



For Your Information – November 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

November 2008

Date	Name and Location
Nov. 7-11	137th APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania For information: www.apha.org
Nov. 12-14	The Partnership of HOPE: Stories of Success, Strength & Resilience - 2008 Family Policy Council Partners' Summit Great Wolf Lodge Grand Mound, Washington For information: http://www.fpc.wa.gov/FPCEvents.html
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
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Dec. 16-18	The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center National Harbor, Maryland For information: http://www.blsm meetings.net/2008healthdisparitiessummit/
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March 2009

Date	Name and Location
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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/
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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
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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/
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June 2009

Date	Name and Location
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Jun. 21-24	National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 73rd Annual Education Conference Atlanta, Georgia For information: www.neha.org
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June 2010

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

Administrator, Office of Multicultural Health and Services

Oregon Department of Human Services
Closes: When Filled

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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Publications - General Media

\$21 million budget shortfall predicted for Snohomish County

The Everett Herald, October 15, 2008

The latest news about Snohomish County's budget is as bad as it's ever been, and it may get worse. A predicted revenue shortfall of \$9 million has grown to \$21 million in recent weeks, County Council Chairman Dave Somers said Tuesday. That's about 10 percent of the \$210 million general fund budget on which the county operated this year. With the unsettled economy, the problem likely will only get bigger, officials said. The council by law must approve next year's budget before Nov. 24.

Benton County expects major budget shortfall in '09

Yakima Herald-Republic, October 15, 2008

PROSSER -- If everybody gets what they want next year, the Benton County general budget will be \$4.2 million in the red. Benton County Commissioners received Tuesday a first draft of the county's 2009 general expense budget, which pays for everything from sheriff's deputies to court costs to parks. Finance Manager Linda Ivey presented to the commissioners a baseline budget -- which includes no changes from 2008 other than mandated hikes like cost of living increases -- that spends \$53.3 million, \$2.1 million more than it brings in through taxes and fees.

Benton-Franklin Health District cutbacks looming

Tri-City Herald, October 14, 2008

The Benton-Franklin Health District faces "catastrophic" cuts to programs and staff if Benton and Franklin counties don't contribute at least \$745,000 more to the district annually, the district's health officer said. The district provides preventive health care services ranging from vaccinations to well water testing to nutrition programs for mothers and babies to restaurant inspections.

Bottled water no purer than tap water, study finds

USA Today, October 15, 2008

Tests on leading brands of bottled water turned up a variety of contaminants often found in tap water, according to a study released Wednesday by an environmental advocacy group. The findings challenge the popular impression » and marketing pitch » that bottled water is purer than tap water, the researchers say. However, all the brands met federal health standards for drinking water. Two violated a California state standard, the study said.

Budget woes put public-health agencies on critical list

Seattle Times, October 7, 2008

When voters revolted against the state's motor-vehicle excise tax in 1999, chances are that few people made the link between their ballots and immunizations, dental care or birth control. Yet the taxpayer rebellion that ushered in the flat \$30 car-tab fee also eliminated dedicated funding for public-health agencies, which oversee virtually every aspect of a community's well-being, ranging from restaurant inspections to preparing for a bird-flu pandemic. Since then, Public Health » Seattle & King County has managed to avoid deep cuts in services thanks only to backfill money from state and county coffers.

County health district announces budget cuts

The Everett Herald, November 4, 2008

Budget troubles mean services will be cut at the Snohomish Health District next year, including reducing the number of days its clinics in Everett and Lynnwood are open. But during a meeting of the health district board on Tuesday, Snohomish County Council member Dave Gossett said additional money is expected to come from Snohomish County, perhaps as much as \$368,000. This means some programs could be saved that had been on a list of proposed cuts. These include keeping staff in the health agency's sexually transmitted disease clinic, programs that work with area child care providers to help protect children's health, and home visits to low-income moms to help ensure healthy pregnancies.

