



For Your Information – October 2008

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

September 2008

Date	Name and Location
Sep. 9-12	ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference Sacramento, California For information: http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/documents/NA_Conf_Guide_Back_Page.pdf
Sep. 16	Department of Ecology, Lead Chemical Action Plan (CAP), Public Meeting The Mountaineer Building Seattle, Washington For information: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2008news/2008-248.html
Sep. 18	Department of Ecology, Lead Chemical Action Plan (CAP), Public Meeting Spokane Community Collage Spokane, Washington For information: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2008news/2008-248.html
Sep. 21-24	Sixth National Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations Minneapolis, Minnesota For information: http://www.diversityrxconference.com/

Sep. 28 - Oct. 1 **ESRI Health GIS Conference: Shaping Global Health**
Washington, DC
For information: www.esri.com/healthgis

October 2008

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|--|
| Oct. 5-7 | 21st Annual State Health Policy Conference
Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina
Tampa, Florida
For information: http://www.nashp.org/_conferences.cfm?LID=CON |
| Oct. 8 | The Latino Health Forum
Jerry Brockey Center, South Sound Community College
Seattle, Washington
For information: http://groups.google.com/group/latino-health-forum-seattle |
| Oct. 8 | Equity Town Hall: Our Neighborhoods, our Health
Nordstrom Recital Hall at Beneroya Hall
Seattle, Washington
For information: Call Desmond Skubi at 425-308-8936 or email at dskubi@comcast.net |
| Oct. 9 | Commission on African American Affairs Meeting and Pre-Legislative Day Work Session
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Seattle, Washington |
| Oct. 17-18 | 2008 Washington State Prevention Summit
Yakima Convention Center
Yakima, Washington
For information: http://dasa.casat.org |
| Oct. 25-29 | Public Health without Borders - APHA 136th Annual Meeting and Exposition
San Diego, California
For information: http://www.apha.org/meetings/ |

November 2008

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|---|
| Nov. 6-7 | American Indian Health Commission's Bi-annual Tribal Leaders Health Summit
Little Creek Casino-Resort
Shelton, Washington
For information: slowe@aihc-wa.org |

Nov. 7-11 **137th APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition**
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
For information: www.apha.org

Nov. 18 **2008 Washington Health Legislative Conference**
SeaTac Hilton Conference Center
SeaTac, Washington
For information: <http://depts.washington.edu/rchpol/events/legcon08index.shtml>

December 2008

Date	Name and Location
Dec. 16-18	The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center National Harbor, Maryland For information: http://www.blsmeetings.net/2008healthdisparitiessummit/

March 2009

Date	Name and Location
March 18	7th Northwest Regional Critical Access Hospital Conference Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington For information: http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/

March 19-20	22nd Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington For information: http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/
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May 2009

Date	Name and Location
May 1-2	26th Annual Conference - Primary Care Update Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington For information: http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/

June 2009

Date	Name and Location
Jun. 21-24	National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 73rd Annual Education Conference Atlanta, Georgia For information: www.neha.org

June 2010

Date	Name and Location
Jun. 5-9	National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 74th Annual Education Conference Albuquerque, New Mexico For information: www.neha.org

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General Interest

Ecology seeks comment on plan to reduce exposure to lead

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) recommends actions to protect human health and the environment from lead in the draft Lead Chemical Action Plan now available for public review and comment. Lead is highly toxic to most living things. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of the bluish-grey metal used in an increasing number of products.

Next week, Ecology will host two public meetings to listen to comments and share information on the Lead Chemical Action Plan (CAP).

- Seattle: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7-9 p.m. The Mountaineer Building, 300 Third Ave. West, Seattle, 98119
- Spokane: Thursday, Sept. 18, 7-9: p.m. Spokane Community College, Auditorium, Bldg. 6 1810 North Greene St., Spokane, 99217

Inequities are killing people on a "grand scale" reports WHO's Commission

World Health Organization, August 28, 2008

GENEVA -- A child born in a Glasgow, Scotland suburb can expect a life 28 years shorter than another living only 13 kilometres away. A girl in Lesotho is likely to live 42 years less than another in Japan. In Sweden, the risk of a woman dying during pregnancy and childbirth is 1 in 17 400; in Afghanistan, the odds are 1 in 8. Biology does not explain any of this. Instead, the differences between - and within - countries result from the social environment where people are born, live, grow, work and age. These "social determinants of health" have been the focus of a three-year investigation by an eminent group of policy makers, academics, former heads of state and former ministers of health. Together, they comprise the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. Today, the Commission presents its findings to the WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan.

