



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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News Release

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Board of Health discusses rules for school health and retaining the names of people living with HIV

Wednesday, March 8, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., AmeriTel Inn, 4520 E Martin Way, Olympia

At its meeting Wednesday, March 8, in Olympia, the Washington State Board of Health will consider an emergency rule that would revise recordkeeping requirements for reports of HIV infection. In 1999, the board adopted rules for reporting HIV cases that require state and local health agencies to substitute unique codes for names within 90 days. Name-to-code conversions are not required for AIDS reports. Beginning next year, states must retain the names of cases of HIV infection to maintain full federal funding of health services. Reporting is due to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this June 30 for allocation of 2007 federal funding under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. The Board will need to enact an emergency rule to prevent a potential loss of millions of dollars for health services in Washington State. An emergency rule would be in place for 120 days. The Board will consider a permanent rule in June.

The Board will also hear a presentation by the Department of Health on a preliminary proposal for revisions to the Board's environmental health and safety standards for K-12 schools. Interested parents, teachers, school district administrators and others have been awaiting the first public discussion draft of this major rule revision. Concerns include controlling mold problems in schools and testing for lead in school drinking water. The Department of Health will use stakeholder comments from workshops it will be holding across the state this month to refine the draft before submitting a final proposal to the Board for consideration later the year.

Following the presentation of the preliminary school rule revision, Harriet Ammann, a toxicologist with the Department of Ecology, will discuss the health effects of mold in buildings and ways to prevent mold contamination.

The Board will also review a preliminary draft of the 2006 State Health Report, which is intended to guide state agencies as they prepare budget and legislation request for 2007.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at www.sboh.wa.gov. The emergency and press contact number for the Board during the meeting is 360-701-2398.

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The Board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the Board's Web site at www.sboh.wa.gov.