Flu shots a tough sell to health care workers

The Olympian, October 16, 2008

Operating room nurse Pauline Taylor knows her refusal to get a flu shot is based on faulty logic. But ever since she got sick after getting a shot a few years ago, she's sworn off the vaccine. "I rarely get sick. The only thing I could narrow it down to is that I had gotten this shot," said Taylor, who works at University Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. "I know that it's not a live virus. It just seemed pretty coincidental." Such stories frustrate Dr. William Schaffner. As chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Vanderbilt University, he hears that kind of talk frequently and knows it's in part to blame for a surprising statistic - nearly 60 percent of health care workers fail to get a flu shot. That's despite recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that all health care workers get vaccinated, from hospital volunteers to doctors.

Get moving: Guidelines set healthy activity levels

Association Press, October 7, 2008

WASHINGTON (AP) » Get moving: The nation's new exercise guidelines set a minimum sweat allotment for good health. For most adults, that's 2 1/2 hours a week. How much physical activity you need depends largely on age and level of fitness. Moderate exercise adds up for sluggish adults. Rake leaves, take a quick walk around the block or suit up for the neighborhood softball game. More fit adults could pack in their week's requirement in 75 minutes with vigorous exercise, such as jogging, hiking uphill, a bike race or speedy laps in the pool. Children and teens need more » pretty brisk activities for at least an hour a day, say the government guidelines being released Tuesday.

Health agencies inspecting schools topic of hearing

Yakima Herald-Republic, October 7, 2008

Local health agencies would be required to inspect schools for environmental safety under a controversial proposal before the state Board of Health, which meets today at the Yakima Convention Center. In the works for at least four years, the proposal would update existing environmental health and safety rules for kindergarten through 12th grade. Among other things, the rule would require health districts to test the quality of indoor air and drinking water; evaluate procedures for controlling mold and moisture, and inspect mechanical and architectural systems.

Health clinics to cut hours in half: Facing budget cuts, the Snohomish Health District will eliminate 20 jobs and reduce hours of public clinics.

The Everett Herald, November 6, 2008

Public clinics in Everett and Lynnwood will have their hours cut in half next year, just one of the steps the Snohomish Health District will take to trim \$1 million from its budget. Even so, during a meeting of the health district board on Tuesday, Snohomish County Council member Dave Gossett said additional money is expected to come from Snohomish County, perhaps as much as \$368,000. This means some programs could be saved that had been on a list of proposed cuts. These include staff in the health agency's sexually transmitted disease clinic, programs that work with area child care providers to help protect children's health, and home visits to low-income pregnant women to help ensure healthy pregnancies.

Health district adopts 5-year strategic plan

Tri-City Herald, October 16, 2008

KENNEWICK -- Fighting heart disease, diabetes and obesity are key targets for the Benton-Franklin Health District in the next five years. "This is the area of the future we'd like to get a little bit more in," said Dr. Larry Jecha, the district's health officer. The health district's board adopted a strategic plan Wednesday to guide the district until 2013. This is the first time the health district has had a strategic plan in place, Jecha said. "We think we need a road map," he said. The strategic plan focuses on health protection, promotion and prevention. The district has focused mostly on communicable diseases and improving women's health when it comes to prevention. But the strategic plan says the district needs to promote healthier behavior and lifestyles as well as address the increasing incidence of chronic diseases.

Health District launches review: Facing budget cuts and job layoffs, the board is looking into all of the agency's programs.

The Everett Herald, October 16, 2008

Already faced with the possibility of cutting 35 jobs by year's end because of budget woes, Snohomish Health District board members will begin work Friday on a top-to-bottom review of every program at the public health agency. The decision follows an announcement by Snohomish County Council Chairman Dave Somers that the \$3.1 million the county had tentatively budgeted for the public health agency might be cut by \$300,000, or 10 percent, because of the county's own budget woes. The county is facing an estimated budget shortfall of as much as \$21 million, he said. The health district is preparing its 2009 budget, now estimated at \$22.9 million.

