



For Your Information – September 2006

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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Events and Conferences

August 2006

Date	Name and Location
Aug. 21-25	Summer Institute for Public Health Practice University of Washington Seattle, Washington For Information: http://www.nwcp.org/training/summer-institute/si06final_brochure.pdf

September 2006

Date	Name and Location
Sept. 10-11	2nd Annual Meeting of the Directors of Public Health Preparedness Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel Atlanta, Georgia For Information: www.astho.org
Sept. 12-15	ASTHO Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia
For Information: www.astho.org

Sept. 27-29 **2006 Food Safety Education Conference - Reaching at-risk audiences and today's other food safety challenges**
Adam's Mark Hotel
Denver, Colorado
For Information: www.fsis.usda.gov/denver2006

October 2006

Date	Name and Location
Oct. 15-17	National Academy for State Health Policy's 19th Annual State Health Policy Conference Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania For information: www.nashp.org
Oct. 16-18	Joint Conference on Health "Health Across the Generations: Demonstrating the Value of Public Health" Yakima Convention Center Yakima, Washington For information: http://www.wspha.org
Oct. 17-20	Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations: Building the Essential Link between Quality, Cultural Competence, and Disparities Reduction Renaissance Seattle Hotel Seattle, Washington For information: www.diversityrx.org/CCCONF/06/index.html
Oct. 18-19	Northwest Environmental Summit Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center Tacoma, Washington For information: www.envsummit.com/
Oct. 26-27	Blood Borne: A Silent Epidemic Hyatt Regency Chicago, Illinois For information: amy.shaeffer@commonhealthcenter.org

November 2006

Date	Name and Location
Nov. 4-8	Public Health and Human Rights: American Public Health Association's 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center
Boston, Massachusetts
For information: <http://apha.org/meetings/>

Nov. 9-10 **Improving Health Through Partnerships: 2006 Tribal Leader Health Summit**
Little Creek Casino Resort
Shelton, Washington
For information: <http://www.aihc-wa.org>

December 2006

Date Name and Location

Dec. 4-5 **Washington State Conference on Quality-Based Health Care Purchasing**
Bell Harbor Conference Center
Seattle, Washington
For information:
<http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/qualityconference/>

Dec. 4-6 **National Environmental Public Health Conference**
Atlanta, Georgia
For information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/conference/index.htm>

Dec. 12 **Washington Health Legislative Conference**
Getting From Here to There: Alternative Strategies for a Healthy Future
SeaTac Hilton
SeaTac, Washington
For information: <http://depts.washington.edu/rchpol/events/legcon06index.htm>

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Correspondence

Correspondence from the Board

To: David and Patricia Hayes
From: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, August 29, 2006
Response to letter of concern about gym floor and Hazelwood Elementary School in Renton School District.

To: Tribal Leaders
From: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, August 9, 2006
Position announcement for Health Services Consultant 4 position to provide staff support to the Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities.

To: Kyle Thiessen, Code Reviser
From: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, August 9, 2006

Memo withdrawing preproposal statement of inquiry--WSR 03-02-101 filed January 2, 2003. The intent was to develop a proposal to govern stewardship of specimens submitted to the Department of Health's Public Health Laboratories, particularly the dried blood spot specimens that are collected from each infant born in the state and submitted for newborn screening.

To: Kyle Thiessen, Code Reviser

From: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, August 9, 2006

Memo withdrawing preproposal statement of inquiry--WSR 04-15-148 filed July 21, 2004. The intent was to develop criteria to use for determining whether to include certain vaccine-preventable diseases in WAC 246-100-166.

Correspondence to the Board

To: State Board of Health, Environmental Health Committee

From: Patricia and David Hayes, August 21, 2006

Letter expressing concerns about gym floor and Hazelwood Elementary School in Renton School District.

Other Correspondence

None.

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Local Boards of Health: Agendas and Meeting Minutes

Chelan-Douglas Board of Health Agenda

August 21, 2006

- General business
 - Call meeting to order
- Consent Agenda
 - Approval of July 17 meeting minutes
 - Approval of July payroll and July benefits
 - Approval of payment of vouchers 20060492 to 20060
- Program update - oral health program
- Board discussion
- Public comment
- New business
 - Discussion of BOH alternatives
 - Resolution 2006-007 surplus property
 - Resolution 2006-008 accept electronic payments
- Unfinished business
 - Resolution 2006-006 public records officer
- Reports
 - Administrator
 - Support services
 - Personal health services
 - Environmental health services

- Adjournment

Chelan-Douglas Board of Health Minutes

July 17, 2006

- Consent agenda
 - Approval of June 19 minutes
 - Approval of June payroll and June benefits
 - Approval of payment vouchers 20060420 - 20060491
- Program update - mosquito nuisance issues
- Board discussion - hantavirus
- Public comment
- New business - resolution 2006-06
- Unfinished business - approval of resolution 2006-005
- Reports
 - Murdock Trust Foundation
 - Introduction of Gerard DeLeon, intern for the Environmental Health Division this summer
- Adjournment

