



For Your Information – December 2007

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

December 2007

Date	Name and Location
Dec. 11	Washington Health Legislative Conference The Changing Face(s) of Health Care: New People, New Ideas SeaTac Hilton Conference Center SeaTac, Washington For information: www.depts.washington.edu/rchpol

March 2008

Date	Name and Location
Mar. 20-21	21st Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference Spokane, Washington For information: http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/

April 2008

Date	Name and Location
Apr. 4	Institute of Medicine's Future of Public Health 20 Years Later ~ NALBOH's 9th Annual Lecture in Public Health For information: http://www.nalboh.org/lecture/lecture.htm

September 2008

Date	Name and Location
Sep. 9-12	ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference Sacramento, CA For information: http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/documents/NA_Conf_Guide_Back_Page.pdf

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Public Health Leadership Positions Available

Assistant Secretary, Division of Community and Family Health

Washington State Department of Health

Closes: When Filled

For information: http://www.doh.wa.gov/job_ann/DOH516.doc

Department Director

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Closes: November 26, 2007

For information: Marissa Prigg at 360-867-1410

Director, Public Health Systems Planning and Development

Washington State Department of Health

Closes: When Filled

For information: http://www.doh.wa.gov/job_ann/DOH516.doc

Environmental Health Specialist I/II

Chelan-Douglas Health District

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.cdhd.wa.gov/docs/EHS%20I-II%20Position%20Recruitment.pdf>

Outreach Coordinator

Washington State Board of Health

Closes: When Filled

For information: http://www.sboh.wa.gov/FYI/2007/12/Documents/RecAnn_OC.pdf

Public Health Nurse

Whatcom County Health Department

Closes: November 28, 2007

For information: <http://www.sboh.wa.gov/FYI/2007/12/Documents/PHN.pdf>

Public Health Nurse II - First Steps Program

Kittitas County Health Department

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/hr/jobs.asp?jobID=348>

Senior Analyst - Operational Definition and Exploring Accreditation

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.naccho.org/careers/headquarters/HQ45.cfm>

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Publications - General Media

Call for tracking staph superbug - Every case of a drug-resistant staph infection should be reported to the state, a lawmaker says.

The Everett Herald, November 11, 2007

A state lawmaker says Gov. Chris Gregoire should order state health officials to begin tracking each case of an increasingly common bacterial infection resistant to antibiotics. State Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Roy, has sent a letter to the governor urging her to use her emergency executive powers to force health officials to take action.

Get serious about MRSA, Gregoire says

Everett Herald, November 15, 2007

About 80 hospital and private laboratories in Washington will be asked to begin immediately reporting invasive, or the most serious, cases of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections, the first of several steps announced by state officials Wednesday to help battle the stubborn bugs. In a letter delivered Wednesday, Gov. Chris Gregoire asked the state Department of Health to increase monitoring of the infections.

Gregoire asks Department of Health to convene MRSA panel

The News Tribune, November 14, 2007

Gov. Chris Gregoire has directed the state Department of Health to convene a panel of scientific experts to recommend how best to monitor aggressive antibiotic-resistant infections, and what to do about it. The letter from Gregoire was received by health officials today, and asks for recommendations on all antibiotic-resistant organisms, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA. It asks that a report is given to her no later than Jan. 10.

Gregoire takes on superbug MRSA

Seattle Times, November 15, 2007

Gov. Christine Gregoire wants medical laboratories around the state to report cases of invasive MRSA infections caused by antibiotic-resistant strains of staph bacteria. In a letter to Washington State Department of Health Secretary Mary Selecky, Gregoire directed that she use her authority to "request" that the labs cooperate.

Healthier foods getting more costly, study says

Seattle Times, December 5, 2007

Anyone who has tried to eat a more healthy diet lately knows it costs more to eat all those fresh fruits and vegetables. But a new study by the University of Washington has found that it's getting more expensive all the time — and may even be out of reach for some. The first-of-its-kind study by UW researchers found that between 2004 and 2006, the costs of some healthy foods went up nearly 20 percent at major Seattle supermarkets. But over the same period, the cost of some junk foods dropped.