Health programs take a bitter hit: Sims' county budget plan cuts \$19 million

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 15, 2008

Starting in January, schools in King County will have to pay more for food inspection fees, the number of immunization clinics will shrink and low-income pregnant women will receive less support. By June, things could become worse. Family planning clinics could close, dental care for poor children could end, and the entire county could be at a higher risk for such illnesses as rabies, E. coli, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases.

King County Job Cuts May Affect Health Care

KIRO News, October 16, 2008

BOTHELL, Wash. -- The proposed King County job cuts on health services could potentially threaten the health and safety of thousands of residents. Earlier this week, King County Executive Ron Sims said the county has a \$93 million budget gap. Part of decreasing that deficit is on the county's health officials to cut \$19 million from their budget. More than 40 nurses are subject to being laid off, said the Washington State Nurses Association. The Northshore Public Health Center has already stopped scheduling new immunizations. The center serves thousands of clients each year, including helping

mothers through pregnancies and babies with healthy nutrition. Without some financial help from the state, the center could be shut down next July 1.

Money Is Tight, and Junk Food Beckons

The New York Times, November 4, 2008

How much does it really cost to eat a healthy diet? Economists, health researchers and consumers are struggling to answer that question as food prices rise and the economy slumps. The World Bank says nearly a billion people around the world live on a dollar a day, or even less; in the United States, the daily food-stamp allowance is typically just a few dollars per person, while the average American eats \$7 worth of food per day. Even middle-class people struggle to put healthful food on the table. Studies show that junk foods tend to cost less than fruits, vegetables and other healthful foods, whose prices continue to rise. This fall a couple in Encinitas, Calif., conducted their own experiment to find out what it was like to live for a month on just a dollar a day for food. Overnight, their diets changed significantly. The budget forced them to give up many store-bought foods and dinners out. Even bread and canned refried beans were too expensive.

Neighborhood Greenness Has Long Term Positive Impact On Kids' Health

ScienceDaily, October 29, 2008

In the first study to look at the effect of neighborhood greenness on inner city children's weight over time, researchers from the Indiana University School of Medicine, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and the University of Washington report that higher neighborhood greenness is associated with slower increases in children's body mass over a two year period, regardless of residential density.

Obesity blamed for spike in new diabetes cases

The News Tribune, October 31, 2008

ATLANTA – The nation's obesity epidemic is exacting a heavy toll: The rate of new diabetes cases nearly doubled in the United States in the past 10 years, the government said Thursday. The highest rates were in the South, according to the first state-by-state review of new diagnoses. The worst was in West Virginia, where about 13 in 1,000 adults were diagnosed with the disease in 2005-07. The lowest was in Minnesota, where the rate was 5 in 1,000. Nationally, the rate of new cases climbed from about 5 per 1,000 in the mid-1990s to 9 per 1,000 in the middle of this decade.

Payment for school health inspections is up in the air Decision awaits lawmakers

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 17, 2008

WENATCHEE -- The state Board of Health has postponed a decision on whether to require local health districts to inspect schools annually for health and safety violations. The decision will be delayed until lawmakers decide who will pay for the inspections. Under the proposed rules, schools would be inspected annually for clean air violations and potential hazards in high-risk areas. The inspection would include checking pesticides and cleaners for harmful chemicals, and inspecting playgrounds, laboratories and bathrooms. The proposal also includes regulations for building new schools or significant remodels.

Programs for poor at highest risk with proposed county cuts

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 7, 2008

When Sara Anderson was pregnant last year at 17, she felt anxious about finishing high school, raising a baby mostly without the father and doing it with very little money. But she met Robyn Papka, a King County public health nurse who first helped her be healthy while pregnant, then came over with diapers, a breast pump and mountains of baby clothes. She taught Anderson how to nurse, did regular checkups

for the baby and helped Anderson find day care. Trevin, now 2 months, is thriving, and Anderson is finishing school and wants to be a police officer.