Grant County Board of Health Agenda

September 6, 2006

- Approval of August 9, 2006 minutes
- Public forum for citizen's comments and applications
- Environmental health report
 - amendment of the food ordinance proposal
- Personal health/administrator report
- Health officer's report
 - smoking variance
 - chickenpox update
- Approval of vouchers for August 31, 2006
- Other business
- Adjournment

Grant County Board of Health Minutes

August 9, 2006

- Approval of July 12, 2006 minutes
- Public forum for citizen's comments and applications
- Environmental health report
 - quarterly report
 - land development review changes
 - ordinance 2006-05 adopted
- June and July food inspections
- I-901 regulation
- Personal health/administrator report
 - agency mid-year report
 - public health funding
- Health officer's report
 - public health funding

- Norovirus outbreak
- Healthy communities
- Approval of vouchers for July 31, 2006
- Other business
 - Joint Conference on Health
- Adjournment

Grant County Board of Health Minutes

July 12, 2006

- Approval of June 14, 2006 minutes
- Public forum for citizen's comments and applications
- Environmental health report
 - quarterly report
 - draft policy
- Personal health/administrator report
 - credit card policy
 - quarterly report
 - agency mid-year report
- Health officer's report
 - Norovirus update
 - Pandemic flu planning
 - Hepatitis A
- Approval of vouchers for June 30, 2006
- Other business
 - Public disclosure record policy
 - Mold issue
 - Initiative 901
- Adjournment

Jefferson County Board of Health Agenda

August 17, 2006

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of July 20 minutes
- Public comments
- Old business and information items
 - a. Board recommendations: Green business
 - b. Cyanobacteria and Vibriosis update
 - c. JCPH public education and outreach plan
- New business
 - a. Joint Committee on Public Health Financing
 - b. Health care worker vaccination - time for a mandate?
 - c. Jefferson County point of dispensing Exercise report
- Activity update
 - a. Pandemic Influenza community forums
- Agenda planning

Jefferson County Board of Health Minutes

July 20, 2006

- Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of June 15 minutes
 - Public Comments
 - Old Business and Informational Items
 - West Nile Virus Newsletter, Summer 2006
 - Board Correspondence
 - Cyanobacteria Update
 - Solid Waste Enforcement Update
- New Business
 - EnviroStars award for Dentistry Northwest
 - Waste Reduction and Recycled Product Procurement Policy
 - 2006-07 Tobacco Workplan Highlights
 - Proposed Board of Health Bylaws Changes
 - 2007 Budget Process Update
 - New Vaccines – Costs, Benefits, Controversies
- Activity Update
- Agenda Planning
 - On-Site Sewage Code Revision Process

King County Board of Health Agenda

September 15, 2006

Call to Order

- Announcement of Any Alternates Serving in Place of Regular Members
- Approval of July 14 and July 25 (Action Item)
- General Public Comments
- Chair's Report
- Board Member's Updates
- Director's Report
- Administrator's Report
- Health Code Merger Process
- Public Health Operational Master Plan (PHOMP) Update
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Adjournment

King County Board of Health Agenda

August 18, 2006

- Meeting cancelled. Next meeting September 15, 2006

Kittitas County Board of Health Agenda

August 17, 2006

- Approval of July 20, 2006 minutes
- Introductions and Announcements:
 - BOHAC representative(s)
 - Introduction of new staff (WIC Coordinator, Assessment Coordinator/HP Manager, Health Educator) – Bonnie Corns
- Contracts and Amendments:

- Interpreter FFP Administrative Match Contract, DSHS Contract #0563-83289 Amendment #1
- Consolidated Contract #C13037 Amendment #11
- Department Updates/Issues
- Business – Staffing replacements progress report – Cathy Bambrick

Lewis County Board of Health Minutes

September 11, 2006

- Call to Order
- Approval of July 10 minutes
- Consent Items
 - Approval of resolutions 091106.1 and 091106.2
- Public Health Issues: Environmental health update
 - Environmental surveillance related to WNV and avian influenza
 - Wellhead delegation opportunity
- Health officer/administrator update
- Adjournment

Lewis County Board of Health Minutes

July 10, 2006

- Consent Items
 - Approval of resolutions 071006.1 and 071006.2
- Public Health Issues
 - 2005 annual WIC report
 - Breastfeeding program and event
 - On-site sewage program status
- Health officer/administrator update
 - pandemic flu planning
- Adjournment

