effects of gaps in insurance coverage for children on access to and use of ambulatory care are poorly understood.

- **Prevention and Control of Influenza**

Source: MMWR Recommendations and Reports, July 29, 2005/54(RR08);1-40

Epidemics of influenza typically occur during the winter months in temperate regions and have been responsible for an average of approximately 36,000 deaths/year in the United States during 1990-1999 (1). Influenza viruses also can cause pandemics, during which rates of illness and death from influenza-related complications can increase worldwide.

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Publications - Reports

- **Community Indicators Initiative Report, July 2005**

The Community Indicators Initiative (CII) in Spokane County is a civic initiative formed under the leadership of Patrick Jones, Director of Eastern Washington University's Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis in partnership with the following local and regional organizations: Eastern Washington University, Spokane Regional Health District, City of Spokane, Spokane County United Way, Community-Minded Enterprises (formerly Health Improvement Partnership), The Lands Council, and New Priorities Foundation.

- **Progress, Opportunities, & Challenges: The 2005-2007 American Indian Health Care Delivery Plan, July 2005**

In recognition of the health disparities facing American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs), Washington in 1995 enacted legislation requiring the Department of Health (DOH) to develop an American Indian Health Care Delivery Plan (AIHCDP). Since its first publication in 1997, the AIHCDP and its subsequent updates have been the result of active collaboration between tribes, tribal organizations, and DOH.

Through the auspices of the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State (AIHC), tribes have been the driving force in the report's contents and scope. The 2005-07 report-- Progress, Opportunities, and Challenges – is the latest such collaborative effort.

The AIHCDP has several important objectives. It describes the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) in Washington, showcases strategies that tribes and the state have used to address health disparities in the AI/AN population, and makes tribal leader-driven policy recommendations. While the AIHCDP seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the progress, opportunities, and challenges that tribes and the state face in eliminating health disparities affecting Washington's AI/AN population, it by no means is a substitute for working one-on-one and on a continual basis with tribes.

- **Writing a Disaster Plan: A Guide for Health Departments**

The UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters (CPHD) developed this *Writing a Disaster Plan: A Guide for Health Departments* to assist emergency and public health planners (for example, bioterrorism coordinators) in designing an all-hazards disaster plan. The center

systematically reviewed disaster plans as well as federal and state guidelines and identified the information most essential to an effective plan.

The content in this guide is not intended to be viewed as a template, but should instead be used as a reference for how to develop an all-hazards disaster plan. This guide is not inclusive of all issues that could be addressed; additional information may be required based on your particular jurisdictional needs. Just as hazards and risks are not static, neither is plan development. Rather, it is an iterative process whereby protocols are exercised, evaluated for effectiveness, and modified to address identified deficiencies.

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