



## For Your Information – March 2009

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.

- [Events and Conferences](#)
- [Correspondence](#)
- [Public Health Leadership Positions Available](#)
- Publications
  - [General Media](#)
  - [Highlighted Journal Articles](#)
  - [Inside this Issue](#)
  - [Reports](#)

### Events and Conferences

#### March 2009

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
March 18	<b>7th Northwest Regional Critical Access Hospital Conference</b> Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington For information: Kaarin Appel at <a href="mailto:kappel@wsu.edu">kappel@wsu.edu</a>
March 19-20	<b>22nd Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference</b> Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington For information: Kaarin Appel at <a href="mailto:kappel@wsu.edu">kappel@wsu.edu</a>

#### May 2009

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
May 1-2	<b>26th Annual Conference - Primary Care Update</b> Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington For information: Kaarin Appel at <a href="mailto:kappel@wsu.edu">kappel@wsu.edu</a>

## June 2009

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
Jun. 21-24	<b>National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 73rd Annual Education Conference</b> Atlanta, Georgia For information: <a href="http://www.neha.org">www.neha.org</a>

## June 2010

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
Jun. 5-9	<b>National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 74th Annual Education Conference</b> Albuquerque, New Mexico For information: <a href="http://www.neha.org">www.neha.org</a>

[Index](#)

## Correspondence

### Correspondence from the Board

**To: The Honorable Rosemary McAuliffe, Chair, Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education, February 18, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

*Letter regarding SB 5973 relating to recommendations from the five studies on the academic achievement gap.*

**To: The Honorable Phil Rockefeller, Chair, Committee on Environment, Water and Energy, February 18, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

*Letter opposing SB 5756 relating to hazardous substance information.*

[Index](#)

## Public Health Leadership Positions Available

### 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>

[Index](#)

## Publications - General Media

### Initiative Takes Aim At Obesity In Children

Washington Post, February 20, 2009

A coalition of health groups and insurance companies yesterday unveiled an initiative, billed as the first of its kind, to help battle one of the nation's biggest health problems: childhood obesity. Officials of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a joint effort of the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation, said the initiative is designed to give children better access to health care to fight obesity. Participating insurance companies would pay for at least four visits to a dietitian and four visits to a physician each year to provide guidance to children and their parents on how to eat better and take other steps to reduce and control their weight.

### **Report: Health-care disparities shortchange minorities, poor**

Seattle Times, March 4, 2009

Virginia Mason Medical Center provides half as much charity care as Swedish Medical Center, though their main campuses are just a few blocks apart. Residents of Southeast Seattle live about twice as far on average from the nearest hospital than do people in Fremont, Greenlake, Shoreline or Ballard. And several dozen Spanish speakers posing as prospective patients were repeatedly thwarted by language barriers when they tried to navigate Seattle-area hospitals in person or by phone. Those assertions were highlighted in a report released Tuesday by four local community organizations, which argued that such disparities shortchange minorities and poor people, and partly explain why their health lags behind that of whites.

### **Screening for Rare Genetic Disorders Now Routine in Newborns**

New York Times, February 19, 2009

When David Swift's baby girl Giana was born at Santa Monica U.C.L.A. Medical Center six years ago, a nurse approached to ask if the baby could participate in a pilot program to screen newborns for dozens of rare genetic disorders. It involved little more than a heel prick blood test, but Mr. Swift, a 33-year-old first-time father, declined. The nurse persisted, asking the question again and again, until Mr. Swift relented. And he's been trying to find that nurse ever since, because the test, which identified an extremely rare metabolic condition in his newborn daughter, may have saved her life.

[Index](#)

## **Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Journals Reviewed**

#### **American Journal of Public Health**

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

- Vol. 99, No. 3, March 2009

#### **Environmental Health Perspectives**

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

- Vol. 117, No. 3, March 2009
- Vol. 117, No. 2, February 2009

#### **Health Affairs**

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

- Vol. 28, No. 1, January/February 2009

#### **The Journal of the American Medical Association**

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

- Vol. 301, No. 9, March 4, 2009

- Vol. 301, No. 8, February 25, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 7, February 18, 2009

### **The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law**

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

- Vol. 34, No. 1, February 2009

### **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_wk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html)

- Vol. 58, No. 8, March 6, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 7, February 27, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 6, February 20, 2009

### **The New England Journal of Medicine**

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

- Vol. 360, No. 10, March 5, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 9, February 26, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 8, February 19, 2009

### **Preventing Chronic Disease**

CDC

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

## **Journal Articles**

### **Invasive Haemophilus influenzae Type B Disease in Five Young Children --- Minnesota, 2008**

MMWR, Vol. 58, No. 3, January 23, 2009

In 2008, five children aged <5 years were reported to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) with invasive Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) disease; one died. Only one of the children had completed the primary Hib immunization series; three had received no doses of Hib-containing vaccine (1). The five Hib cases are the largest number among children aged <5 years reported from Minnesota since 1992. The cases occurred during a Hib vaccine recall and continuing nationwide shortage that began in December 2007. The recall of certain lots of the two Hib-containing vaccines manufactured by Merck & Co., Inc. (West Point, Pennsylvania) and cessation of production of both vaccines left only one manufacturer of Hib vaccine in the United States (Sanofi Pasteur, Swiftwater, Pennsylvania) (2,3).