Snohomish Health District Board of Health Agenda

September 12, 2006

- Call to order and roll call
- Chair's report
 - Update on search to replace retiring health officer
 - Executive committee minutes
- Health officer's report
 - Recognition of Tuberculosis team as the health district team of the quarter
 - Healthy communities update
 - Monthly report
- Approval of August 15 minutes
- Public comment period
- Committee reports and standing reports
 - Administration committee
 - Program policy committee
 - Standing reports and comments - 1) communicable disease report 2) community health division report 3) environmental health division report 4) vital statistics report

- Consent agenda
 - Approval of resolution 06-13
 - Approval of increase in adult vaccination administration fee and influenza fee
- Action items
 - Approval of compensation study recommendation
- Discussion items - none
- Information items
 - Scheduled meetings
- Executive session - as needed
- Other business
- Adjournment

Snohomish Health District Board of Health Agenda

August 15, 2006

- Call to order and roll call
- Chair's report
 - Appointment of members of environmental health fee committee
 - Search committee to replace retiring Health Officers
 - Report on NALBOH conference
- Health officer's report
 - Monthly report
- Approval of July 11 minutes
- Public comment period
- Committee reports and standing reports
 - Administration committee
 - Program policy committee
 - Standing reports and comments - 1) communicable disease report 2) community health division report 3) environmental health division report 4) vital statistics report 5) financial report
- Consent agenda
 - Approval of resolution 06-12
 - Approval of Tamiflu stockpile purchase for health district employees and families
- Action items
 - Approval of increase in .5 FTE Web Designer to 1.0 FTE
 - Approval of remodeling plan for third floor of Rucker Building
 - Approval of capital budget increase for generator
 - Approval of policy regarding hiring tobacco-free employees
- Discussion items - none
- Information items
 - 2005 Snohomish Health District Audit report
 - North Region EMS & Trauma Care Council mini-grant for safety camps
 - Scheduled meetings
- Executive session
- Other business
- Adjournment

Snohomish Health District Board of Health Minutes

June 13, 2006

- Call to Order
- Chair's Report
- Health Officer's Report
 - Recognition of Jonelle Fenton-Wallace for work on SB 6239
 - Presentation on Health Indicators of Snohomish County
 - Monthly report 1) Update on a presentation that Donna Allis, Snohomish Health District Tuberculosis Program Manager, is making at a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Conference in Atlanta on the tuberculosis outbreak the Health District experienced among methamphetamine users 2) update West Nile Virus season 3) status of H5N1 avian influenza 4) status of pandemic influenza community planning 5) status of legal action against establishments who are noncompliant with the Washington Clean Indoor Act
- Approval of May 9 minutes
- Public Comment - none
- Committee Reports
- Consent Agenda
 - Approval of (a) Resolution 06-08 authorizing May 2006 expenditures for Health District, AIDS and PHEPR funds; and (b) revision to 2006 vehicles purchase. The motion carried unanimously.
- Action Agenda
 - Approval of restoration of Water Wastewater staffing
 - Approval of increase in 2006 General Fund Supplies budget for increased vaccine costs.
 - Approval of purchase of software licenses.
 - Approval of Resolution 06-09, supporting The Snohomish County Plan to End Homelessness by 2016.
 - Acceptance of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant for Tuberculosis programs.
- Discussion Items
 - Partners in Child Care resources on loan to the Tuberculosis Program
 - Electronic meeting packets
 - Change in August meeting date
- Information Items
 - Scheduled meetings
- Executive Session
- Review specific legal actions being taken by the Health District in the Tobacco Program and a personnel issue
- Other Business - None

Tacoma Pierce County Board of Health Agenda

September 6, 2006

- Comments by the public
- Consent Agenda
 - Approval of August 2 minutes
 - Approval of resolutions 2006-3885 through 2006-3886
- Regular Agenda
 - Approval of resolutions 2006-3887 through 2006-3893
- Director of health comments

- Puyallup Street Scramble held on Saturday, August 26, 2006
- Needle exchange update
- Comments by Board of Health members
- Executive Session
- Adjournment

Tacoma Pierce County Board of Health Agenda

August 2, 2006

- Comments by the public
- Consent Agenda
 - Approval of August 2 minutes
 - Approval of resolutions 2006-3874 through 2006-3878
- Regular Agenda
 - Approval of resolutions 2006-3879 through 2006-3884
- Director of health comments
 - Open house
 - Puyallup Street Scramble
 - WSPHA
 - Update: Antiviral purchasing, pandemic flu preparations include stockpiling medications to protect Pierce County
 - Quality improvement
- Comments by Board of Health members
- Executive Session
- Adjournment