Online Toolkit Provides Resources and Lessons for Health Plans to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Care

RWJF, September 8, 2008

For more than 20 years, research has documented the persistent gaps in health care quality that disproportionately affect Americans from specific racial and ethnic backgrounds. A new toolkit released today by the National Health Plan Collaborative provides resources, lessons, case studies, and videos to help health plans identify and reduce disparities within their memberships.

RWJF Program Helps Improve Language Services at Pilot Hospitals

RWJF, September 15, 2008

Program Unlocks Keys to Delivering High-Quality Language Services to Patients who Speak or Understand Little English

Anyone who has ever been sick knows that being able to communicate effectively with doctors and nurses is fundamental to receiving the best treatment that's right for your symptoms. But when language barriers exist, people who speak or understand limited English often can't communicate effectively with doctors and nurses and may receive poorer quality of care—and have worse outcomes—as a result. For millions of people in the United States, language barriers in the health care system are a daily reality, leaving patients with limited English proficiency and their loved ones to continue searching for a voice in their own care.

The sound of success is getting louder in pockets of the country, however, as committed health care leaders work to make delivery of efficient and effective hospital language services in hospitals a reality. A pioneering group of 10 hospitals recently completed Speaking Together: National Language Services Network, an 18-month RWJF-funded collaborative administered by the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

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Public Health Leadership Positions Available

Administrator, Office of Multicultural Health and Services

Oregon Department of Human Services

Closes: When Filled

Chief--Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation

Public Health -- Seattle & King County

Closes: August 31, 2008

Environmental Health Director

Island County Health Department

Closes: June 10, 2008

Health Officer

Spokane Regional Health District

Closes: When filled

For information: Contact Barbara Lorang, 509-324-1502, blorang@spokanecounty.org

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>

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Big Apple paring down with healthier city meals

Tri City Herald, September 19, 2008

NEW YORK The Big Apple is trying to pare down. New York City launched its first formal food standards Friday, mandating less frying, lower salt and more fruits and vegetables in the millions of meals city agencies serve in schools, senior centers and jails. "All of the walking that we New Yorkers do helps us to stay fit and trim, but it is not enough - in fact, we are suffering from an epidemic of obesity, just like the rest of this country," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a news conference. "We really have to do something about this." Obesity and diabetes are the only major health problems getting worse in New York City, health officials said.

Congress Approves Mental Health Bill: Private Insurers Would Provide More Benefits

Washington Post, September 24, 2008

Congress approved legislation yesterday that would require private insurers to provide the same level of benefits for mental illness as they do for physical maladies, a change lauded by advocates as a great shift in the nation's understanding of mental health. "We've always had a stigma, sort of like mental illness is a character flaw," said Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-R.I.), who has struggled with drug and alcohol addiction and co-sponsored the House version with Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-Minn.), a recovering alcoholic. "But now science has moved forward, and we can see the complexities in the brain that lead to eating disorders, compulsive disorders. All these connections are being made, the science is just becoming so firm. And it destroys the myth that this stuff is a choice."

King County nixes raw milk at Vashon cafés

Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber, September 11, 2008

Until last Wednesday, Islander Kirsten Gagnaire frequently stopped by Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie or Café Luna for a cappuccino made with raw cow's milk, but now she and other Islanders who prefer beverages with milk that is straight from the cow have to make other choices. Last week an inspector with Seattle & King County Public Health called each of the coffee establishments on Vashon that offered raw milk as a choice in their drinks and told them they must stop offering it immediately. According to public health officials, it is legal to sell raw, or unpasteurized, milk only in the container the dairy delivers it in.

Mount Si students get tutorial in health care

SnoValley Star, September 11, 2008

"I checked vitals on a patient," said Shelby Sydell. There's a sentence not many high-school students have the opportunity to say. This summer, two students from Mt. Si High School, Sydell and Kayla Wargi, were chosen to participate in the Project H.O.P.E. paid-internship program. The five-week experience had both juniors placed in all the departments of Snoqualmie Valley Hospital — from the emergency room to the radiology unit to the operating room. "It was really intense," said Wargi. "Being in that environment for so long was really exciting." Project H.O.P.E. (Health Occupation Preparatory Experience) is a state-wide program that encourages high-school students from underrepresented and rural communities to receive first-hand experience in health care professions. The goal is to allow these high-school students to see the range of opportunities in health care work and help facilitate career development.

