



For Your Information – May/June 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.

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Events and Conferences

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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Correspondence

Correspondence to the Board

To: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health

From:

Senator Fred Jarrett, Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education;
Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Chair, Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education;
Senator Rodney Tom, Vice Chair, Senate Ways & Means;
Representative Mark Ericks, Vice Chair, House Ways & Means; and
Representative Kelli Linville, Chair, House Ways & Means

Letter reminding the Board about language adopted in Section 222(1) of the 2009-11 Operating Budget and requesting the Board to not adopt the School Environmental & Safety rule at this time.

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General Interest

State Oral Health Plan Survey

The Department of Health is developing a State Oral Health Plan to improve the oral health of all people in Washington. The Department of Health is surveying health professionals, organizations, community groups, and members of the general public. The information will be used to identify common concerns and create workgroups to develop the state plan. The due date to participate in the survey is June 19.

You can access the survey through the links below:

- Survey for Health Professionals, Organizations & Community Groups:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio//s?s=4254>
- Survey for the Public (Individuals) – English: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio//s?s=4005>
- Encuesta Publica Para el Plan de Salud Dental del Estado de Washington - Español:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?s=4302>

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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>

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Publications - General Media

Childhood: Order of Vaccinations Helps With Pain

New York Times, May 11, 2009

The amount of pain infants feel when they undergo vaccinations may depend on the order in which the shots are given. Typically, infants receive DPTaP-Hib (for diphtheria, polio, pertussis, tetanus and Haemophilus influenzae Type B) and PCV (for pneumococcal disease) at the same visit. Researchers assigned 120 infants, average age 4 ½ months, to receive the two shots in random order.

Reaching America's Health Potential: A State-by-State Look at Adult Health

RWJF, May 6, 2009

This chartbook, released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Build a Healthier America, provides state and national data on self-reported adult health status. These data illustrate a consistent and striking pattern of incremental improvements in health with increasing levels of educational attainment: As levels of education rise, health improves.

Recession Leads More People to Skip Preventive Care

RWJF, Apr 8, 2009

With an estimated 3.7 million working-age Americans having lost their health care coverage from the beginning of the economic recession until this past February, more "people are cutting back on routine screenings and examinations designed to protect their health," reports the Los Angeles Times. The article focuses on Southern California, where doctors and dentists note that even those with health insurance are "cutting back on nonessential medical care" because of high deductibles and co-pays. "People are spending less money on everything," said Howard R. Krauss, M.D., president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. "If you're feeling well, the easiest thing to save money on is not going in for your mammogram or colonoscopy."

Study Detects Flu Immunity in Older People: Antibodies Found In One-Third of Americans Over 60

Washington Post, May 22, 2009

A substantial portion of older Americans may have some immunity to the swine-origin H1N1 influenza virus, a finding that may prove useful when and if a vaccine to the new flu strain becomes available. The questions of whom to target with a swine flu vaccine and how to stretch the supply if it is limited are among the most important issues facing public health officials over the next four months.

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

Journals Reviewed

American Journal of Public Health

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

- Vol. 99, No. 6, June 1, 2009
- Vol. 99, No. 5, May 1, 2009

Environmental Health Perspectives

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

- Vol. 117, No. 6, June 2009
- Vol. 117, No. 5, May 2009
- Vol. 117, No. 4, April 2009

Health Affairs

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

- Vol. 28, No. 3, May/June, 2009 ~ Mental Health Care: Better, Not Best

The Journal of the American Medical Association

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

- Vol. 301, No. 20, May 27, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 19, May 20, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 18, May 13, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 17, May 6, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 16, April 22/29, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 15, April 15, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 14, April 8, 2009

The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law

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

- Vol. 34, No. 3, June 2009

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

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

- Vol. 58, No. 20, May 29, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 19, May 22, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 18, May 15, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 17, May 8, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 16, May 1, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 15, April 24, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 14, April 17, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 13, April 10, 2009

The New England Journal of Medicine

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

- Vol. 360, No. 22, May 28, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 21, May 21, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 20, May 14, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 19, May 7, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 18, April 30, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 17, April 23, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 16, April 16, 2009

- Vol. 360, No. 15, April 9, 2009

Preventing Chronic Disease

CDC

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

Journal Articles

Campaign Aims to Boost Adult Vaccination

JAMA, Vol. 301, No. 19, May 20, 2009

Decades ago, attaining immunity from infectious diseases was little more than a game of chance. For some, exposure to disease caused severe illness. Others walked away unscathed. Either way, the immune system churned out protective antibodies to help the body win future bets against infectious bugs. Compared with receiving today's lineup of vaccines, "that's a harsh way to get immunized," observes infectious diseases specialist William Schaffner, MD, of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn.