Tacoma Pierce County Board of Health Minutes

July 5, 2006

- Introduction and welcome of new BOH member
- Comments by the public
- Consent Agenda
 - Approval of June 7 minutes
 - Approval of resolutions 2006-3865 through 2006-3866
- Regular Agenda
 - Approval of resolutions 2006-3867 through 2006-3873
- Director of Health Report
 - 2007 health department budget
 - legislative funding
- Comments by Board of Health Members
 - Wapato Lake
 - PC Environmental Health Indicators Project
- Executive Session - None
- Adjournment

Tacoma Pierce County Board of Health Minutes

June 29, 2006

- Funding trends
- Estimated Revenues

- Staffing trends
- Strategic plan review
 - Committed to outcomes
 - Leadership
 - Data driven
 - Access to Care
 - Maternal/Child Health Program
- Manager presentations
 - Environmental health
 - Strengthening families
 - Communicable disease control
 - Cross cultural collaboration youth mentors
 - Food and community safety and prevention priorities
- Direction from the BOH members

Thurston County Board of Health Agenda

September 11, 2006

- Call meeting to order
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of August 7 Minutes
- Correspondence: NACCHO Letter of Appreciation; Steve Davies and John Ward Commendation Email
- Update on citizen issues
- Opportunity for the public to address the board
- Consent items ~ Lewis County Interlocal Agreement for Health Officer Services Amendment No.1
- Influenza vaccine for essential workers
- Update on joint select committee on public health finance: 4410 committee
- Director's report
- Health officer's report
- Adjournment

Thurston County Board of Health Minutes

August 7, 2006

- Call to Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of June 5, 2006 Minutes
- Correspondence: American Civil Liberties Union of Washington (ACLU) Letter
- Update on Citizen Issues
- Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board - none
- Consent Items
 - Partners for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Board member Appointment
 - Department of Social and Health Services County Agreement No. 0663-98798
 - Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Mason Conservation District for Totten/Eld Inlet TMDL Response Project
 - Mason County Interlocal Agreement for Health Officer Services

- Department of Health – Ryan White/Title II 2005-2007 Contract No. N13714 Amendment No. 1
- Department of Ecology Solid Waste Enforcement Agreement No.G0600136 Amendment No. 1
- Department of Ecology Moderate Risk Waste Coordinated Prevention Agreement No.G0600137 Amendment No. 1
- Gains Workgroup Report – Update on mentally ill offender services development
- Director’s Report - none
- Health Officer’s Report
 - Electronic death registration pilot project
- Adjournment

Thurston County Board of Health Minutes

May 1, 2006

- Call to Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of May 1, 2006 Minutes
- Correspondence: State Board of Health (SBOH) letter
- Update on Citizen Issues – None
- Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board - None
- Consent Items:
 - TOGETHER! Secondhand-Smoke Education Contract
 - Long Lake Management Plan Addendum No. 1 – IPM Prescription for the Control of White Waterlily
- Community Health Task Force: Report on Progress
- WIC Program Update and 2005 Annual WIC Report
- Medical Resource Corps Update
- Director’s Report
- Health Officer’s Report – Dr. Diana Yu
- Adjournment

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Public Health Leadership Positions Available

Division Director, Community and Family Services

Spokane Regional Health District

Closes: September 1, 2006

For information: <http://www.srhd.org/information/jobs/>

Fund Manager (Business and Finance Officer IV)

Public Health--Seattle & King County

Closes: September 14, 2006

For information: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/kinghealth/default.cfm>

Program Analyst

Kittitas County Health Department

Closes: When Filled

For information: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/hr/jobs.asp?jobID=337>

Senior Advisor for Policy and Business Practices

Washington State Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology, Health Statistics, and Public Health Laboratories

Closes: August 31, 2006

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Publications - General Media

A better breakfast can boost a child's brainpower

NPR, August 31, 2006

Attention, children: Do not skip breakfast -- or your grades could pay a price. Evidence suggests that eating breakfast really does help kids learn. After fasting all night, a developing body (and brain) needs a fresh supply of glucose -- or blood sugar. That's the brain's basic fuel.

China calls AIDS vaccine 'effective' in early test

The Philadelphia Enquirer, August 22, 2006

China's government said its first human trial of an AIDS vaccine showed it was effective in protecting against the HIV-1 virus and did not produce any serious side effects among 49 volunteers who received it. All participants showed signs they had "become immune against the HIV-1 virus" after it had been administered for 15 days, the State Food and Drug Administration said in a statement on its Web site during the weekend.

Immunization: Childhood PCB exposure may weaken vaccinations

New York Times, September 5, 2006

Exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCB's, can make children's diphtheria and tetanus vaccinations less effective, a new report suggests. The study, published online last month in the journal *PloS Medicine*, was carried out in the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic, where the consumption of pilot whale blubber results in very high PCB blood levels. PCB use is now banned worldwide, but the industrial chemicals persist in the environment, especially in fish and marine mammals, and in lower concentrations in meat and dairy products. The study included 240 children who were routinely vaccinated in early childhood. Researchers measured maternal blood and breast milk levels of PCB's and each child's PCB blood level at 18 months and age 7.