Promising Results for Wyeth Vaccine

Wall Street Journal, October 28, 2008

An investigational Wyeth vaccine known as Prevnar-13 appears to offer enhanced protection against pneumococcal disease in young children, compared with the company's current blockbuster vaccine, Prevnar, according to new data presented Monday. Wyeth has high commercial hopes for Prevnar-13, which is designed to protect against six more disease-causing types of the bacteria streptococcus pneumoniae than does Prevnar. Streptococcus causes pneumococcal disease, which can lead to ear infections, pneumonia and meningitis. Vaccines have been a bright spot for the Madison, N.J., company, which also makes small-molecule drugs and biologics. Its pharmaceuticals division has faced generic competition to a significant heartburn drug, Protonix, as well as delays on new-drug approvals.

Public health: Alarming TB cuts

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 3, 2008

Tuberculosis-fighting efforts have been around so long that we tend to think the disease has been beaten, at least in the developed world. Not so, not even in our own backyard. Last year, the number of TB cases diagnosed in King County reached a 30-year high, with 161 new cases. Most of those involved low-income residents, three-quarters of whom were born abroad, according to Public Health -- Seattle & King County. In one of the many alarming cuts envisioned for King County's budget, the local tuberculosis control program would be one of the targets. After midyear, the agency says, it would have to make cutbacks that involve reducing staffing for a satellite TB clinic serving the homeless and other cuts that would reduce the capacity to investigate possible exposure of other people, ensure that treatment is completed and generally respond to outbreaks. King County Executive Ron Sims has put them in the midyear "lifeboat" funding category to offer a chance for win other revenue sources.

School Health/Safety Proposal Expensive

KIMA TV, October 8, 2008

Yakima -- Another unfunded mandate that's how some school officials are describing a new health proposal from the State. It would require local agencies to test the water, mold and playground equipment among other things. Dave Curry, ESD 105 says, "Admittedly would improve the assurance that students would be safe in the buildings it would increase that level but it's gonna be expensive." Dave Curry says it would be expensive because we don't have the people to test these architectural areas which means we would have to hire out and that costs money.

School health & safety rule changes delayed

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 10, 2008 (Blog)

Bowing to requests from some state lawmakers, state Board of Health members have decided not to make any changes to the state's rule on environmental health and safety in schools until after the 2009 legislative session. Craig McLaughlin, the Board of Health's executive director, said all 10 board members support the proposed changes, but the majority voted at their meeting Wednesday to wait to finalize the rule.

Shape Up Kittitas County promotes staying active

Daily Record News, October 16, 2008

KITTITAS COUNTY » For every season of the year there» s ways to keep physically active and fit, and the Shape Up Kittitas County initiative, now into its fourth year, continues to work to that end for the health of local citizens. Sarah Bedsaul, health educator with the Kittitas County Public Health Department, said the ongoing program aims to make it easier for adults and young people to make

healthier decisions about their physical activities and eating habits. » To encourage people to change their behavior for the better, is a hard thing to do,» Bedsaul said earlier this week. » It takes a long-term commitment to work with people and local groups, and it also means working with our local governments, our decision makers, to seek policies that incorporate more opportunities for physical activity into the places where we live.»

Snohomish County braces for public health cuts

KOMO News, October 15, 2008

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. -- Health departments across the state are bracing for cuts, and young mothers could be among those hurt. The money crisis is a statewide problem. On Tuesday 70 workers at the King County Public Health got pink slips. They'll be out of a job on Jan. 1. And Snohomish County is dealing with its own threat to public health. "For next year, this agency is facing a \$1.5 million to \$2 million budget shortfall," said Dr. Gary Goldbaum, Snohomish health officer. In days when governments speak in billions and trillions, a couple of million doesn't sound like that much. But here it could determine the number of people who get flu shots. It could also determine the number of mothers who get help in First Steps or the Women Infant Children program.