New law will require California chain restaurants to display calorie counts

Los Angeles Times Staff, September 30, 2008

SACRAMENTO -- Chain restaurants in California will have to display calorie counts with each menu item -- the first state law of its kind in the nation -- under legislation that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger plans to sign today. With two days left to act on hundreds of bills, Schwarzenegger on Monday approved measures that could ease traffic in downtown Los Angeles with toll lanes, protect animal researchers from threats and smooth the effort to achieve cityhood for East Los Angeles. He rejected a proposal to remove "communism" as a reason for dismissal from state employment.

Study Finds No Autism Link in Vaccine: Digestive Problems, MMR Scrutinized

Washington Post, September 4, 2008

A common vaccine given to children to protect them against measles, mumps and rubella is not linked to autism, a study published yesterday concludes. The findings contradict earlier research that had fueled fears of a possible link between childhood vaccinations and a steep increase in autism diagnoses. In February 1998, the Lancet journal published a study by British researcher Andrew Wakefield of 12 children with autism and other behavioral problems that suggested the onset of their behavioral abnormalities was linked to receiving the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine.

Taco Bell, KFC, Pizza Hut add new menu item: Calories

USA Today, October 1, 2008

In a move certain to rock the restaurant industry, Yum Brands (YUM, parent company to Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut, on Wednesday will announce plans to begin posting product calorie information on the indoor menu boards nationwide at company-owned restaurants. Calorie information will appear next to a product's name and price. The action comes at a time when more states and municipalities are putting in place — or are considering — requirements for restaurant chains to post consumer nutritional information.

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

Journals Reviewed

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

- Vol. 35, No. 4, October 2008

American Journal of Public Health

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

- Vol. 98, No. 10, October 1, 2008

Environmental Health Perspectives

<http://www.ehponline.org/docs/2008/116-9/toc.html>

- Vol. 116, No. 9, September 2008

Health Affairs

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

- Vol. 27, No. 5, September/October 2008

The Journal of the American Medical Association

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

- Vol. 300, No. 13, October 1, 2008
- Vol. 300, No. 12, September 24, 2008
- Vol. 300, No. 11, September 17, 2008
- Vol. 300, No. 10, September 10, 2008

The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law

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

- Vol. 33, No. 5, October 2008

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

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

- Vol. 57, No. 38, September 26, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 37, September 19, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 36, September 12, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 35, September 5, 2008

The New England Journal of Medicine

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

- Vol. 359, No. 14, October 2, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 13, September 25, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 12, September 18, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 11, September 11, 2008

Preventing Chronic Disease

CDC

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

- Vol. 5, No. 4, October 2008

Highlighted Journal Articles

Building a Medical Neighborhood for the Medical Home

NEJM, Vol. 359, No. 12, September 18, 2008

Recent efforts to improve primary care in the United States have focused largely on the development and implementation of practice models and payment reforms intended to create a "medical home" for patients. The notion of a medical home makes intuitive sense and indeed has great promise. But unrealistic expectations about this approach abound, and insufficient attention is being paid to several important barriers to the clinical and financial success of the medical-home model.

A House Is Not A Home: Keeping Patients At The Center Of Practice Redesign

Health Affairs, Vol. 27, No. 5, September/October 2008

The "patient-centered medical home" has been promoted as an enhanced model of primary care. Based on a literature review and interviews with practicing physicians, we find that medical home advocates and physicians have somewhat different, although not necessarily inconsistent, expectations of what the medical home should accomplish—from greater responsiveness to the needs of all patients to increased focus on care management for patients with chronic conditions. As the medical home concept is further developed, it will be important to not overemphasize redesign of practices at the expense of patient-centered care, which is the hallmark of excellent primary care.