Iowa Supreme Court upholds HIV-spreading conviction

CNN.com, August 4, 2006

A man convicted of having unprotected sex with four people while knowing he carried the virus that causes AIDS was denied appeals Friday by the Iowa Supreme Court. The court said Adam Donald Musser, who is serving 50 years in prison for criminal transmission of HIV, deserved a long sentence because intentionally exposing someone to the virus "is just like the first-degree robber who attempts to inflict serious injury on his victim."

Life-expectancy gaps show need to focus on prevention, treatment

Wall Street Journal, September 12, 2006

The difference in life expectancy between the healthiest and most ill-prone people in the U.S. is about 33 years, reflecting persisting health disparities despite a rising life span for the country as a whole,

according to a study from Harvard University's Initiative for Global Health and its School of Public Health.

Link between air-travel limits, delay in flu's spread is tightened

Wall Street Journal, September 12, 2006

Scientists have found the first significant evidence that restricting air travel can delay flu's spread -- a finding that could influence government plans for battling the next influenza pandemic.

Scientific Hurdles Slow Development of `Critical' HIV Vaccines

Bloomberg.com, August 15, 2006

Scientific hurdles are slowing development of vaccines that could prevent infection with HIV, and an effective product may still be five to 10 years away. Of more than 30 vaccine candidates, Merck & Co.'s experimental product is in the most advanced stages of testing for widespread use. Data indicating whether it works isn't expected until 2008 at the earliest, and more studies will be needed to confirm the findings, even if the results are good.

Septic system grants

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, September 4, 2006

\$7.5 million grant to help fix Puget Sound homeowners' septic tank systems will also improve beaches and streams in the surrounding area, state Ecology officials said. The grant and low-interest loan program is part of Gov. Chris Gregoire's plan to restore Puget Sound. It will be available for households in the 12 counties bordering the sound. There are about 472,000 septic systems in the region, many in disrepair, that aren't connected to sewage treatment plants. About 30,000 acres of state commercial shellfish beds have been closed due to raw sewage from failing septic systems and other pollution.

Septic system maintenance is important

The Olympian, September 11, 2006

On-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems) can efficiently treat wastewater from homes. A properly maintained and working septic system treats water from sinks, toilets, showers, dishwashers and washing machines so that it can safely replenish groundwater. That's right, in Thurston County - where most of us depend on groundwater for our drinking water - on-site septic systems are a link in the water cycle between wastewater and drinking water. The connection between septic systems and public drinking water is one reason Thurston County's Public Health Department regulates on-site septic systems. Regulation isn't all it takes to maintain septic systems. Educating homeowners - and homeowners taking proper action to maintain their systems - is an important part of the public health picture as well.

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Publications - Inside This Issue

Advances

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, July 2006

- Covering Kids & Families® Back-to-School Campaign to Launch Soon
- Project HealthDesign Is Rethinking the Power and Potential of Personal Health Records
- Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships Program Enters 33rd Year
- RWJF Awards Grants for Four Pilot Projects to Improve Health Care Quality
- RWJF Invites Research Proposals on Disparities Issues

- Creating a Road Map for Addressing Public Health's Critical Needs
- The Story of David Olds and the Nurse Home Visiting Program

<http://www.rwjf.org/publications/newsletterlist.jsp>

Alliance

Western Washington Area Health Education Center, Summer 2006

- Charlotte Hardt of Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center wins national award
- DHHS agenda for healthcare research and quality releases update of report on telemedicine
- New DVD on on putting quality into practice
- Trends in health and aging home page changes
- New tool to aid state flex program
- Project HOPE mini camp
- HHS announces additional \$225 million for state and local pandemic influenza preparedness efforts
- Seattle's Union Gospel Mission: Bridging the Gap
- Free malpractice insurance for volunteer health care providers
- Health information technology: a rural provider's roadmap to quality
- National pesticide practice skills guidelines for medical and nursing practice
- Horizons Program: community leadership to reduce poverty
- Bellevue Community College medical informatics certificate program