Snohomish County Families Fear Effects Of Budget Cuts

KIRO TV, October 17, 2008

EVERETT, Wash. -- A budget shortfall in Snohomish County could cut important programs that help low-income families who are struggling to survive, reported KIRO 7 Eyewitness News. Single mother Melanie Brisbin, 32, said she doesn't know what she would do without Project Self Sufficiency, a program that helps single mothers. "I have been without a home technically since March of this year. So the prospect (that the program) could be cut is devastating," said Brisbin. Peggy McMiller is also a single mother of three boys who was a nurse's aide for 15 years before she was injured on the job and needed back surgery. McMiller said the program has turned her life around, getting her housing and an opportunity to go to college to get a business degree.

Snohomish Health District cutting jobs, services

Seattle Times, November 4, 2008

Snohomish County's health board voted Tuesday to cut 36 positions at the Snohomish Health District early next year, affecting about 14 percent of the staff and nearly a dozen local public health agency programs. The board expects the reductions to save the district \$1 million. "A growing and more diverse population, years of level funding in the face of increasing costs of doing business, and the current economic crisis created the perfect budget storm," said Dr. Gary Goldbaum, health officer and director of Snohomish Health District. He said the board had limited options to increase revenues, "and no choice but to cut services." The consequences of the cuts, he predicted, are likely to impact the district beyond next year.

State health board delays new requirements for school inspections

KNDO/KNDU, October 17, 2008

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) - The state Board of Health has postponed a decision on whether to require local health districts to inspect schools annually for health and safety violations. Before a decision is made, lawmakers will have to decide who will pay for the inspections. Under the proposed rules, schools would be inspected annually for clean-air violations and potential hazards in high-risk areas, such as playgrounds, laboratories and bathrooms. The proposal is a revision of 30-year-old health and safety rules that require schools to be inspected "periodically," a term that has been loosely defined. Marc Marquis of the Chelan-Douglas Health District, says the intent of the proposal is good.

Task force reports shortcomings in state's mental health system

The Everett Herald, October 15, 2008

SEATTLE -- Washington's system for dealing with the potentially violent mentally ill needs fixing and helped create conditions that led to the killing of a Seattle woman last New Year's Eve, a task force has concluded. James Williams, a repeat violent offender with severe schizophrenia, has been charged with first-degree murder in the stabbing death of Shannon Harps outside her Capitol Hill apartment house. At the time, prosecutors said, Williams wasn't complying with court-ordered treatment and had been off the medications that helped control his violent hallucinations.

Yakima Co. School Health Inspections Limited

Kapp 35, October 8, 2008

YAKIMA -- The WA Board of Health wants to toughen up its school inspection policy. Many counties aren't doing the recommended health inspections, including Yakima. The board requires local health agencies to thoroughly inspect schools on a periodic basis. That loose language has led to limited inspections in some counties. At a meeting in Yakima the board discussed requiring yearly inspections and making them even more in-depth. Inspections are supposed to look things like classroom cleanliness, mold and mildew, airflow, and water quality.

Who pays for health inspections at schools?

The Seattle Times, October 17, 2008

WENATCHEE, Wash. — The Washington state Board of Health has postponed a decision on whether to require local health districts to inspect schools annually for health and safety violations, until lawmakers decide who will pay for the inspections. Under the proposed rules, schools would be inspected annually for clean air violations and potential hazards in high-risk areas. The inspection would include checking pesticides and cleaners for harmful chemicals, and inspecting playgrounds, laboratories and bathrooms. The proposal also includes regulations for building new schools or significant remodels. The state Board of Health began reviewing the rules about four years ago after several parents complained about school safety issues, mostly mold and air quality.

