



## For Your Information – September 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

#### October 2009

Date	Name and Location
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- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Oct. 1-2 | <b>Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum: Protecting our future through education and action</b><br>Tukwila, WA<br>For information:<br><a href="http://chenw.org/CEHforum.html">http://chenw.org/CEHforum.html</a>   |
| Oct. 5-6 | <b>Joint Conference on Health</b><br>Yakima, WA<br>For information:<br><a href="http://www.wspha.org/JCH1.html">http://www.wspha.org/JCH1.html</a>   |
| Oct. 7-9 | <b>4th Annual Pathways into Health Conference "Achieving Excellence, Harmony, and Balance: Innovation Powered by Partnerships to Transform Health Professions Education in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities"</b><br>Big Sky, Montana<br>For information: <a href="http://www.pathwaysintohealthconference.org">www.pathwaysintohealthconference.org</a> |

Oct. 16-17 **Latino Summit & Institute 2009**  
Bellevue, WA  
For information: <http://www.latinocommunityfund.org/summit09.html>

## 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>

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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

### **Drug stores in program to take back old medicines**

*Peninsula Daily News, August 2009*

PORT ANGELES -- Those unused prescription drugs that are taking up space in medicine cabinets across the North Olympic Peninsula can now be dropped off at Jim's Pharmacy in Port Angeles and Frick Rexall Drug Store in Sequim -- anonymously and free of charge. The pharmaceutical-waste take-back program is part of a joint effort among the two drug stores, the state Board of Pharmacy, the state Board of Health and the Clallam County Sheriff's Office.

### **Free vaccines extended**

*Spokesman Review, August 5, 2009*

The state of Idaho will buy all required vaccines for children through January 2010, Gov. Butch Otter said Tuesday. The announcement comes weeks after a legislative task force voted to reverse budget cuts of \$2.1 million to restore the state's child immunization program at least through the rest of this year. For years, the state had subsidized vaccinations for children, but that program was to expire last month amid budget cuts at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Idaho has the lowest child immunization rate in the nation.

### **Military to be Vaccinated Against H1N1**

*Military.com, September 2, 2009*

All military personnel will be vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus, and the vaccine will be available to all military family members who want it, a Defense Department health affairs official said. The H1N1 vaccination program will begin in early October, said Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wayne Hachey, director of

preventive medicine for Defense Department health affairs. The vaccine, which has been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration, will be mandatory for uniformed personnel, the colonel said. "What we want to do is target those people who are at highest risk for transmission," he said.

### **Obscure rule on manure stirs controversy**

*Yakima Herald-Republic, August 17, 2009*

The state Board of Health is considering scrapping a little-known rule that prohibits the accumulation of manure in places where it might harm water quality, such as groundwater used by private well owners. "It's an old rule so it's time we looked at it," said Ned Therien, health policy analyst with the state board in Olympia.

### **Others might adopt Fife's prescription drug disposal: drop-off box: City has collected 20 pounds**

*The News Tribune, September 3, 2009*

A Fife program for disposing of unwanted and expired prescription pills may provide a model for the rest of the county. Leaders of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department plan to meet with Fife leaders in the next few weeks to talk about the city's pill drop-off box, said health department spokeswoman Joby Winans. Fife installed the box outside the Fife Police Department in January. Since then, more than 20 pounds of medications have been turned in, said council member Glenn Hull, who spearheaded the project. Police have emptied the green metal container – similar to a mail box – three times. Police seal up a bag containing the drugs, weigh it and ship it off to a company for incineration, Hull said.

### **State cuts free immunizations**

*Issaquah Press, August 18, 2009*

Parents, get your wallets and insurance cards out: Washington state is scaling back on free vaccinations for minors. In July, Washington stopped using state funds to provide free vaccines for the human papillomavirus. Come May 2010, the state will stop subsidizing all childhood vaccinations, including measles, mumps and rubella, chickenpox, polio, hepatitis B and the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine. By cutting its Universal Vaccine Program, the state will save \$48.5 million over the next two years.

### **Study Finds Medical Home Pilot Provides Better Care Quality with No Added Cost**

*RWJF, September 4, 2009*

A study published in the American Journal of Managed Care finds that a pilot patient-centered medical home (PCMH) at a metropolitan Seattle clinic resulted in significantly fewer emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations among PCMH patients compared with controls, Healthcare Financial News reports. To assess the efficacy of the PCMH model, researchers from the Group Health Research Institute and the University of Washington compared experiences and outcomes among 9,200 patients receiving care through a PCMH pilot project developed at Seattle-based Group Health Cooperative with experiences and outcomes among patients at two control clinics of similar size and Medicare enrollment rates.