New York City's War on Fat

NEJM, Vol. 360, No. 19, May 7, 2009

In February, a federal appeals court handed public health officials in New York City an important victory in their ongoing war on obesity and chronic disease.¹ In the past 3 years, the New York City Board of Health and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg have pioneered three uses of the law to combat these health threats in new ways. In order to reduce the prevalence of poorly controlled diabetes, the city has required laboratories to report test results indicating elevated levels of glycated hemoglobin to a citywide registry. To reduce the rate of heart disease, the board of health has banned the use of artificial trans fat in food-service establishments in the city. Finally, the board has required that chain restaurants post calorie information on menu boards; the February court ruling affirmed its right to do so.

The Patient-Centered Medical Home: Will It Stand the Test of Health Reform?

JAMA, Vol. 301, No. 19, May 20, 2009

The fundamental challenge for health care reform in the United States is to expand access to all US residents, while rapidly reengineering the delivery system to provide consistently high-quality care at lower overall cost. Current reform discussions recognize that success will require a shift in emphasis from fragmentation to coordination and from highly specialized care to primary care and prevention.

Vaccine Refusal, Mandatory Immunization, and the Risks of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

NEJM, Vol. 360, No. 19, May 7, 2009

ABSTRACT: Vaccines are among the most effective prevention tools available to clinicians. However, the success of an immunization program depends on high rates of acceptance and coverage. There is evidence of an increase in vaccine refusal in the United States and of geographic clustering of refusals that results in outbreaks. Children with exemptions from school immunization requirements (a measure of vaccine refusal) are at increased risk for measles and pertussis and can infect others who are too young to be vaccinated, cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, or were vaccinated but did not have a sufficient immunologic response. Clinicians can play a crucial role in parental decision making. Health care providers are cited as the most frequent source of immunization information by parents, including parents of unvaccinated children. Although some clinicians have discontinued or have considered discontinuing their provider relationship with patients who refuse vaccines, the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics advises against this and recommends that clinicians address vaccine refusal by respectfully listening to parental concerns and discussing the risks of nonvaccination.

Publications - Inside this Issue

Advances

RWJF, May 2009

<http://www.rwjf.org/global/email.jsp?nsid=665>

- Report Projects Millions More Uninsured By 2019 Unless Federal Health Reform is Enacted
- New Studies Explore Provider Interactions with Health Insurance Plans
- New State-by-State Report Shows Gaps in Health Strongly Linked to Education Levels
- Payment Reform Strategies to Sustain the Medical Home
- Patients Reveal a Willingness to Trade Hands-On Medical Care for Computer Consultations
- 5th Annual Games for Health Conference Next Month
- Leadership for Healthy Communities' Toolkit Offers Concrete Resources for Policy-Makers Working to Prevent Childhood Obesity
- \$2.3-Million Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant Expands Reclaiming Futures

Advances

RWJF, April 2009

- RWJF Commission Says Reforms to Support Healthier Choices Urgently Needed
- New Policy Brief Explores Medicare Advantage Cuts
- RWJF Launches Health Reform Blog
- Responding to H1N1 Flu, Officials Discuss Public Health Agencies' Ability to React to, Treat Pandemic Outbreaks
- Report Calls for Stronger State and Local Food Safety Roles, New Links to Federal Reform Efforts
- New Guide Will Help Get the Best Value for Medicaid Dollars
- A Shot Against MRSA?
- Conference Brings Experts Together to Talk About How Play Shapes Our Lives
- Financial and Health Burdens of Chronic Conditions Grow
- Nominations Accepted for the 24th Annual Gustav O. Lienhard Award

Alliance

Western Washington Area Health Education Center

Elaborations

Department of Health, Vol. XIV, No. 3, May/June, 2009

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

- Swine Flu (H1N1) Update
- Courses in Parasitology and Enteric Bacteriology

EpiLog

Public Health Seattle & King County

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

EpiTrends

Department of Health

http://ww2.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/epitrends/08-epitrends/2008_trend.htm