Journal Supplement Examines Health Care Consequences of Language Barriers: Studies show importance of language services on reducing disparities, increasing quality of care for patients who speak little, if any, English.

RWJF, November 7, 2007

In the United States, nearly one in five people speaks a language other than English at home. And, while many can comfortably speak English when needed, experts estimate some 20 million people in America—about one in every 15 people—speak or understand little, if any English. This means health care providers are increasingly facing the challenge of how to communicate efficiently and effectively with patients who have limited English proficiency (LEP).

Potent staph strain should be battled harder, Gregoire tells agency

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 16, 2007

Pointing to public concern and increased media attention, Gov. Chris Gregoire has told the state Health Department to increase efforts to track MRSA and educate the public about ways to prevent it. In a letter to Health Secretary Mary Selecky, Gregoire asked her to request that all state laboratories report infections from methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* -- an antibiotic-resistant bacteria known as MRSA -- to the state, so epidemiologists can track its progress.

Proposed Federal Bill Would Mandate Nutrition Posting at Major Restaurants Nationwide

RWJF, November 12, 2007

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) has introduced legislation that would require fast-food and major chain restaurants nationwide to post nutrition information on menus and menu boards, the New Haven Register reports. The Menu Education and Labeling (MEAL) Act, which has been submitted to the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, would require restaurants to list the calorie, saturated and trans fat and sodium content of standard menu items on printed menus and post calorie information on menu boards.

Sharp Drop Seen in Deaths From Ills Fought by Vaccine

The New York Times, November 14, 2007

Death rates for 13 diseases that can be prevented by childhood vaccinations are at all-time lows in the United States, according to a study released yesterday. The study, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, is the first time that the agency has searched historical records going back to 1900 to compile estimates of cases, hospitalizations and deaths for all the diseases children are routinely vaccinated against.

State asks labs to report drug-resistant staph

The Olympian, November 14, 2007

Heeding public concern and increasing media coverage, the state is taking a new look at antibiotic-resistant staph. At Gov. Chris Gregoire's request, the Department of Health is asking laboratories to begin reporting cases of the invasive disease, and it is gathering a scientific panel to recommend ways to better control drug-resistant bugs. "We realize the public is quite concerned," Health Secretary Mary Selecky said today.

University of Pittsburgh Uses NIH Grant to Create Health Disparities Research Center

RWJF, November 9, 2007

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Minority Health received a five-year \$4.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish the Research Center of Excellence in Minority Health Disparities, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports. According to university officials, researchers at the new center will study evidence-based strategies for educating African Americans about disease prevention and empowering them to improve lifestyle habits.

University to Use \$4.7 Million Grant to Study Minority Health, Disparities

RWJF, November 14, 2007

North Carolina-based Winston-Salem State University has received a five-year, \$4.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish the Center for Research to Improve Minority Health and Eliminate Health Disparities, the Business Journal of the Greater Triad Area reports. The grant, which will be administered through the school's Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities, will support researchers as they work to address health issues that disproportionately affect minority patients and to eliminate disparities in care.

Utah Health Department Encourages LEP Residents to Summon Interpreter Services

RWJF, November 12, 2007

The Utah Department of Health will soon begin distributing brochures instructing state residents with limited English proficiency (LEP) how to arrange for interpreter services at health clinics, the Salt Lake Tribune reports. While most hospitals in the state offer interpreters on site or on call, few health clinics and physicians offices offer such services, even though interpretation is covered by Medicaid and some private insurance plans.

