



For Your Information – December 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

- **Clark County Health Department**

Release date: December 14, 2005

New E. coli cases highlight risks of consuming raw milk products

Additional cases of E. coli 0157:H7 in Washington underscore the need for the public to understand the risks associated with drinking unpasteurized milk products. To date, eight cases of E. coli 0157:H7 have been linked to the consumption of unpasteurized milk from the Dee Creek Dairy in Woodland, Washington. The outbreak has affected 11 people, including 9 children between the ages of 5 and 13. Of the five children who have been hospitalized, four remain hospitalized and in serious condition. Cases to date include 7 in Clark County, 1 in Cowlitz County.

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Events and Conferences

December 2005

Date	Name and Location
December 1	World AIDS Day Dialogue with Dan Savage and Tina Podlodowski For information: aniab@lifelongaidsalliance.org Central Lutheran Church Parish Hall Building--Fellowship Hall Seattle, Washington
December 5	Proven Practices: Improving Community Health through Physical Activity For information: jrobins@u.washington.edu Center for Urban Horticulture University of Washington Seattle, Washington
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 6-9	2005 National Conference of State Legislators Fall Forum For information: registration@ncsl.org Hilton Chicago Chicago, Illinois
December 7	Accreditation of Public Health Agencies: Lessons from Three States For information: www.academyhealth.org/phsr/
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
December 10-14	American Public Health Association 133rd Annual Meeting For information: apha@laser-registration.com Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
December 12 & 13	Stakeholder Meeting: Names Retention of Asymptomatic HIV Case Reports and Expanded HIV Laboratory Test Reporting For information: john.peppert@doh.wa.gov <i>December 12:</i> Seattle Central Community College Third Floor, Room 3211 Seattle, Washington <i>December 13:</i>

WestCoast Ridpath Hotel
Terrace Rooms A and B
Spokane, Washington

January 2006

Date	Name and Location
January 9-11	National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health The Office of Minority Health: Embracing A Common Destination--Improving Health Outcomes for All Americans For information: www.omhsummit2006.org/Glance.htm Washington, DC

February 2006

Date	Name and Location
Feb. 6-7	National Health Policy Conference For information: registrations@academyhealth.org Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel Washington, DC
Feb. 9-10	The 2006 Employee Health Care Conference Managing People, Managing Costs: Building a Culture of Health at the Crossroads The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel New York, New York
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 9-10	The 2006 Employee Health Care Conference Managing People, Managing Costs: Building a Culture of Health at the Crossroads Coronado Island Marriott Coronado, California
March 16-18	5th Annual Forum for Improving Children's Health Care For information: information@laser-options.com

Royal Pacific Resort
Orlando, Florida

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

April 2006

Date	Name and Location
April 26-28	61st Annual Educational Conference Environmental Health: Building the Future, Honoring the Past, Expanding Today's Horizons, and Developing Tomorrow's Leaders For information: kathy@wseha.org Red Lion Vancouver at the Quay Vancouver, 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
May 22-24	2006 National Farmworker Health Conference For information: www.nachc.com Westin Riverwalk San Antonio, Texas

June 2006

Date	Name and Location
June 25-27	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting 2006 For information: www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts Washington State Convention & Trade Center Seattle, Washington

July 2006

Date	Name and Location
July 26-29	The National Association of Local Boards of Health's 14th Annual Conference For information: tiffany@nalboh.org San Antonio, Texas

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

- **Washington State Board of Health Members and Staff**
Source: Ms. Marianne Seifert, former Board staff
Postcard from Ms. Seifert describing her trip to Beijing with former Board Vice Chair Carl Osaki. Ms. Seifert and Mr. Osaki were invited to speak about the Board's *Community Environmental Health Assessment* report in Beijing in November.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Mr. Merle L. Royse, Stafford Creek Correction Center
Letter from Mr. Royse wanting information on how to file a complaint against a medical provider.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Ms. Tina Whitman, Friends of the San Juans
E-mail from Ms. Whitman wondering if the new onsite septic rules proposed in spring 2005 were adopted.

Correspondence from the Board

- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Response letter to Mr. Merle L. Royse regarding his request for information on how to file a complaint against a medical provider. Mr. Royse's request was sent to the Department of Health.
- **Mr. Ned Therien, Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health**
Response e-mail to Ms. Tina Whitman, Friends of the San Juans, regarding her question about the onsite septic rules. Mr. Therien said the Board adopted a major change to the rules in August 2005 and an additional emergency rule change in September.
- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health and Ms. Liz Luce, Director, Department of Licensing**
Letter from the Board and the Department of Licensing to funeral directors and embalmers regarding licensing and enforcement under Chapter 18.39 RCW.

