



For Your Information – October 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

- **Department of Health**
Release date: October 18, 2005
Penn Cove, Saratoga Passage and Holmes Harbor closed to shellfish harvest
Elevated levels of domoic acid found in blue mussels and manila clams from Penn Cove have prompted the Washington State Department of Health to temporarily close several areas in Island County to commercial and recreational shellfish harvest. High levels of domoic acid can cause illness. This is only the third time since routine monitoring of state inland and coastal waters began in 1991 that an inland water body has had domoic acid levels high enough to trigger a closure.
- **Department of Health**
Release date: October 20, 2005
Shellfish area east of Shelton may reopen for harvest soon
The Washington Department of Health is proposing to open commercial shellfish harvesting on about 1200 yards of shoreline east of the City of Shelton. Upgrades at the Shelton wastewater treatment plant are among the factors in this change in classification.

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Events and Conferences

October 2005

- | Date | Name and Location |
|----------------|--|
| October 8 & 15 | King County Dispute Resolution Center: Conflict Resolution Skills for the Work Place Workshop
For information: 1-888-803-4696 x106 or saallen@kcdrc.org
Seattle, Washington |
| October 10-12 | 12th Annual Joint Conference on Health
Partnering for a Healthier Tomorrow
For information: www.wspha.org
Yakima Convention Center
Yakima, Washington |
| October 14 | Washington State Department of Health
2005 Zoonotic Disease Workshop
For information: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ZOO.htm
Tumwater, Washington |
| October 19 | Washington State Department of Health
2005 Zoonotic Disease Workshop
For information: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ZOO.htm
Richland, Washington |
| October 23-26 | 2005 ESRI Health GIS Conference: Advancing Health and Human Services with Spatial Information
For information: www.esri.com/hug
The Palmer House Hilton
Chicago, Illinois |
| October 26 | Washington State Department of Health
2005 Zoonotic Disease Workshop
For information: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ZOO.htm
Mount Vernon, Washington |
| October 28 | 17th John R. Hogness Symposium on Health Care
Poverty, Culture and Social Injustice: Determinants of Health Disparities
For information: 206-543-3620
University of Washington
Hogness Auditorium
Warren G. Magnuson Health Sciences Center |

November 2005

Date	Name and Location
Nov. 1	Welcome Home! A Symposium on the Needs of Returning War Zone Veterans and Their Families For information: www.fpc.wa.gov Hilton Vancouver Hotel Vancouver, Washington
Nov. 1-3	A Partnership of HOPE: Building Resilience for a Promising Tomorrow The 2005 Family Policy Council Network Partners' Summit For information: www.fpc.wa.gov Hilton Vancouver Hotel Vancouver, Washington
Nov. 4-8	The American Public Health Association's 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition The New Boston Convention and Exposition Center Boston, Massachusetts
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
Nov. 29	Medicines and Your Health: Prescriptions for Safe and Effective Drugs For information: www.fosep.org/forum2005/index.htm University of Washington Kane Hall, Room 130

December 2005

Date	Name and Location
December 6	20th Annual Washington Health Legislative Conference: "Health or Health Care? Reframing the Discussion" For information: http://depts.washington.edu/rchpol/events/legcon05index.htm SeaTac Hilton Conference Center SeaTac, Washington
December 8-9	2nd Annual Joint Commission National Conference on Behavioral Health Care: Focusing on Outcomes Research and Using Data For information: www.jcrinc.com Le Meridien Chicago, Illinois

February 2006

Date	Name and Location
Feb. 22-24	2006 Local, State, and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit For information: http://www.naccho.org Washington Hilton Washington, DC
Feb. 22-24	National Health Policy Conference For information: www.academyhealth.org/nhpc Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel Washington, DC

March 2006

Date	Name and Location
March 22-24	19th Annual NW Regional Rural Health Conference: Dare to Prepare For information: Contact Charlotte Hardt at 509-358-7643 Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington

May 2006

Date	Name and Location
May 5-6	23rd Annual Primary Care Update For information: www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington

October 2006

Date	Name and Location
October 26-27	Blood Borne: A Silent Epidemic For information: amy.shaeffer@commonhealthcenter.org Hyatt Regency Chicago, Illinois

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Correspondence

Correspondence to the Board

- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Source: Ms. Peggy Henry, RN, BSN, Kennewick School District
Letter to Mr. McLaughlin asking about how to repeal recent changes to Chapter 246-100-166 of the Washington Administrative Code.

- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Ms. Mary Hilke
E-mail supporting newborn screening. Ms. Hilke encourages the Board to vote in favor of adding as many additional tests as possible.
- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Source: Anonymous
Letter to Dr. Thorburn about the eventual impact of bird flu in Washington State.
- **The Honorable David Crump, Washington State Board of Health Member**
Source: Governor Christine Gregoire
Letter from Governor Gregoire reappointing David Crump to the State Board of Health.

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General Interest

- **Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute**
The second cycle of the CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute will begin February 2006. Additional information and application material for the Class of 2006 is available at www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/. Program managers are encouraged to nominate environmental health practitioners for participation in this new leadership development program. Self-nominations will also be accepted. Notification of intent to apply will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 11, 2005. Questions regarding the EPHLI should be directed to John Sarisky at JSarisky@cdc.gov.
- **Reductions to the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant**
Source: Dr. Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer, October 27, 2005
The Preventive Health Advisory Committee has met and provided recommendations on how to implement the reduction. The following is the expected impact, which could change if the final allocation from CDC equals more than a 25 percent reduction. Questions can be directed to Heidi Keller at heidi.keller@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3782.
- **Recommendations**
 - Reduce state programs 25 percent beginning October 1, 2005.
 - Hold LHJs harmless October-December 2005.
 - Reduce the total available to LHJs 25 percent in 2006.
 - Flex the spending deadlines as much as possible to allow LHJs to plan for the future.
- **Community Prevention Grants Beginning January 1, 2006**
 - 4 planning grants will expire as scheduled December 31, 2005 (Tacoma-Pierce, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island).
 - Two implementation projects will be funded through September 30, 2006 (Skagit, Kittitas).
- **LHJ Support Beginning January 1, 2006**
 - Apply funding from elimination of four planning projects to keep LHJ support grants at current level.
 - Amend consolidated contracts to end September 30, 2006.
 - Hold harmless current contracts with LHJs that receive under \$2000.

- **Governor's Health Care Summit, Seattle, Washington, October 25, 2005**
Remarks of Governor Christine Gregoire (as prepared) can be found online.
- **King County Board of Health Resolution**
The King County Board of Health passed the resolution on October 21 highlighting a 10-point plan to promote healthy eating and active living locally. The resolution's focus areas include assisting school districts' development and implementation of nutrition and physical activity policies, promoting worksite nutrition and physical activity guidelines, increasing the practice of breastfeeding, supporting use of guidelines on nutrition standards and portion size, implementing safe routes to school and transit, and supporting use of public facilities for physical activity. To view the King County Board of Health resolution, go to www.metrokc.gov/health/boh/res0508.pdf

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Local Boards of Health: Agendas and Meeting Minutes

- **Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health**
October 5, 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**
October 5, 2005
<http://www.granthealth.org/grantcountyboardofhealth.htm>
 - Approval of September 14, 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 September 30, 2005
 - Other Business
 - Executive Session
- **Jefferson County Board of Health**
October 20, 2005
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2005 Board of Health Meeting
 - Public Comments
 - Old Business and Informational Items
 - New Business
 - Activity Update
 - Agenda Planning

- **Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health**

October 21, 2005

- Health Department Five-Year Strategic Directions Process for 2007-11
- Lunch with Management Team
- Develop Critical Focus Areas

- **King County Board of Health**

October 21, 2005

- Announcement of Any Alternates Serving in Place of Regular Members
- Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2005 Meeting
- General Public Comments
- Chair's Report
- Board Member's Updates
- Director's Report
- Administrator's Report
- Legislative Update
- Pandemic Influenza Funding Resolution
- King County Overweight Prevention Initiative Resolution
- Briefing: Revision of Personal Health Services Fees
- Briefing: Prescription Opiate Use and Misuse Trends in King County and Washington State

- **Benton-Franklin District Board of Health**

October 27, 2005

- Introduction of Visitors
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Building Updates
- Flu Pandemic
- 2005 Flu Campaign Update
- Volunteer Disaster and Emergency Leave Policy
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact Policy
- Announcements
- Approval of Vouchers

- **Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health**

October 27, 2005

- Citizen Input
- Chair Report
- Health Officer Report
- Approval of Minutes
- Approval of Vouchers
- Action Items
- Executive Session
- Board Member Concerns

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- **A Hard Pill to Swallow**

Source: Seattle Business Monthly, October 2005

For every dollar Dr. Lisa Conaghan billed her patients last summer, she got back a mere 60 cents. That was bad math for the obstetrics physician who delivered babies at Northwest Hospital, where a significant number of her patients were low-income. Furthermore, delivering babies is considered high-risk, high-cost practice by Washington insurers, pushing Conaghan's medical malpractice premiums to upwards of \$60,000 a year.