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

Journals Reviewed

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

<http://www.ajpm-online.net/>

- Vol. 33, No. 6, December 2007

American Journal of Public Health

<http://www.ajph.org/current.shtml>

- Vol. 97, No. 12, December 1, 2007

Environmental Health Perspectives

Journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health

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

- Vol. 115, No. 12, December 2007

Health Affairs

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

The Journal of the American Medical Association

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

- Vol. 298, No. 21, December 5, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 20, November 28, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 19, November 21, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 18, November 14, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 17, November 7, 2007

The Journal of Environmental Health

National Environmental Health Association

<http://www.neha.org/JEH/>

- Vol. 70, No. 5, December 2007

The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law

<http://jhppl.dukejournals.org/archive/>

- Vol. 32, No. 6, December 2007

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html

- Vol. 56, No. 48, December 7, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 47, November 30, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 46, November 23, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 45, November 16, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 44, November 9, 2007

The New England Journal of Medicine

<http://content.nejm.org/current.shtml>

- Vol. 357, No. 23, December 6, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 22, November 29, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 21, November 22, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 20, November 15, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 19, November 8, 2007

Preventing Chronic Disease

CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/>

Highlighted Journal Articles

Antibiotic-Resistant "Superbugs" May Be Transmitted From Animals to Humans

Chicago—The emergence of antibiotic resistance on farms where livestock are routinely treated with antimicrobials has been well documented, but whether it poses a human health threat has been controversial. Now, a growing body of evidence suggests these "superbugs" of animal origin are being transmitted to humans. A trio of posters presented at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in September highlighted evidence that resistant bacteria themselves or bits of DNA containing genes encoding drug resistance can and do cross from animals to humans. Additionally, 2 recent epidemiological studies in distinct human populations suggest that bacteria are developing resistance to antibiotics on poultry farms and that these resistant bacteria are colonizing humans.

Benefits of Newer Vaccines Lauded - Multiresistant Pneumococcal Strains Emerging

JAMA, Vol. 298, No. 18, November 14, 2007

Chicago—Vaccines introduced in the past decade or so have led to large reductions in morbidity and mortality, especially in such vulnerable populations as children attending preschool, according to data presented here in September at the 47th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. However, the success of the 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) may be contributing to the emergence of multidrug-resistant strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* that are causing ear infections in children, according to another report. Additionally, researchers presented evidence on the longer-term effectiveness of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, as well as data that the vaccine may offer some cross-protection against viral strains not included in the vaccine.

Historical Comparisons of Morbidity and Mortality for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the United States

JAMA, Vol. 298, No. 18, November 14, 2007

Vaccines are among the greatest achievements of biomedical science and public health,¹⁻² stimulating protective immune responses against acute and chronic infectious diseases, as well as some infectious diseases that result in cancer.³⁻⁵ In the United States, vaccination programs have made a major contribution to the elimination of many vaccine-preventable diseases and significantly reduced the incidence of others. Vaccine-preventable diseases have societal and economic costs in addition to the morbidity and premature deaths resulting from these diseases—the costs include missed time from school and work, physician office visits, and hospitalizations.⁶⁻¹⁴ National recommendations provide guidance for use of vaccines to prevent or eliminate 17 vaccine-preventable diseases, namely diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella (including congenital rubella syndrome), influenza, invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib), hepatitis B, hepatitis A, rotavirus, varicella, herpes zoster (shingles), and disease caused by many of the most important types of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, and human papillomavirus (HPV).

Racial Disparities in Diabetes Mortality Among Persons Aged 1--19 Years --- United States, 1979--2004

MMWR, Vol. 56, No. 45, November 16, 2007

Diabetes is a chronic disease with a U.S. prevalence of 18 cases per 10,000 youths aged <20 years (1). With proper management and access to care, morbidity and mortality from diabetes are preventable, particularly in the pediatric population (2,3). Although diabetes is more common among non-Hispanic

white youths, some studies report higher death rates among racial/ethnic minorities and among those in lower socioeconomic strata (3,4). In 2004, age-adjusted diabetes death rates for black persons in the United States were approximately twice those for white persons (5). However, no recent studies on racial disparities that focus specifically on the pediatric population have been conducted. To assess racial disparities in diabetes mortality among youths, CDC analyzed data on deaths with an underlying cause of diabetes among persons aged 1--19 years for the period 1979--2004. This report summarizes the results of that analysis, which determined that, during 1979--2004, diabetes death rates for black youths were approximately twice those for white youths. During 2003--2004, the annual average diabetes death rate per 1 million youths was 2.46 for black youths and 0.91 for white youths. Further study is needed to discern the specific reasons for increased diabetes mortality in black youths. Better identification and management of the disease among youths, especially among black youths, might help decrease racial disparities and prevent deaths from diabetes.