<http://www.wwahec.org>

E-Health

Association of State and Territory Health Officials, July 2006

- ASTHO Activities and Publications ~ Public Health, Law Enforcement, and Privacy Issues Report; Informatics Workforce Issue Report; Tracking Patients and Vaccines in Large Scale Events Issue Brief; at ASTHO Sr Deputies Meeting-Informatics Session ; P&PHP and PHIE-EHR Conference Call featuring the Mid-America Alliance; ASTHO attends NHIN Forum and state RHIO meeting
- Informatics in the News ~ MN eHealth supports HIT in rural, underserved areas; OR governor seeks federal funding for health IT; HITSP recommends 90 initial standards; First round of ambulatory EHR products certified by CCHIT; HIPAA privacy concerns in the expansion of electronic health information; Web-based HIPAA Privacy Decision Tool for Emergency Planning; CDC reports growth of EMR use; IOM report recommends universal e-prescribing by 2010; Cost of House Health IT Bill estimated
- Grants/Funding Opportunities ~ Laboratory Performance Standards RFP Released; Common Ground Supports Public Health Information System Requirements Gathering; Academic Health Department Grants; PHR Grant
- Announcements ~ ASTHO Annual Mtg in Atlanta in Sept.; Nat'l Conference on Health Information Capture in Las Vegas in Sept.; Rural HIT Meeting in Kansas City, MO in Sept.; NAPHIT Annual Mtg in Atlanta in Sept.; PHIN Conference in Atlanta in Sept.; PHR Conference in DC in Dec.
- About ASTHO

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/2/archives.php?u=Jmk9Mg%3D%3D>

Elaborations

Department of Health, Vol. XI, Issue 8, August/September, 2006

- Washington's Laboratory Complaint Process
- National Provider Identifier (NPI) Information
- Wellness Screening Guidelines
- Basic Blood Cell Morphology Training Class
- Basic Urine Sediments Training Class
- Laboratory-Based Practice Guidelines
- Calendar of Events

http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa_newsletters.htm

Environmental Health News

Association of State and Territory Health Officials, August 2006

- **ASTHO News** ~ Newsletter evaluation and current employment opportunities at ASTHO. State Funding Opportunities ~ Funding opportunities available for public health conferences, land use planning, and proper disposal of unused medication.
- **State News** ~ Environmental health news from California, Iowa, and Nebraska.
- **Federal News** ~ Federal news from EPA and the National Research Council.
- **Call For Student Poster Abstracts** ~ New student poster competition for CDC's National Environmental Public Health Conference.
- **Upcoming Events** ~ National meetings and conferences for environmental health professionals.

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/3/archives.php?u=Jmk9Mw%3D%3D>

Association of State and Territory Health Officials, August 2006

- **ASTHO News** ~ Newsletter evaluation and current employment opportunities at ASTHO.
- **State Funding Opportunities** ~ Funding opportunities available for state health agencies for work related to indoor pollutants and land use planning.
- **State News** ~ Environmental health news from South Carolina.
- **Federal News** ~ Federal news from EPA.
- **Request For Comments** ~ Request for comments on EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.
- **New Resources** ~ Environmental health resources for residential mold remediation and food safety.
- **Upcoming Events** ~ National meetings and conferences for environmental health professionals.

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/3/archives.php?u=Jmk9Mw%3D%3D>

Environmental Health Perspectives

Journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Vol. 114, No. 9, September 2006

- **Focus** ~ Monitoring Environmental Exposures: Now It's Personal
- **Innovations** ~ T Rays vs. Terrorists: Widening the Security Spectrum
- **Climate Change** ~ Health Impacts of Climate Change in the United States
- **Exposure Assessment** ~ Bioaerosols in New Orleans after Flooding
- **Respiratory Disease** ~ Nanoparticles and Lung Inflammation
- **Cardiovascular Disease** ~ Subpopulations Vulnerable to Temperature Extremes
- **Infectious Disease** ~ Air Pollution and Otitis Media
- **Exposure Assessment** ~ Children's Exposure to Pyrethroid Pesticides

<http://www.ehponline.org/>

Journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Vol. 114, No. 8, August 2006

- **Focus** ~ The Apple Bites Back: Claiming Old Orchards for Residential Development
- **Innovations** ~ Shiny Science: A New Substitute for Hexavalent Chromium
- **Respiratory Disease** ~ Childhood Arsenic Exposure and Early Mortality
- **Neurodegenerative Disease** ~ Toluene, Noise, and Hearing Loss
- **Toxicology** ~ Translocation of Inhaled Manganese Oxides to the Central Nervous System
- **Neurodevelopment** ~ Prenatal Exposure to Air Pollution and Cognition
- **Autoimmune Disease** ~ Asbestos Exposure and Autoimmune Disease
- **Book Review** ~ *High Tech Trash*

<http://www.ehponline.org/>

Journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Vol. 114, No. 7, July 2006

- **Innovations** ~ A Clear Solution for Dirty Water
- **Focus** ~ Tracing the Origins of Autism: A Spectrum of New Studies
- **Cancer** ~ TRI Chemicals and Childhood Brain Cancer
- **Neurodegenerative Disease** ~ Mycotoxin-Induced Olfactory Epithelium Atrophy
- **Risk Characterization** ~ Occupational Exposure to *Pfiesteria*
- **Signal Transduction** ~ Nanomolar Thimerosal Dysregulates Cell Signaling
- **Cardiovascular Disease** ~ Air Pollution and the Elderly

