Meeting Notice

SBOH #11-006

For immediate release: June 6, 2011

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Board to discuss vision screening for elementary students

Wednesday, June 8, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Cherberg Building, Senate Hearing Room 3, Capitol Campus, 304 15th Ave SE, Olympia, Washington

At its June 8 meeting, the state Board of Health will discuss a proposed interpretation of its rule concerning vision screening in schools. The Board now requires schools to screen students to see if they might be nearsighted. The only approved screening method is the Snellen eye chart. The Optometric Physicians of Washington has asked the Board to determine whether the rule prohibits schools from offering voluntary screenings to test for other kinds of vision problems using other kinds of screening tools.

In addition, the Board will review a proposal for rule making related to shellfish growing and distribution, and it will discuss the results of the legislative special session, including the budget.

The meeting is open and the public is invited to provide testimony on any public health issue at approximately 11:40 a.m. Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the board at 360-236-4100 or on the Board of Health website (www.sboh.wa.gov). The emergency and media 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 of Health website (www.sboh.wa.gov/).