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Publications - Inside this Issue

Advances

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, November 2007

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

- Research Program to Investigate Principles of Effective Health Game Design
- Three Winners in "Why Games Matter" Competition Apply Innovative Game Strategies to Improve Health and Health Care
- Report Reveals Significant Health Care Needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Urban Areas Go Unmet
- Journal Supplement Examines Health Care Consequences of Language Barriers
- National Forum Explores Alternatives to Current Medical Liability System
- New Study: Hospitalizations Related to Superbug Infections Double Over Six Years
- Massachusetts Businesses Express Support For Health Care Reform Objectives
- Leadership for Healthy Communities Convenes First-of-its-Kind Childhood Obesity Meeting of Local, State and National Policy-Makers
- Active Living Research Identifies Strategies for Addressing Physical Inactivity Among Youth
- In Pursuit Of Social Change: A Conversation With Risa Lavizzo-Mourey

Elaborations

Department of Health

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

EpiLog

Public Health Seattle & King County, Vol. 47, No. 11, November 2007

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

- Methicillin-Resistant Staph aureus (MRSA) in the News
- New Hepatitis A Vaccine Guidelines for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis and Pre-Travel
- West Nile Virus (WNV) Monthly Update

The Nation's Health

American Public Health Association, November 2007

<http://www.apha.org/publications/tnh/>

APHA News

- APHA holds first-ever Get Ready Day at D.C. school
- APHA's 135th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., Nov. 3–7
- Three Annual Meeting sessions to be available online via webcast
- APHA Advocates
- APHA Executive Board holds telemeeting in September
- Health, climate change focus of National Public Health Week
- Tulane student named as winner of APHA Get Ready Song Contest: Listen to the winning song online now
- Advocate for public health while in D.C. for the APHA Annual Meeting
- New grant to fund APHA work on farm, food policies
- American Journal of Public Health collaborates to highlight poverty
- Governing Council to consider APHA, Affiliate joint membership pilot
- APHA members support public health through PHACT campaign: Affiliate members meet with legislators

General

- New initiative to bring public health education to undergrads: Every student can learn from public health
- Depression worsens health more than arthritis, asthma or diabetes
- Bonus: Q&A with public health author Laurie Garrett: 'Realize that the real battle is infrastructure'

Globe

- APHA members visit India for public health exchange
- New online tool targets global drinking water crisis
- Mental health care often lacking, especially in low-income nations

Health Findings

Healthy You

- Be food safe and avoid food-borne illness

Job Openings

Journal Watch

Letters

Nation

- Infectious disease fight being waged in bits, bytes: Computers increasingly used to track, predict, prevent disease
- SCHIP showdown jeopardizes the health of millions of kids: President Bush vetoes congressional bill

- Flu season kicks off with call for health workers to be vaccinated
- Epidemic in online game offers real-life lessons
- Millions of Americans were uninsured for part of year
- Nation in brief
- Youth suicides rising, especially among young, teenage girls

Newsmakers

President's Column

- Building healthy communities to promote public health: Parting words from APHA's president

Resources

State/Local

- States in brief
- Colorado uses reality contest to promote preparedness
- Federal funding for preparedness at health departments suffers cuts
- Healthy San Francisco program aims for universal health access

Web Exclusive

- Resistant HIV quickly hides in infants' cells
- Parent's depression can weigh on children
- Obesity and lack of exercise enhance risk of pancreatic cancer
- Study links air pollution to clogged arteries
- Study finds link between depression and first use of drugs or alcohol
- Improved meningitis vaccine for Africa could signal eventual end to deadly scourge
- Risk of lymphoma increases with hepatitis C virus infection
- When kids complete intensive early childhood program, college attendance goes up, crime and depression go down
- Use of mental health services by California Hispanics linked to language
- Adult survivors Of childhood leukemia exercise less, worsening risk for obesity and illness
- Marine base housing contained drinking water contaminated with tetrachloroethylene for nearly 30 years
- More than one-third of infant deaths linked to preterm birth