- **EPI-LOG**

October 2005, Vol. 45, No. 10

Articles of interest: "Influenza Vaccination Recommendations 2005-2006, Including Information About Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)," "Influenza Vaccine Supply Update," "Communicable Disease Summary for 2003 and 2004 now Available," and "Td: A clarification."

- **Elaborations**

October 2005, Volume X Issue 9

Article of interest: "Latest Packaging & Shipping Regulation Updates."

- **Reports**

October 2005

Articles of interest: "Medical practices, hospitals report difficulties in attracting physicians," "WSMA and hospital association educate patients on what they can do to ensure safe care," "Expanded coverage for low-income non-citizen children to begin in 2006," "Swedish Physicians clinic receives recognition for quality of care," "Lowest rates on popular magazines now available to WSMA members," "What to do if you receive a subpoena," and "'Frivolous' case, disagreeing experts, plus contentions over motives of medical disciplinary boards."

- **Getting the "N" Out of Groundwater**

Source: Onsite Water Treatment, September/October 2005

The National Community Decentralized Wastewater Demonstration Project, an innovative demonstration project to protect groundwater, is nearing the final report phase. If successful, the demonstration project could have national implications for preventing groundwater contamination from septic systems.

- **West Nile Virus Newsletter**

Volume 3, Issue 14, October 5, 2005

Articles of interest: "West Nile virus activity in the Northwest," "West Nile virus found in Yakima County horse," "Antibody's success against WNV surprise scientists," and "National, northwest, and state surveillance."

- **The CDC Public Health Law News**

October 5, 2005

Articles of interest: "State tries to lasso smokeless users," "Hearing date set for state's flu-shot fumble," "Syracuse City Court awards monetary damages for private nuisance secondhand smoke," "Words fail them," "W. Va. to update rules for reporting disease," "Bush may use troops, quarantine if bird flu breaks out," "Evacuee bus fire sparks transport safety questions," "The military issues order to shape-up," and "Quebec smokers launch class-action lawsuit: Seeking \$17.8B from tobacco firms."

- **HSC Alert**
October 6, 2005
 Articles of interest: "Lansing's Economy Doldrums Threaten Broad Health Care Benefits," "Quality Efforts Expand as Seattle Health Plan Products Evolve," and "Register Now! Dec. 2 Conference on Competition in Health Care."
- **After Delay, US Faces Line for Flu Drug**
Source: The New York Times, October 7, 2005
 As concern about a flu pandemic sweeps official Washington, Congress and the Bush administration are considering spending billions to buy the influenza drug Tamiflu. But after months of delay, the United States will now have to wait in line to get the pills.
- **New SIDS policy recommends pacifiers**
Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 11, 2005
 Babies should be offered pacifiers at bedtime, and they should sleep in their parents' room--but not in their beds--in order to lessen the risk of sudden infant death syndrome, the nation's largest group of pediatricians say.
- **As child obesity doubles, France acts against advertisers**
Source: Yahoo! News, October 20, 2005
 With a new report showing that obesity levels among children have doubled in five years, the French government has announced plans to punish companies that fail to carry health advisories on advertisements for many food and drink products.
- **Injected into a controversy. Who should get the new vaccine against cervical cancer, and when?**
Source: USA Today, October 20, 2005
 Much-anticipated vaccine against cervical cancer could be on the market as soon as next year. But a number of questions remain about who should be immunized. Do boys need to be vaccinated against cancer that strikes only girls and women? Are grown women too old to benefit? Are children too young?
- **CDC Public Health Law News**
October 26, 2005
 Articles of interest: "California requires tobacco companies to meet cigarette standards," "Citing medical errors, California seeks to ban child interpreters," "Portland considers limit on idling by city vehicles," "Numerous violations alleged in bus fire," "Suicides outpace homicides in Va.," "Deterring DUI arrests a concern for Ramsey," "New bill would shield makers of flu vaccines," and "NWA to charge smoking workers."
- **West Nile Virus Newsletter**
Volume 3, Issue 15, October 27, 2005
 Articles of interest: "British Columbia appears again to have escaped WNV," "WNV infections in organ transplant recipients," "When do mosquitoes prefer a blood banquet, or a sugar feast? Three genes make the call," "Reporting of larvicide use for mosquito control begins," and "Washington non-human surveillance summary."
- **Panel Recommends Hepatitis A Vaccine for Children and Whooping Cough Shots for Adults**
Source: The New York Times, October 27, 2005
 Every toddler in the country should be immunized against hepatitis A, and every adult should receive booster doses of whooping cough vaccine, a panel advising the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention unanimously recommended Wednesday.