Other Correspondence

- **Nursing Facility/Home Administrators**

Source: Department of Social and Health Services

Letter from DSHS to nursing facility/home administrators regarding the importance of influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for residents and staff. The letter encourages nursing facility/home administrators to plan early each year for how they can protect residents and staff.

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General Interest

King County Board of Health Notice of Rulemaking Regulations on Personal Health Services Fees and Code Amendments

A public hearing on the proposed rules at which the public may state their views orally or in writing will be held during the regular meeting of the King County Board of Health, December 9, 2005, 10:00 a.m. in the Metropolitan King County Council Chambers, 10th floor, Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle.

Written comments can also be submitted to:

King County Board of Health
Attention Roycee Hasuko
Public Health--Seattle & King County
Wells Fargo Center
999 Third Avenue, Suite 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104

Copies of the proposed rules are available from the same address or by calling 206-205-5680.

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Local Boards of Health: Agendas and Meeting Minutes

- **Spokane Board of Health**

December 1, 2005

- Citizen Input
- Chair Report
- Health Officer Report
- Approval of Minutes
- Action Items
- Reports
- Board Member Concerns

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

December 2, 2005

- Introduction of Visitors
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes

- Budget Committee Report
- Information Services Equipment Disposal Policy
- Building Updates
- Initiative 901
- Environmental Health Annual Report
- Announcements
- Approval of Vouchers

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

December 7, 2005

- Comments by the Public
- Consent Agenda
- Regular Agenda
- Legislative Update
- Director of Health Comments
- Comments by Board of Health Members
- Executive Session

- **King County Board of Health**

December 9, 2005

- Announcement of Any Alternates Serving in Place of Regular Members
- Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2005 Meeting
- General Public Comments
- Chair's Report
- Board Member's Updates
- Director's Report
- Administrator's Report
- Revision of Personal Health Services Fees
- Briefing: Initiative 901
- Briefing: Mortality Data for the King County Jail

- **Grant County Health District**

December 14, 2005

- Approval of November 9, 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 November 30, 2005
- Other Business

- **Jefferson County Board of Health**

December 15, 2005

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2005 Board of Health Meeting

- Public Comments
- Old Business and Informational Items
- New Business
- Activity Update
- Agenda Planning

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Publications - General Media

- ***thrive!***
Winter 2005
Articles of interest: "Washington's Pageant Queens are Dedicated to Health Care," "Staying Active in the Fight Against OBESITY," "What is the threat of a BIRD FLU pandemic teaching us?" "Health Team Making a Difference," "A Tale of Two Cities," "Governor's Community Health Bowl Stories," "Winners!," and "ParaDocs."
- ***EPI-LOG***
December 2005, Vol. 45, No. 12
Articles of interest: "Update on Pertussis Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Recommendations" and "Save the Date: Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Course."
- **Bird flu scenario finds US lacking**
Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 1, 2005
A deadly strain of bird flu broke out yesterday in a conference room at this border town's posh destination resort, The Inn at Semiahmoo. It was a hypothetical exercise, with Canadian and US experts in animal health, public health, agriculture, the poultry industry, law enforcement, and emergency management--those expected to deal with such a threat--gathered in closed session to get better prepared for the real thing.
- **School soft drink sales slumping, soda industry says**
Source: USA Today, December 1, 2005
It's not often that an industry brags when sales are down. But the American Beverage Association sounds almost proud when it declares in a report being released Thursday that the amount of non-diet soft drinks sold in the nation's schools dropped more than 24 percent between 2002 and 2004.
- **Food Marketing to Children and Youth: Threat or Opportunity?**
Source: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, December 6, 2005
Creating an environment in which US children and youth can grow up healthy should be a high priority for the nation. Yet the prevailing pattern of food and beverage marketing to children and youth in America represents, at best, a missed opportunity, and worst, a direct threat to the health prospects of the next generation.
- **Lines Are Drawn for Big Suit Over Sodas**
Source: The New York Times, December 7, 2005
It is lunchtime at Grover Cleveland High School in Portland, Ore. A steady stream of thirsty teenagers poke dollars into the three Coca-Cola machines in the hallway. By the end of lunch

period, the Coke With Lime, Cherry Coke, and Vanilla Coke are sold out.

- **State to require testing of newborns for cystic fibrosis**

Source: The Olympian, December 8, 2005

Starting in June, all babies born in Washington will be tested for cystic fibrosis, the state Health Board has decided. The testing will be done with about a drop of blood that is now drawn routinely from newborn babies to check for other potential problems under the requirement approved unanimously Wednesday.

- **State to screen newborns for cystic fibrosis**

Source: The Seattle Times, December 8, 2005

Beginning in June, all newborn babies in Washington State will be tested for cystic fibrosis, a chronic, fatal disease of the lungs and digestive system. The State Board of Health voted unanimously Wednesday to require the test for newborns.