NewsBrief

National Association of Local Boards of Health, Third Quarter, 2007

<http://www.nalboh.org/publications/newsbrief/newsbrief.htm>

President's Message

Report from Washington

- FDA Regulation of Tobacco Legislation Moves Forward; Continue Advocacy Key During August Recess
- House and Senate Pass Versions of Bills for Children's Health Insurance, Increased Cigarette Tax Bills; Veto Promised
- Federal Nutrition Programs, Farm Bill Updates

Tobacco Free USA

- Helping Campuses with Tobacco Control
- 2006 Edition of State Legislated Actions on Tobacco Issues Released
- New NALBOH Publications: Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Tool Kit for Boards of Health; Joint Policy Action Steps toward Tobacco Use Prevention and Control; Legal Authority for Tobacco Control in the United States, 2nd Edition

Environmental Health & Emergency Preparedness

- Smart Growth for Active Aging
- Pandemic Flu Blog
- Spinach Outbreak and the need for Federal Oversight
- Food and Drug Administration Releases New Software Tool to Help Keep Food Facilities Safe from Terrorist Attack
- Public Health Partners Encourage Collaboration with Public Health Institutes

State Association News

- Association of North Carolina Boards of Health Presents Carl Durham Award to Brunswick County's David Sandifer
- Sarah Shoffer Joins NALBOH!
- ANCBH Members are Active Leaders in North Carolina's Local Health Department Accreditation Program
- Board of Health Update: West Virginia

National Public Health Performance Standards Program

- NALBOH's Role in NPHPSP
- Resources of Interest
- NPHPSP in Anchorage!
- NPHPSP Training Workshop Success!

Medical Reserve Corps

- Crisis Mental Health Plan and the Inclusion of Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers

Oral Health

- Creativity and Determination Solve a Problem

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 28, No. 504, November 26, 2007

State News

- Colorado considers health reform
- Lead poisoning: Don't forget the housing
- California law to enable more people with disabilities to retain private coverage

Highlights

- NJ Pharmacists ...Wal-Mart Insurance Policies...Medicaid Tax Cheats

Graphically speaking

- CDC says the rate of deaths from unintentional injury increased by 7 percent from 1999 to 2004. The most common causes include traffic fatalities, poisoning (much of it drug-related) and falls.

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 28, No. 503, November 12, 2007

State News

- Texas Seeks to Make Health-Care Pricing More Transparent
- Gaining Traction: States' Fall Prevention Strategies
- Northern States Consider Whether to Regulate Outdoor Wood Boilers

Highlights

- Urban residents at greater risk for disease...Veterans and homelessness...WV fights obesity...MA to help addicts avoid dying from overdoses

Graphically Speaking

- The teenage birth rate has been decreasing since 1991, and the proportion of teens who gave birth a second time also has dropped—from 25 percent of all teen births in 1990 to 20 percent in 2004.

Thrive!

Washington Health Foundation

<http://www.whf.org/News/ThriveMagazine.aspx>

WSMA Reports

Washington State Medical Association

Zoonotic Disease Newsletter

Washington State Department of Health, November 2007

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/zdnewsletter.html>

- Few West Nile virus detections this season
- Dog in Yakima County tests positive for West Nile
- Study indicates widespread roundworm infection
- Canine leptospirosis is reportable; increases during colder months
- West Nile virus knowledge improves with new research
 - Environmental predictors of human WNV infections, Colorado
 - Inter-annual associations between precipitation and human incidence of WNV in the United States
 - WNV-infected dead corvids increases risk infection in Culex mosquitoes
 - Prior exposure to uninfected mosquitoes enhances mortality in naturally-transmitted WNV infection (in mice)
- Health toll of climate change seen as ethical crisis
- West Nile virus activity in the northwest
- Plague causes death of national park employee

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