Who pays for health inspections at schools?: State board is delaying new requirement until legislators give answer

Wenatchee World, October 17, 2008

WENATCHEE — The state Board of Health postponed a controversial decision last week to require local health districts to inspect schools annually for health and safety issues. The proposed inspections would check for clean air and potential hazards in high-risk areas like playgrounds and laboratories. Schools would be responsible for water testing. The intention is a good one, said Chelan-Douglas Health District Environmental Health Director Marc Marquis. “Our children spend many hours of every day inside school buildings and we want to ensure they have healthy environments to be in,” Marquis said. “I think in some form it’s almost certain to be passed.” The question is, who will pay for the inspections?

Worrisome Infection Eludes a Leading Children's Vaccine

The New York Times, October 13, 2008

A highly drug-resistant germ has become a common cause of meningitis, pneumonia and other life-threatening conditions in young children. The culprit » a strain of strep bacteria » can conquer almost all antibiotics in pediatrics, and has dodged a vaccine otherwise credited with causing the number of serious infections in children to plummet. Since 2000, American toddlers have been immunized against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, or pneumococcus, an organism that preys largely on children younger than 5 and the elderly. Pneumococcal meningitis can be fatal, and survivors are often left with deafness and other lifelong neurological problems.

Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

Journals Reviewed

American Journal of Public Health

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

- Vol. 98, No. 11, November 1, 2008

Environmental Health Perspectives

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

- Vol. 116, No. 11, November 2008

Health Affairs

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

The Journal of the American Medical Association

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

- Vol. 300, No. 17, November 5, 2008
- Vol. 300, No. 16, October 22/29, 2008
- Vol. 300, No. 15, October 15, 2008
- Vol. 300, No. 14, October 8, 2008

The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law

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

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

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

- Vol. 57, No. 44, November 7, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 43, October 31, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 42, October 24, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 41, October 17, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 40, October 10, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 39, October 3, 2008

The New England Journal of Medicine

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

- Vol. 359, No. 19, November 6, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 18, October 30, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 17, October 23, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 16, October 16, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 15, October 9, 2008
- Vol. 359, No. 14, October 2, 2008

Preventing Chronic Disease

CDC

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

Highlighted Journal Articles

Congress Passes Mental Health Parity Bill

JAMA, Vol. 300, No. 16, October 22/29, 2008

Health insurers would be required to provide comparable levels of coverage for mental health and physical health issues under new legislation passed by both the US House of Representatives and US Senate in September. The legislation would end a common health insurance practice of charging substantially higher co-pays for and setting more restrictions on mental health care than other health services.

Widespread Support

A range of organizations support the measure, including professional medical organizations, health care advocates, the insurance industry, and business organizations. Its passage by both houses was hailed after several previous attempts to address this issue over the past decade or more have failed to pass both houses. "This compromise legislation helps end discriminatory and unequal coverage of treatment for mental health coverage in most health insurance plans," according to a statement from the American Psychiatric Association.

Hazardous Chemical Incidents in Schools --- United States, 2002--2007

MMWR, Vol. 57 No. 44, November 7, 2008

Chemicals that can cause adverse health effects are used in many elementary and secondary schools (e.g., in chemistry laboratories, art classrooms, automotive repair areas, printing and other vocational shops, and facility maintenance areas) (1). Every year, unintentional and intentional releases of these chemicals, or related fires or explosions, occur in schools, causing injuries, costly cleanups, and lost school days (1). The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducts national public health surveillance of chemical incidents through its Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) system. To identify school-related incidents and elucidate their causes and consequences to highlight the need for intervention, ATSDR conducted an analysis of HSEES data for 2002--2007.

Large Group Practices Lag in Adopting Patient-Centered "Medical Home" Model

JAMA, Vol. 300, No. 16, October 22/29, 2008

The institutions thought to be the best equipped to incorporate the patient-centered "medical home" model for delivering health care—large group practices—are falling short in adopting this approach, according to a study of nearly 300 medical groups in the United States. The medical home model, which was endorsed in February 2007 by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American Osteopathic Association, emphasizes comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated primary care, with the aim of ensuring the best outcomes for patients. In the study, researchers with the University of California, San Francisco, University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Chicago surveyed and scored 291 group practices with 20 or more physicians that treated patients with asthma, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and depression between March 2006 and March 2007 (Rittenhouse DR et al. *Health Aff[Millwood]*. 2008;27[5]:1246-1258).