<http://www.ehponline.org/>

EpiLog

Public Health Seattle & King County, Vol. 46, No. 8, August 2006

- Alert on Imported Measles
- Update on Outbreak of *Vibrio parahemolyticus* Infections
- Primary Multi-drug Resistant Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in King County
- Communicable Disease and Epidemiology contact information
- Reported Cases of Selected Diseases in Seattle and King County

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/epilog/index.htm>

Public Health Seattle & King County, Vol. 46, No. 7, July 2006

- Outbreak of *Vibrio parahemolyticus* Infections Associated with Consumption of Raw Local Oysters
- New Recommendations From the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- HIV-AIDS Reported Cases for July, 2006
- Communicable Disease and Epidemiology contact information
- Reported Cases of Selected Diseases in Seattle and King County

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/epilog/index.htm>

Public Health Preparedness

Association of State and Territory Health Officials, August 2006

- **National Preparedness Month** ~ September is National Preparedness Month
- **Meeting the Performance Measures: Case Studies from the States** ~ Florida's EpiCom System
- **Promising Practices** ~ New ASTHO Initiative on Promising Preparedness Practices

- **ASTHO Publications and Resources** ~ New Reports from ASTHO
- **ASTHO Annual Meeting and DPHP Meeting** ~ The ASTHO Annual Meeting is approaching!
- **Suspicious Powder Collection Standards** ~ National Standard for White Powder Collection Procedures Approved
- **Federal Updates** ~ New Anthrax Therapeutic Added to the SNS, List of Candidate Sites for National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Announced, FDA Develops New Tests for Biological Threat Agents
- **Pandemic Influenza Update** ~ UN Creates Avian Influenza Sequence Database, Low - Dose Avian Influenza Vaccine Could be Available in 2007, WHO Changes H5N1 Strains for Pandemic Vaccines
- **State News** ~ Preparedness Activities in Iowa, Rhode Island and New Jersey
- **Public Health Resources and Reports** ~ New Preparedness Resources
- **Upcoming Events** ~ Upcoming Preparedness Trainings and Meetings

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/9/archives.php?u=Jmk9OQ%3D%3D>

Association of State and Territory Health Officials, July 2006

- **Case Studies in Performance Measurement** ~ South Carolina's REACH SC
- **ASTHO Annual Meeting and DPHP Meeting** ~ The ASTHO Annual Meeting is approaching! Details about the Annual Meeting and the Directors of Public Health Preparedness' (DPHP) Meeting both taking place in mid-September
- **Federal Update** ~ FDA announces appointment of Medical Director for Emerging and Pandemic Threat Preparedness; Update on the preparedness legislation; Senate action on FEMA's future; Appointment of Assistant Secretary of Public Health Emergency Preparedness at HHS; HHS reorganizes the Office of Public Health Preparedness; FDA ALERT initiative for food security
- **Pandemic Influenza Update** ~ Congress Approves \$2.3 billion for pandemic preparedness; HHS releases Phase II Guidance; Secretary Leavitt releases Pandemic Planning Update II; Avian/H5N1 influenza update
- **ASTHO Publications and Resources** ~ New ASTHO resources that pertain to public health preparedness
- **State News** ~ Reports from Idaho and Guam and a summary of state antiviral purchasing from USA Today
- **Upcoming Events** ~ Upcoming preparedness events, conferences, meetings, and trainings
- **Public Health Resources and Reports** ~ Useful materials for informing public health preparedness activities

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/9/archives.php?u=Jmk9OQ%3D%3D>

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 27, Issue 474, September 4, 2006

- **State News** ~ White House orders health information advance, as states move ahead; Granite care increases home - and community-based care; Long-term care partnerships could bloom again under the DRA
- **Highlights** ~ Medicaid; Health insurances; Substance Abuse; Prescription drugs
- **Graphically Speaking** ~ Employees pay about a fourth of the cost of their coverage