- **Harding Prompts Halt in Flu Drug Shipping**
Source: The New York Times, October 27, 2005
 Roche has temporarily halted shipments of the anti-influenza drug Tamiflu in the United States, saying it wants to prevent hoarding and ensure adequate supplies to treat conventional flu cases this winter.
- **FDA considers home HIV test**
Source: The Olympian, October 27, 2005
 Swab the inside of your mouth. Put that swab into a vial of test fluid, and 20 minutes later, you'll learn whether you're infected with the virus that causes AIDS. The OraQuick Advance test is widely available in health clinics and doctors' offices. On Nov. 3, the Food and Drug Administration's Blood Products Advisory Committee will consider whether to recommend the product for over-the-counter sales.
- **Study: Walking as good as jogging**
Source: The Seattle Times, October 27, 2005
 There's no need to run. Just going for a brisk walk--in the park, around the block, or on a treadmill--may be enough to help keep your heart healthy, a small study suggests.
- **Roche halts Tamiflu shipments in U.S.**
Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 27, 2005
 Roche has temporarily halted shipments of the anti-influenza drug Tamiflu in the United States, saying it wants to prevent hoarding and ensure adequate supplies to treat conventional flu cases this winter.

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

- **Northwest Public Health**
Fall/Winter 2005, Volume 22 Number 2
 Articles of interest: "How Ready Are We? Measuring Montana's Statewide Public Health Preparedness," "Mass Dispensing in a Suburban County: Lessons in a Full-Scale Bioterrorism Exercise," "The Longest Mile: Preparing for Disasters on the Interstates of the West," "Surveillance and Response Across International Borders," "When Hospitals Respond to Disasters: Emergency Communications Networks," "Unified Health Command: Strengthening Public Health Response in Montana," "Pandemic Flu: How Worried Should We Be?" "Preparedness on University Campuses," "Rural Readiness Depends on Teamwork: Regional Partners Help Each Other Stay Prepared," "Injection Control in Veterinary Clinics," and "Annotated Resources on Preparedness."
- **Pandemic Influenza: How Worried Should We Be?**
Source: Northwest Public Health, Fall/Winter 2005
 For most people, the destruction and upheaval caused by the 1918-19 flu pandemic is an obscure historical event, but the 2003 SARS epidemic and the smoldering H5N1 avian influenza epizootic in Asia have renewed interest in a flu pandemic and brought dire predictions of its imminent recurrence.