- **Pandemic flu-vaccine prototype promising**

Source: The News Tribune, December 15, 2005

Preliminary tests on a prototype of pandemic flu vaccine show promise, scientists said Thursday. The vaccine is based on the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu which has killed at least 69 people in Asia since 2003. Experts fear the virus, which has already jumped from birds to humans, could mutate into a form that is rapidly transmitted among people and cause a flu pandemic.

- **Dairy ignored order to stop sales**

Source: The Columbian, December 15, 2005

Dee Creek Farm ignored state orders in August to stop selling raw milk that has now sickened at least eight people, four critically, with the E. coli bacteria. At least four state and local agencies continued investigations Wednesday into the Woodland dairy, including Cowlitz County prosecutors who said misdemeanor charges could be filed if the owners don't turn over their list of customers receiving raw milk.

- **Man may have spread HIV to 20**

Source: The Spokesman Review, December 16, 2005

As many as 20 people have been identified as potential victims of a Moscow man who allegedly had sexual contact without informing partners he had tested positive for HIV, according to court records. The allegations have triggered an alert from the North Central District Health Department, recommending confidential counseling and HIV testing for all people who had sexual contact with Kanay A. Mubita.

- **Flu shots in high demand**

Source: The Seattle Times, December 16, 2005

Two months into the recommended time for flu shots, dozens of King County clinics, including some for low-income residents, still don't have enough vaccine for their patients. Sporadic cases of the flu already have been reported in King County, and managers of low-income clinics are worried that some high-risk clients who can't afford vaccinations elsewhere are especially vulnerable.

- **State studying risks of lead in lunchboxes**

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 16, 2005

Fears of exposing kids to lead shed by vinyl lunchboxes prompted state officials to take steps Thursday to remove the products from store shelves in Washington. Ecology Department officials, who plan to test the lunchboxes to further investigate lead levels, asked retailers statewide to pull the items in the interim.

- **Sewage from hospital flowing into lake**

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 16, 2005

Seattle Public Utilities officials said Thursday that Swedish Medical Center on First Hill has been discharging sewage into the southwestern portion of Lake Union since at least 1998. The city has served the hospital with a violation notice. "We've directed the hospital to take immediate action to stop the flow of sewage," said Chuck Clarke, Seattle Public Utilities' director.

- **CDC Recommends New Blood Test for TB**

Source: The Seattle Times, December 16, 2005

Federal health officials are recommending a new, more accurate blood test for tuberculosis that may someday replace the skin test used for the past 100 years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday that a test--called the QuantiFERON-TB Gold--is less likely to yield false positive readings and more convenient for patients.

- **Clinic Halts Use of OraSure HIV Test**

Source: Reuters Health Information, December 16, 2005

A California clinic halted use of OraSure Technologies Inc.'s oral HIV test because of growing concerns about its reliability. The Gay and Lesbian Center in Los Angeles, in a statement on its Web site, said that 13 people who took the OraQuick oral test there in November falsely registered as HIV-positive. Clinics in San Francisco and New York have also reported large numbers of false-positives with the popular test, according to the group.

- **Gregoire's ambitious plan to clean Sound**

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 20, 2005

Hoping to rocket the restoration of Puget Sound into national prominence, Gov. Christine Gregoire announced Monday the most ambitious plan to date to clean up toxic dumps around the Sound, prevent oil spills, and take other actions to revive the ailing inland sea.

- **Effort begins to detect cystic fibrosis early**

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 29, 2005

The baby's first symptoms were strange and subtle. Katrina Galipeau's baby girl didn't correctly digest solid foods and filled her diaper six to eight times a day. Francheska's little fingers clubbed slightly and she didn't grow as much as other children. But all medical tests were negative and doctors insisted things were fine. Then, when she was 4, Francheska started getting rashes. Then a cough she couldn't shake. Finally, just before her fifth birthday, she developed a rash so bad her entire foot was swollen and painful.