Impact of Expanded Newborn Screening --- United States, 2006

MMWR, Vol. 57, No. 37, September 19, 2008

Universal newborn screening for selected metabolic, endocrine, hematologic, and functional disorders is a well-established practice of state public health programs. Recent developments in tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS), which is now capable of multi-analyte analysis in a high throughput capacity, has enabled newborn screening to include many more disorders detectable from a newborn blood spot (1). In 2006, to address the substantial variation that existed from state to state in the number of disorders included in newborn screening panels, the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG), under guidance from the Health Resources and Services Administration, recommended a uniform panel of 29 disorders, which was subsequently endorsed by the federal Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (2). After 2006, most states began to expand their panels to include all 29 disorders; currently, 21 states and the District of Columbia have fully implemented the ACMG panel.* To estimate the burden to state newborn screening programs resulting from this expansion (3), CDC used 2001--2006 data from those states with well-established MS/MS screening programs† to estimate the number of children in the United States who would have been identified with disorders in 2006 if all 50 states and the District of Columbia had been using the ACMG panel. This report describes the results of that analysis, which indicated that, although such an expansion would have increased the number of children identified by only 32% (from 4,370 to 6,439), these children would have had many rare disorders that require local or regional capacity to deliver expertise in screening, diagnosis, and management. The findings underscore the need for public health and health-care delivery systems to build or expand the programs required to manage the rare disorders detected through expanded newborn screening, while also continuing programs to address more common disorders.

Measuring The Medical Home Infrastructure In Large Medical Groups

Health Affairs, Vol. 27, No. 5, September/October 2008

The patient-centered medical home is taking center stage in discussions of primary care innovation as a new delivery model that provides comprehensive, coordinated care across the lifespan. Although the medical home is widely discussed by policymakers, payers, and other stakeholders, the extent to which physician practices have the infrastructure in place to function as medical homes is not known. Using data from the 2006–07 National Study of Physician Organizations, we examine the extent of adoption of medical home infrastructure components among large primary care and multispecialty medical groups and their association with medical group size and ownership.

No Place Like Home — Testing a New Model of Care Delivery

NEJM, Vol. 359, No. 12, September 18, 2008

Seeking ways to slow the growth of Medicare spending and to better coordinate the health care it finances, the federal government is preparing to test the concept of the "medical home" in the Medicare program. In response to a mandate in the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, the staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is developing a demonstration program that will operate for 3 years in rural, urban, and underserved areas in up to eight states.

The Patient-Centered Medical Home For Chronic Illness: Is It Ready For Prime Time?

Health Affairs, Vol. 27, No. 5, September/October 2008

Robert Berenson and colleagues caution that the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) faces many challenges. Its successful adoption will depend on its being precisely defined and demonstration that it is cost saving and scalable across varied clinical settings. Until these issues are addressed in current and upcoming pilot programs, caution about the PCMH's role in the care of people with chronic illnesses is warranted.

Racial/Ethnic Disparities And Consumer Activation In Health

Health Affairs, Vol. 27, No. 5, September/October 2008

In this paper we explore whether increasing individuals' activation (self-management) levels could hold potential for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health. A causal model is posited that assumes that social-environmental factors influence activation levels, which in turn influence health outcomes. Relationships are examined separately for whites and African Americans, and findings are supportive of the model for both groups. Simulations of what would happen to outcomes if there were racial parity in activation predict a narrowing of the racial gap in health and behavior. The findings suggest that a focus on increasing activation holds potential for addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health.

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Publications - Inside this Issue

Advances

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Elaborations

Department of Health

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

EpiLog

Public Health Seattle & King County

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

EpiTrends

Department of Health, Vol. 13, No. 9, September 2008

<http://ww2.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/epitrends/08-epitrends/08-09-epitrends.pdf>

- Influenza Surveillance and Updates
 - National Influenza Surveillance
 - Local Health Jurisdictions and Providers
 - Influenza Updates
 - Severe Staphylococcal Pneumonia and Influenza

Healthy GIS

Health & Human Services Solutions Group of ESRI, Fall 2008

http://www.esri.com/industries/health/news_community/healthy_gis.html

- Niigata University Champions Health GIS Development
 - Program Emphasizes Collaborative Health GIS Training and Research with an International Scope
- Park Equity mapping Supports Advocacy for Parks and Healthier Communities
- University of Mississippi Medical Center Recognized for GIS Contributions
- Workshops Comment Health Groups with GIS

The Nation's Health

American Public Health Association, September 2008

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

- Nation
 - Raising awareness of public health among Americans: New campaigns address the question: What is public health?