Progress in Introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine --- Worldwide, 2000--2008

MMWR, Vol. 57, No. 42, October 24, 2008

Pneumococcal disease is a leading cause of childhood morbidity and mortality globally, causing an estimated 0.7--1.0 million deaths annually among children aged <5 years (1). A pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) that includes seven pneumococcal serotypes (PCV7) first became available in 2000. Studies in the United States have demonstrated that introduction of universal vaccination with PCV7

resulted in a 77% decrease in invasive pneumococcal disease among children aged <5 years and a 39% decrease in hospital admissions for pneumonia among children aged <2 years (2,3). A similar vaccine with two additional serotypes was highly efficacious against pneumonia and invasive disease in clinical trials in Africa and, in one trial, reduced all-cause mortality among children by 16% (4). Low-income countries, which account for >97% of pneumonia cases in children aged <5 years (5), will benefit most from introduction of PCV. This report summarizes the progress made in introducing PCV7 worldwide.

School Siting Poses Particulate Problem

Environmental Health Perspectives, Vol. 116, No. 11, November 2008

Numerous studies dating back 18 years indicate that children who live close to major roadways tend to have more respiratory ailments as a result of exposure to nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ultrafine diesel exhaust particles, and other traffic pollutants. Children spend about 8 hours each weekday in school—and this part of their day may bring no relief from exposure. A new study finds that about one-third of U.S. public schools are located within 400 meters of a major roadway, and about one-tenth are within 100 meters. "School attendance may result in a large dose of inhaled traffic pollutants that have been completely overlooked," says study leader Sergey Grinshpun, director of the Center for Health-Related Aerosol Studies at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio.

Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13--17 Years --- United States, 2007

MMWR, Vol. 57, No. 40, October 10, 2008

Three new vaccines have been recommended for adolescents by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) since 2005: meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4; 1 dose), tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap; 1 dose), and quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4; 3 doses)* (1). ACIP also recommends that adolescents should receive recommended vaccinations that were missed during childhood (1). Since 2006, CDC has conducted the National Immunization Survey--Teen (NIS--Teen) to estimate vaccination coverage from a national sample of adolescents aged 13--17 years. This report describes the findings from NIS--Teen 2007, which indicated substantial increases in receipt of new adolescent vaccinations compared with 2006, including Tdap (from 10.8% to 30.4%) and MCV4 (from 11.7% to 32.4%), and increases in coverage with childhood vaccinations, including measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), hepatitis B (HepB), and varicella (VAR) (among those without disease history). An assessment of HPV4 coverage, which is reported for the first time, showed that 25.1% of adolescent females initiated the vaccine series (>1 dose) in 2007.

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Publications - Inside this Issue