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

- Surveillance for Certain Health Behaviors Among States and Selected Local Areas**
Source: MMWR Surveillance Summaries, Volume 54, No. SS-8, December 2, 2005
 Data on health risk behaviors for chronic diseases and use of preventive practices are essential for developing effective health education and intervention programs and policies to prevent morbidity and mortality. This report summarizes data for states/territories, selected metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (MMSAs), and their counties from the 2003 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Findings demonstrate that prevalence of high-risk behaviors for chronic diseases, awareness of certain medical conditions, and use of preventive health-care services varied substantially by state/territory, MMSA, and county, indicating a need for appropriate public health interventions and continued efforts to evaluate public health programs and policies and health-care-related efforts designed to reduce morbidity and mortality.
- MMWR Weekly**
December 2, 2005, Volume 54, No. 47
 Articles of interest: "Severe *Clostridium difficile*--Associated Disease in Populations Previously at Low Risk," "Early-Onset and Late-Onset Neonatal Group B Streptococcal Disease," "Adult Participation in Recommended Levels of Physical Activity," "Errata: Vol. 54, No. 31," "Errata: Vol. 54, No. SS-6," "QuickStats: Rate of Very Low Birthweight, by Age of Mother and Multiple-Birth Status," "Licensure of a Combined Live Attenuated Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Vaccine," "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month," "MMWR Subscriber Survey," and "Notifiable Diseases and Reported Deaths."
- Notice to Readers: Licensure of a Combined Live Attenuated Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Vaccine**
Source: MMWR Weekly, December 2, 2005/54(47); 1212-1214
 On September 6, 2005, the Food and Drug Administration licensed a combined live attenuated measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine (ProQuad[®], Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, New Jersey) for use in children aged 12 months to 12 years. The attenuated measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine viruses in ProQuad are identical and of equal titer to those in the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, MMRII[®] (Merck). The titer of Oka/Merck varicella-zoster virus is higher in MMRV vaccine than in single antigen varicella vaccine, VARIVAX[®] (Merck), a minimum of 3.13 log₁₀ plaque-forming units (pfu) versus 1,350 pfu (approximately 1.13 log₁₀), respectively.
- Supplemental Testing for Confirmation of Reactive Oral Fluid Rapid HIV Antibody Tests**
Source: MMWR Dispatch, December 16, 2005, Volume 54, Dispatch
 CDC has received reports of false positive results from multiple HIV testing programs using oral fluid specimens in the OraQuick[®] Advance Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test. Some false positives are to be expected within the range of specificity for the test. CDC is actively working to investigate these reports, assess the test's current performance, and consider whether changes in testing protocols should be recommended. In the meantime, current protocols for confirmation of reactive rapid HIV test results should be followed.
- MMWR Weekly**
December 16, 2005, Volume 54, No. 49
 Articles of interest: "West Nile Virus Activity," "Update: Influenza Activity," "Brief Report: Respiratory Syncytial Virus Activity," "QuickStats: Total Fertility Rates, by State," "Ninth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research, May 8-10, 2006," and "Notifiable Diseases and

Reported Deaths."

- **Guidelines for the Investigation of Contacts of Persons with Infectious Tuberculosis**
Source: MMWR Recommendations and Reports, December 16, 2005/54(RR15); 1-37
In 1962, isoniazid (INH) was demonstrated to be effective in preventing tuberculosis (TB) among household contacts of persons with TB disease. Investigations of contacts and treatment of contacts with latent TB infection (LTBI) became a strategy in the control and elimination of TB. In 1976, the American Thoracic Society (ATS) published brief guidelines for the investigation, diagnostic evaluation, and medical treatment of TB contacts.
- **Outbreaks of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Associated with Petting Zoos--North Carolina, Florida, and Arizona, 2004 and 2005**
Source: MMWR Weekly, December 23, 2005/54(50); 1277-1280
During 2004-05, three outbreaks of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 infections occurred among agricultural fair, festival, and petting zoo visitors in North Carolina, Florida, and Arizona. One hundred eight cases, including 15 cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), were reported in the North Carolina outbreak; 63 cases, including seven HUS cases, were reported in the Florida outbreak; and two cases were reported in Arizona. No fatalities occurred.
- **MMWR Weekly**
December 23, 2005, Volume 54, No. RR-16
Articles of interest: "A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States," "Appendix A: Case Finding and Management of Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg)-Positive Persons During Delivery of Vaccination Services," "Appendix B: Immunization Management Issues," and "Appendix C: Postexposure Prophylaxis of Persons with Discrete Identifiable Exposures to Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)."

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Publications - Reports

- **Employment-Based Prevention of Chronic Disease in Washington State, 2005**
In 2003, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a call to action to nation's employers to implement workplace health promotion activities aimed at chronic disease. The report concluded: Public and private policies need to focus on sustained efforts to encourage positive behaviors, building on proven, successful models. Key to these efforts is the recognition that the worksite is a place that can be conducive to good health.

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Rule Development

Food Worker Cards--246-217-015 (applicability); 246-217-025 (training topics)

CR-102 filed: December 7, 2005

RCW 69.06 authorized the State Board of Health to issue food worker cards to all food workers in the state. During the 2005 legislative session, SHB 1591 amended RCW 69.06 by conditionally exempting employees of adult family homes. These food workers will now be allowed to receive equivalent food safety training through other sources.

In addition, the Board has received requests to update the food worker training to include information about food allergies. There is a significant percentage of people who are allergic to one or more food items. Simple steps can be taken to prevent unnecessary serious, and sometimes fatal, reactions. The proposal requires a brief discussion or materials on food allergies to be included in all food worker card training.

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