### **Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years—United States, 2009**

JAMA, Vol. 301, No. 7, February 18, 2009

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annually publishes immunization schedules that summarize recommendations for currently licensed vaccines for children aged 18 years and younger. Changes to the previous schedule<sup>1</sup> are as follows:

- Recommendations for rotavirus vaccines include changes for the maximum age for the first dose (14 weeks 6 days) and the maximum age for the final dose of the series (8 months 0 days). The rotavirus footnote also indicates that if RV1 (Rotarix®) is administered at ages 2 and 4 months, a dose at 6 months is not indicated.<sup>2</sup>
- Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all children aged 6 months through 18 years. Children aged younger than 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or who were vaccinated for the first time during the previous season but only received 1 dose should receive 2 doses of influenza vaccine at least 4 weeks apart. Healthy nonpregnant persons

aged 2 through 49 years may receive either live attenuated influenza vaccine or inactivated influenza vaccine.<sup>3</sup>

- The minimum interval between tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) and tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) for persons aged 10 through 18 years is addressed. An interval less than 5 years may be used if pertussis immunity is needed.<sup>4</sup>
- Information about the use of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine among persons aged 5 years and older at increased risk for invasive Hib disease has been added. Use of Hib vaccine for these persons is not contraindicated.
- Catch-up vaccination with human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is clarified. Routine dosing intervals should be used for series catch-up (i.e., the second and third doses should be administered 2 and 6 months after the first dose). The third dose should be given at least 24 weeks after the first dose.
- Abbreviations for rotavirus, pneumococcal polysaccharide and meningococcal polysaccharide vaccines have been changed.

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

JAMA, Vol. 301, No. 7, February 18, 2009

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).<sup>\*1</sup> ACIP also recommends that adolescents should receive recommended vaccinations that were missed during childhood.<sup>1</sup> 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).

[Index](#)

## **Publications - Inside this Issue**

### **Elaborations**

Department of Health, Vol. XIV, No. 1, January/February 2009

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa\\_newsletters.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa_newsletters.htm)

- 2009 MTS License Renewal
- Informed Consent for Blood Transfusion
- Blood Cell Morphology Training Class
- HIV Testing on Medicaid Patients

### **EpiLog**

Public Health Seattle & King County, Vol. 49, No. 1, January 2009

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/epilog.aspx>

- 2009 Adult Immunization Schedule Highlights
- 2009 Childhood Immunization Schedule Highlights
- Public Health Information and Alert Network (IAN) Registration and URL Changes

### **EpiTrends**

Department of Health

## **The Nation's Health**

American Public Health Association, February 2009

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

- Nation
  - U.S. lagging behind many other nations on infant mortality rates: Healthy behavior, healthier babies
  - HHS must change to improve U.S. health, report says: Reinventing HHS
  - Budget cuts threaten nation's public health preparedness: Report calls biological attack likely
  - Nation's health not improving; obesity, tobacco use to blame
  - EPA urges consumers to recycle, buy energy-efficient televisions
  - Last-minute HHS rule could restrict reproductive, other health services
  - Nation in Brief
- State/Local
  - Vermont fitness challenge pits residents against local farmers
  - States in Brief
- General
  - Comments sought on new accreditation standards: Effort aims to drive quality performance at health departments
  - Report: Sodium levels high even in foods without salty taste
- Healthy You
  - Sound advice for protecting your hearing
- Health Findings
- APHA News
  - APHA hails 'light,' 'low-tar' cigarette Supreme Court ruling
  - APHA Advocates
  - APHA annual congressional record: How members of Congress supported public health
- Student Focus
  - Speed mentoring ramps up future public health leaders' careers
  - National Mentoring Program builds cadre of new health leaders
  - New APHA award recognizes active public health mentors
  - Geico, Vistakon fund student memberships in Association
  - Students in Brief
- Journal Watch
- President's Column
  - Wisdom keeping: Coming of age in the 21st century
- Job Openings
- Web Exclusive
  - Parents often unaware of paid family medical leave option
  - Secondhand smoke linked to cognitive impairment
  - Health groups release 2009 immunization schedules
  - U.S. health spending sees slowest growth since 1998
  - Higher blood sugar levels linked to lower brain function in diabetics
  - Family lifestyles influence teens' weight
  - New cause of ozone wheezing and potential treatments found
  - Many parents avoid pregnancy rather than face genetic testing
  - Personal digital assistants used to track TB data
  - Americans' health should be measured by 20 indicators

- Drug can prevent colon cancer development in mice
- Place of birth contributes to asthma disparity
- Newsmakers
- Resources

### **State Health Notes**

National Conference of State Legislators, Volume 30, Issue 534, March 2, 2009

- State News
  - Mental Health Screening for Teens: What Role Do States Play?
  - Re-Thinking the "Rockefeller Laws"
  - The Toll of Injuries on State Budgets
- Highlights
  - Routine HIV testing in TX...WA Docs reject MRSA screening...Medical parole for elder and infirmed inmates...CA thinking about legalizing marijuana
- Graphically Speaking
  - Methamphetamines cost the United States over \$23 billion in health, social and environmental costs, according to new report.

### **Thrive!**

Washington Health Foundation

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

### **Zoonotic Disease Newsletter**

Washington State Department of Health

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

[Index](#)

## **Publications - Reports**

### **Equal Treatment? Seattle Hospitals put to the Test**

Washington Community Action Network & Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, March 2009

[Index](#)