- ***American Journal of Public Health***
October 1, 2005; Vol. 95, No. 10
<http://www.ajph.org/content/vol95/issue10/?etoc>
- ***The Journal of the American Medical Association***
October 5, 2005; Vol. 294, No. 13
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/294/13/1589?etoc>
- **Guillain-Barre' Syndrome Among Recipients of Menactra® Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine--United States, June-July 2005**
Source: MMWR Dispatch, October 6, 2005/54(Dispatch); 1-3
Five cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) in teens aged 17 and 18 years who were administered a new meningococcal conjugate vaccine have been reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The new vaccine, Menactra®, was licensed in January 2005. Since March, an estimated 2.5 million doses have been distributed nationally. This report describes the five cases and CDC's recommendations.
- ***MMWR Weekly***
October 7, 2005, Volume 54, No. 39
Articles of interest: "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month," "Breast Cancer Screening and Socioeconomic Status," "Mental Health in the United States: Health Care and Well Being of Children with Chronic Emotional, Behavioral, or Developmental Problems," "Mental Health in the United States: Health Risk Behaviors and Conditions Among Persons with Depression," "Trends in Leisure-Time Physical Inactivity by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity," "Distribution of Insecticide-Treated Bednets During an Integrated Nationwide Immunization Campaign," "Carbon Monoxide Poisoning After Hurricane Katrina," "Update: West Nile Virus Activity," and "QuickStats: Percentage of Emergency Department Visits During Which Pain Medication Was Prescribed, by Pain Level."
- **Public Health Strategies for Preventing and Controlling Overweight and Obesity in School and Worksite Settings**
Source: MMWR Recommendations and Reports, October 7, 2005/54(RR-10); 1-12
Reducing morbidity and mortality related to overweight and obesity is a public health priority, and various interventions in school and worksite settings aim to maintain or achieve healthy weight. This report identifies effective strategies for weight control that can be implemented in these settings. The Task Force on Community Preventive Services has conducted systematic reviews of the evidence on nutrition, physical activity, combinations of these interventions, and other behavioral interventions (for example, cognitive techniques such as self-awareness and cue recognition).
- **Poliovirus Infections in Four Unvaccinated Children--Minnesota, August-October 2005**
Source: MMWR Dispatch, October 14, 2005/54(Dispatch); 1-3
On September 29, 2005, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) identified poliovirus type 1 in an unvaccinated, immunocompromised infant girl aged 7 months (the index patient) in an Amish community whose members predominantly were unvaccinated for polio. The patient has no paralysis; the source of the patient's infection is unknown.
- ***MMWR Weekly***
October 28, 2005, Volume 54, No. 42

Articles of interest: "Import-Associated Measles Outbreak," "Progress Toward Global Eradication of Dracunculiasis," "Estimated Exposure of Adolescents to State-Funded Anti-Tobacco Television Advertisements," "Prevalence of Epilepsy and Health-Related Quality of Life and Disability Among Adults with Epilepsy," "Update: West Nile Virus Activity," and "QuickStats: Percentage of Hospitals Having Plans or Conducting Drills for Attack by Explosion or Fire, by Urbanization of Area."

- **Guidelines for Identifying and Referring Persons with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

MMWR Recommendations and Reports, October 28, 2005/54(RR11); 1-10

Prenatal exposure to alcohol during pregnancy damages the developing fetus and is a leading preventable cause of birth defects and developmental disabilities (1-3). Children exposed to alcohol during fetal development can suffer multiple negative effects, including physical and cognitive deficits. Although the number and severity of negative effects can range from subtle to serious, they are always lifelong.

- **Health-Related Quality of Life Surveillance--United States, 1993-2002**

MMWR Surveillance Summaries, October 28, 2005/54(SS04); 1-35

Population-based surveillance of physical and mental health is an important component of tracking population trends, identifying health disparities, and monitoring progress in achieving the two overall national health goals from *Healthy People 2010*: (1) increase the quality and years of healthy life and (2) eliminate health disparities.

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Publications - Reports

- **The Public Health Incident Command System: A Guide for the Management of Emergencies or Other Unusual Incidents within Public Health Agencies**

This guide provides an overview of how the standardized ICS system is applied within the context of public health. During disaster events, public health has a dual responsibility to respond not only to specific public health threats but to also ensure that essential public health services are maintained for the affected community. Under this system, regardless of the mission of the agency, command and control is attained through the use of Command Staff positions (Incident Commander, Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer) and defined sections that are led by Section Chiefs (Planning/Intelligence, Operations, Logistics, and Finance/Administration). If necessary, each Command Staff officer or Section Chief may have assistants or deputies. Therefore, under ICS, the person in charge of the agency's emergency response is always referred to as the Incident Commander; the person in charge of insuring the safety of the response staff is always called the Safety Officer; and so forth.

Almost any disruption to a community has some sort of public health consequence. Therefore, it is essential that public health has the ability to be a collaborating partner with other agencies as they work together to achieve effective community response.

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Rule Development

Proposed Rule Making (CR-102)

Chapter 388-112 WAC, Residential Long-Term Care Services--Training

CR-102 filed: October 18, 2005

The purpose of the new language in WAC 388-112-0020, WAC 388-112-0060, WAC 388-112-0090, WAC 388-112-0210, WAC 388-112-0245, and WAC 388-112-0315 is to clarify standards and expectations regarding the integration of safe food handling training into the required training and continuing education, as required by SHB 1591, Chapter 505, Laws of 2005. The purpose of the new language in WAC 388-112-0255 and WAC 388-112-0260 is to add content requirements for first-aid training.

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