- Medicare to improve access to prevention, mental health services: Congress passes bill over president's veto
- Investment in prevention pays off in savings, healthy lives: Community-based interventions key
- EPA stalls action on tackling U.S. greenhouse gas emissions
- Advocates call for overhaul of U.S. food safety system
- Nation in Brief
- Water fluoridation approaches Healthy People 2010 objectives
- Vote & Vax brings flu shots to November's presidential election
- State/Local
 - Rhode Island's Supreme Court overturns lead paint decision
 - States in Brief
- Globe
 - Code of ethics aims to help strengthen health systems
 - Sanitation, clean drinking water remain global health problems
 - Abstract submissions sought for World Congress on Public Health
- General
 - APHA member Julius Richmond, former U.S. surgeon general: In memoriam
 - Sociology, health papers sought for journal issue on disparities
- Healthy You
 - College Health 101: How to stay healthy on campus
- Health Findings
 - Physical activity drops significantly for youth between ages 9 and 15
- On the Job
 - Comments being sought on new public health core competencies
 - Hundreds take new public health exam; registration for 2009 open
 - New standard for disclosing conflict-of-interest debuts
- APHA News
 - APHA working for stronger transportation policies
 - APHA town hall to engage public health on health reform
 - Get Ready Day to raise awareness of preparedness on Sept. 16: Second annual APHA celebration planned
 - HHS proposal could threaten women's access to contraception
 - New APHA book advances field of youth violence prevention
 - APHA Help Us Help Them aids San Diego's Casa Familiar
 - APHA Advocates
 - Inside Public Health: New APHA e-newsletter offers monthly updates
 - Kizer to be presented with APHA's 2008 Award for Excellence
 - McAteer to receive Rall award for health advocacy
 - Kotch is winner of Martha May Eliot award
 - Last to be presented with APHA's 2008 Sedgwick award medal
 - Kioumehrdadsetan to receive new peace award
 - Holderby honored with Rodriguez-Trias award
 - Multiple APHA departments welcome new staff members
- APHA Sections
 - Health Administration, Statistics Sections to celebrate 100 years: Many Sections gear up for anniversaries
 - International Health Section joins online community of bloggers
 - Gerontological Health Section receives new award grant
 - APHA Section leaders meet in Washington, D.C.

- Journal Watch
- President's Column
 - Moving from health care to health: Investing in prevention: New report documents cost savings
- Letters
- Job Openings
- Web Exclusive
 - Surgeon general's conference outlines agenda to prevent preterm birth
 - Alcohol binges early in pregnancy increase risk of infant oral clefts
 - Caribbean countries aim to eliminate vertical transmission of HIV and syphilis by 2015
 - Emergency patients don't understand doctor's instructions
 - Flu vaccine may not protect seniors well
 - Keeping a food diary can double diet weight loss
 - Leisure activities help protect seniors' hearts
 - Mercury pollution from cement kilns nearly twice as high as previous estimates
 - Number of people with diabetes increases to 24 million
 - Obesity on kids' menus at top chains
 - Report warns current policies won't avert health work force crisis
 - States activate substance abuse screening and brief intervention codes
- Newsmakers
- Resources

NewsBrief

National Association of Local Boards of Health

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 29, Issue 524, September 29, 2008

- State News
 - California ends session with flurry of health reforms
 - States looking to palliative care to help more patients and save on costs
 - Treating opiate addiction: lessons from Vermont
- Highlights
 - HIV disparities in South Carolina...Certificate of Need laws face federal scrutiny...State licensing rules lead to higher costs and professional shortages.
- Graphically Speaking
 - A new report finds that children in Medicaid have significantly more tooth decay and other dental problems than children in private insurance.

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 29, Issue 523, September 15, 2008

- State News
 - New Mexico Makes "Solid but Modest Gains" Toward Covering All
 - Calorie Counts On Menus: Will More Information Lead To Healthier Choices?
 - OMG! Legislators Set Their Sights on Text Messaging Drivers
- Highlights
 - Rural areas invest in telepharmacies...More kids getting all recommended vaccines...Employers shifting more health costs to workers...Clarifying medical marijuana rules in California Teens

- Graphically Speaking
 - A new report finds that a majority of underage drinkers do their drinking in the home—either their own or in the home of someone they know.

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

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

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