The Nation's Health

American Public Health Association, May 2009

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

- Nation
 - Transportation, public health go hand-in-hand: Advocates gear up for renewal of federal transportation bill
 - Health reform gains momentum, policy-makers seek public's input
 - Obama says science will lead health, environmental decisions
 - Anti-inhalant abuse campaign targets building codes: 'Huffing' of air conditioning refrigerant a dangerous risk
 - EPA recognizing community aging programs: 2009 award entries being accepted through July 17
 - Nation in Brief
- State/Local
 - Few U.S. states improve grades on mental health report card
 - Commission to take on Alaska's health challenges
 - Michigan tobacco quit line closes after demand outpaces funding
 - States in Brief
- Globe
 - Bonus: Q&A with cancer prevention advocates: Policies must support healthful choices
- General
 - Health, science educators cast in Hollywood supporting role: Lights, camera, action: Public health!
 - Webcast explores health department planning, ideas
 - Ultraviolet lights can dramatically cut spread of TB, researchers find
- Healthy You
 - It's very wise to take care of your eyes
- Health Findings
- On the Job
 - GAO report outlines challenges facing U.S. veterinary work force
 - On the job in brief
- APHA News
 - APHA lauds House for vote to give tobacco regulation to FDA
 - Discounts make APHA meeting more affordable: Hotel rates reduced for Philadelphia meeting in November
 - National Public Health Week a success
 - Nominations open for awards from APHA Sections, SPIGs
 - APHA elections open May 15: Vote for your Section leaders
 - Social media courses to be offered at APHA Learning Institute in November
 - APHA Advocates
- Affiliates
 - APHA Affiliates bringing public health education to undergrads
 - New York City Affiliate targets obesity, access to healthy foods
- Journal Watch
 - President's Column

- Public health nursing: A class act with long history of service
- Job Openings
- Web Exclusive
 - Research points way to possible therapies for dengue fever
 - Alcohol tax increases deter drinking
 - One in four California girls has had HPV vaccine
 - New home needed to address health disparities for mental illness
 - Stronger effort needed to prevent mental, emotional and behavioral problems
 - Underage drinking laws reduce fatal accidents
 - Exercise is safe and can improve quality of life in patients with chronic heart failure
 - Hospitals can make beds available for disaster victims
 - Smokers putting loved ones at risk of heart attacks
 - More research needed into childhood diarrhea
 - The United States and Mexico announce bilateral framework on clean energy and climate change
 - Stroke in low-to-middle income countries has
- Newsmakers
- Resources

State Health Notes

National Conference of State Legislators, Volume 30, Issue 539, May 11, 2009

- State News
 - Medicare Part D and Dual Eligibles: Impacts on Coverage Of Prescription Drugs
 - Lawmakers Cap Billing By Illinois Hospitals
 - Oregon Looks to Technology to Improve End-Of-Life Care
- Highlights
 - "Tagged" for Failing to Wash Hands...GA Requires Student Fitness Test ...Seniors Get More Psychotropic Drugs
- Graphically Speaking
 - A new report shows that almost 12 percent of children under 18 years of age lived with at least one parent who abused alcohol and/or illicit drugs within the past year. The parents' substance abuse increased the children's risk of abuse and neglect, and increased the odds that the children themselves will become substance abusers.

State Health Notes

National Conference of State Legislators, Volume 30, Issue 538, April 27, 2009

- State News
 - States Say ARRA Audit Provision Will Prove Problematic
 - Florida Bill Would Shift People With Mental Illness, Who Are Charged With Crimes, From Prisons to Communities
 - New Colorado Law Would Increase Coverage by Charging Hospitals
- Highlights
 - Free computer program helps map services for ex-inmates..."Virtual" drug treatment...Coverage reduces racial and ethnic disparities
- Graphically Speaking
 - A new map from the Kaiser Family Foundation shows how much each state's FMAP will increase under the stimulus package.

State Health Notes

National Conference of State Legislators, Volume 30, Issue 537, April 13, 2009

- State News
 - More States Using "Cafeteria Plans" To Provide Health Insurance
 - Utah Moves to Reform Health Care Starting With Defined Contributions
 - States Filling Budget Gaps With Alcohol Taxes
- Highlights
 - Providing homes for homeless alcoholics improves recovery...CT cracks down on drunk driving...Does same-day-scheduling improve the quality of care?
- Graphically Speaking
 - More and more U.S. companies are offering chronic disease management programs for workers to reduce health care costs, says a new study. The effort, it seems, may be paying off.

Zoonotic Disease Newsletter

Washington State Department of Health, Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring Issue

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

- Baby chicks continue to be source of springtime salmonella
- Preparing for West Nile virus on a shoestring budget
- Remembering Zach through rabies prevention education
- What kids, parents, and owners can do to prevent dog bites
- Fluorescent mice help hantavirus disease research
- Three percent of wild carnivores surveyed infected with plague
- Animal shelters can pose zoonotic disease risk

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