Elaborations

Department of Health

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

EpiLog

Public Health Seattle & King County

EpiTrends

Department of Health

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

Healthy GIS

Health & Human Services Solutions Group of ESRI

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

The Nation's Health

American Public Health Association, October 2008

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

- Nation
 - Number of U.S. uninsured falls to 45.7 million, census shows: More people in government health programs
 - Reauthorization of U.S. global program on HIV/AIDS applauded: New law extends reach of HIV/AIDS effort
 - New CDC technology reveals higher U.S. HIV infection rate
 - Public transit plays critical role in urban preparedness
 - Statement defines public health quality measurements
 - Media can play key role in youth tobacco use, prevention
 - Many among growing U.S. Hispanic population lack usual source of care
 - Nation in brief
- State/Local
 - New Orleans residents still face uncertain future, survey finds
 - Connecticut debuts new online, personalized health assessments
 - States in brief
- Globe
 - Q&A with public health advocate Marmot: Ending inequities » matter of social justice»
 - Social inequalities are global killers, WHO commission finds
 - Globe in brief
- General
 - Pre-pregnancy diabetes raises risk of birth defects
 - EPA kids Web site focuses on healthy fish consumption
- Healthy You
 - How to sort health facts from fiction on the Web
- Health Findings
- APHA News
 - APHA» s 136th Annual Meeting in San Diego Oct. 25» 29: 13,000 expected
 - APHA's Benjamin again named a top leader in the health care field
 - New APHA publication spotlights importance of global health
 - Groups work to prevent injuries among U.S. high school athletes
 - Members: Use Strategic Map to improve APHA, committee says: Advancing work of the Association
 - Check your emergency stockpiles as you set your clocks, says APHA
 - Sign up now for career coaching at the 136th Annual Meeting
 - Annual Meeting blog to deliver news from San Diego
 - APHA Advocates
 - Free Get Ready materials now also available in Spanish
 - Waxman is APHA» s 2008 public health legislator of the year
 - Finlayson to be recognized with 2008 Drotman award
 - Frieden is recipient of 2008 Roemer prize
 - APHA» s Executive Director» s Citation to go to Shipp
 - Kennedy to be honored with special lifetime achievement award

- Wellstone Action to receive Presidential Citation
 - Learn to work with media, advocate for health at APHA meeting
- APHA Sections
 - APHA member groups gear up for 136th Annual Meeting
 - APHA groups elect new leaders, members to Governing Council: Terms begin at close of 2008 meeting
 - Resolution urges chiropractors to join APHA, support public health
- Affiliates
 - Affiliate mentoring programs help pass the public health torch: Students, mentors connect online, on the job
 - Washington state Affiliate launches new online public health journal
- Journal Watch
- President's Column
 - Choose accountability: Keep the legal U.S. drinking age at 21
- Job Openings
- Web Exclusive
 - CDC releases 1918 pandemic flu storybook
 - Psychiatric patients routinely "boarded" in emergency departments
 - Poor sleep in teens linked to higher blood pressure
 - Day care protects against pediatric asthma
 - Foot injuries plague athletes during fall sports season
 - Danish study looks at hormone replacement therapy
 - Free drug samples carry risks for children
 - Galson issues call to prevent deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism
 - Most Americans see need to fund disease prevention programs
 - CDC steps up efforts to fight drug-resistant germ
 - Survey finds Americans fall short on cancer-protective fitness
 - National Toxicology Program finalizes report on bisphenol A
- Newsmakers
- Resources

NewsBrief

National Association of Local Boards of Health

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Volume 29, Issue 526, October 27, 2008

- State News
 - Vermont shows providers the money for expanding hit
 - Localized approaches to reducing the uninsured
 - States act against perceived health risks in children's products
- Highlights
 - Hawaii ends its universal coverage program for children...Report finds Medicaid spending will grow over the next decade...States consider mandating Autism benefits
- Graphically Speaking
 - A new report finds that minorities suffer significantly higher death rates than whites after trauma, a problem that gets worse for those without insurance.

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Volume 29, Issue 525, October 14, 2008

- State News
 - States Encouraged to Adopt New Guidelines to Prevent Hospital Acquired Infections
 - Reducing the Uninsured through Small Business Subsidies
- Highlights
 - Dipping economy leads to more Medicaid enrollees» Most nursing homes receive failing grade» State experts offer tips for improving HIT» HIV population keeps growing.
- Graphically Speaking
 - A new report examines health outcomes for children and how they are affected by the family's race, income, and education levels. Not surprisingly, the poorest and least educated have the worst health problems.

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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Publications - Reports

First Half '08 HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Report, Washington State - Seattle & King County

Public Health Seattle & King County & Washington State Department of Health

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