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

- **Building a Diverse Physician Workforce**
JAMA, Vol. 296, No. 9, September 6, 2006
The article by Grumbach and Chen in this issue of *JAMA*¹ confirms that postbaccalaureate programs are an effective means for increasing minority and disadvantaged students' acceptance to medical schools. These findings are timely, because the medical profession in the United States is in great need of documented ways to achieve substantially more racial and ethnic diversity. Absent sufficient diversity, medicine simply cannot fulfill its obligation to provide optimum health care services to everyone.² In 2005, only 1043 US medical school graduates were black, only 936 were Hispanic/Latino, and only 96 were Native American. In aggregate, these graduates comprised fewer than 13% of all graduating MDs that year.³ That value is about half of the representation of these minority groups in the US population—a population that is increasingly diverse.
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/extract/296/9/1135>
- **Effectiveness of University of California Postbaccalaureate Premedical Programs in Increasing Medical School Matriculation for Minority and Disadvantaged Students**
JAMA, Vol. 296, No. 9, September 6, 2006
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/296/9/1079?etoc>
- **Immunization Disparities in Older Americans: Determinants and Future Research Needs**
American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol. 31, Issue 2, August 2006
Marked racial disparities persist in influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations among Medicare beneficiaries. This study sought to assess the contribution that patient, physician, health system, and area-level characteristics make to these racial disparities in immunization. Despite similar insurance coverage and presence of a usual physician, black beneficiaries were significantly less likely than their white counterparts to receive influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations. The implications for future research are discussed, including the need for system-based interventions that make the offering and discussion of vaccination routine. A full copy of this article is available at the American Journal of Preventive Medicine Web.
- **Pertussis Outbreak in an Amish Community --- Kent County, Delaware, September 2004--February 2005**
MMWR, Vol. 55, No. 30, August 4, 2006
Eating a healthful diet and engaging in physical activity have important health benefits for youths (1,2), such as reducing overweight, a condition that affected 17% of those aged 12--19 years during 2003--2004 (3). School health education that includes information about nutrition and physical activity is an important component of a comprehensive approach to improving dietary behavior, reducing sedentary behavior, and increasing physical activity among youths.
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5530a2.htm?s_cid=mm5530a2_e
- ***Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Infections Associated with Consumption of Raw Shellfish**
MMWR, Vol. 55, Dispatch, August 7, 2006
Vibrio parahaemolyticus infection causes acute self-limited gastroenteritis after eating contaminated food, typically raw or uncooked shellfish. During May 20-July 31, 2006, New York City, New York state, Oregon, and Washington health departments reported a total of 177 cases of

Vibrio parahaemolyticus infection associated with raw shellfish consumption. The 72 confirmed cases were more than four times the usual average number of May-July cases for the same jurisdictions.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm55d807a1.htm?s_cid=mm55d807a1_e

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General Interest

Heroes of Health Care Awards

The Washington Health Foundation's 7th Annual Heroes of Health Care Awards honor and celebrate the achievement of people making great strides in helping Washington become the Healthiest State in the Nation. If you know a person or a group who is making a difference, consider nominating them for one of the following Heroes of Health Care categories:

Healthy Systems Award - Improving a community's health or health system in Washington State

Healthy Living Award - Improving one's own individual health or the health of others

Lifetime Achievement Award - Dedicating one's professional or volunteer life to substantially improving health for the people of Washington

Nominate your hero - Nominations due by October 1, 2006

Please submit your nominations in writing. Include a summary, no more than two pages, of the person's achievements. You may also include pertinent newspaper clippings or other points of reference, not to exceed five pages, and up to three secondary letters by other supporters of the nomination. Groups are eligible for all of the awards except the Lifetime Achievement Award, which is reserved for an individual.

Please mail, email or fax nominations to:

Heather Pitre
Washington Health Foundation
300 Elliott Ave. W., Suite. 300
Seattle, WA 98119-4118
Email: HeatherP@whf.org
Fax: 206-283-6122

Please include your name, phone number and email address, as well as contact information for your nominee.

Save the date!

Please join us for an inspiring celebration...

WHAT: 7th Annual Heroes of Health Care Awards Reception

WHEN: Friday, November 3, 2006
4 - 6 p.m.

WHERE: Marriott Seattle Waterfront

Avian Influenza Low Pathogenic H5N1 vs. Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Latest update August 17, 2006

There are two types of avian influenza (AI) that are identified as H5N1. A difference exists in the virus classification; one is low pathogenic (LPAI) and the other is highly pathogenic (HPAI). Pathogenicity refers to the ability of the virus to produce disease. HPAI H5N1, often referred to as the "Asian" H5N1, is the type causing worldwide concern. LPAI H5N1, often referred to as the "North American" H5N1, is of less concern. Following is an explanation of the differences between them. Release No. 0296.06

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) invites research proposals on disparities issues

The Foundation is inviting research proposals that offer solutions toward reducing racial and ethnic health care disparities in the care of patients with cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus type 2 and/or depression.

RWJF encourages researchers to include data and analyses in their proposals to help us better understand these disparities related to sub-ethnic and other marginalized groups—e.g., Mexican, Puerto Rican, Vietnamese and American Indian—and acculturation factors, such as generation, years in the United States, age of migration and language proficiency.

Budgets will cover up to \$75,000 for research projects that must be completed within one year. Investigators must have at least five years of post-doctoral research experience. These projects are not intended for doctoral students or recent graduates.

For more information: Email disparitiesresearch@rwjf.org

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