### **Study Finds Patient Race Affects Physician Communication, Interactions**

*RWJF, September 9, 2009*

A study by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researchers suggests that African-American patients with high blood pressure communicate less effectively with their physicians, and their physicians with them, than their white counterparts, United Press International reports. Published in the September issue of the Journal of General Internal Medicine, the study was based on an analysis of audio recordings of interactions between 226 patients with high blood pressure and their 39 physicians from 15 primary care practices in Baltimore. According to the analysis, African-American patients had

shorter office visits, fewer biomedical and psychosocial exchanges, and less rapport building with their physicians than white patients. In addition, interactions between physicians and African-American patients with uncontrolled high blood pressure were poorer than interactions between African Americans whose blood pressure was controlled by medication, but the researchers observed no difference among white patients based on blood pressure control.

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## **Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Journals Reviewed**

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

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

#### **Environmental Health Perspectives**

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

#### **Health Affairs**

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

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

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

- Vol. 302, No. 9, September 2, 2009
- Vol. 302, No. 8, August 26, 2009
- Vol. 302, No. 7, August 19, 2009
- Vol. 302, No. 6, August 12, 2009

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

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

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

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

- Vol. 58, No. 34, September 4, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 33, August 28, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 32, August 21, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 31, August 14, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 30, August 7, 2009

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

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

- Vol. 361, No. 10, September 3, 2009
- Vol. 361, No. 9, August 27, 2009
- Vol. 361, No. 8, August 20, 2009
- Vol. 361, No. 7, August 13, 2009

#### **Preventing Chronic Disease**

*CDC*

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

## Journal Articles

### **Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Regarding Routine Poliovirus Vaccination**

*MMWR, Vol. 58, No. 30, August 7, 2009*

This report updates Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for routine poliovirus vaccination. These updates aim to 1) emphasize the importance of the booster dose at age  $\geq 4$  years, 2) extend the minimum interval from dose 3 to dose 4 from 4 weeks to 6 months, 3) add a precaution for the use of minimum intervals in the first 6 months of life, and 4) clarify the poliovirus vaccination schedule when specific combination vaccines are used. On June 17, 1999, ACIP recommended that all poliovirus vaccine administered in the United States be an inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) beginning January 1, 2000. This policy was implemented to eliminate the risk for vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis, a rare condition that has been associated with use of the live oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV). Since 1999, no OPV has been distributed in the United States. Under these ACIP recommendations, the routine IPV vaccination schedule in the United States consists of 4 doses administered at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6--18 months, and 4--6 years with the minimum interval between all IPV doses as 4 weeks (1,2).

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## **Publications - Inside this Issue**

### **Advances**

*RWJF, August 2009*

<http://www.rwjf.org/global/email.jsp?nsid=805>

- Are Consumers Confident or Worried About Their Health Care?
- Does the United States Provide the Best Health Care in the World?
- Americans Rank Health Care as Second Highest Priority
- Healthy Schools Honored by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Health Coverage: What's Fair When it Comes to Employer's Share?
- What Does Emergency Department Utilization Reveal About the U.S. Health Sector?
- RWJF Launches Largest National Public Health Initiative to Stop the Spread of Teen Dating Violence
- Building the Evidence for Quality Improvement Initiatives in Public Health Practice
- RWJF and Northwest Health Foundation Announce New Partners Investing in Nursing's Future Grants

### **Alliance**

*Western Washington Area Health Education Center*

### **Elaborations**

*Department of Health*

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

## EpiLog

*Public Health Seattle & King County*

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

- Animal bites and risk of rabies in King County
- FAQ: Testing for Mumps
- In memorium: Linda Vrtis, RN, BSN

## EpiTrends

*Department of Health*

[http://ww2.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/epitrends/08-epitrends/2008\\_trend.htm](http://ww2.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/epitrends/08-epitrends/2008_trend.htm)

## The Nation's Health

*American Public Health Association, September 2009*

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

- Nation
  - Cell phone popularity a barrier for public health data collection: More Americans forgoing phone landlines
  - Nationwide environmental tracking effort shares data with public: Health data online
  - Public health benefiting from private-sector partnerships: Health departments reaping results
  - U.S. obesity trends are growing worse, adding to health costs: New data document obesity disparities
  - Q&A with CDC Director Thomas Frieden: ‘These are going to be very difficult times’: Frieden calls on workers to confront preventable causes of illness
  - CDC proposes lifting travel, immigration ban for HIV
  - New HHS action plan taking aim at health care-acquired infections
  - Reports: Bottled water labels lack information: Consumers may benefit from more details, findings say
- Nation in brief
  - Rural Alabama physician tapped to be next U.S. surgeon general
- State/Local
  - Colorado program fights recession with free preventive screenings
  - States in brief
- Globe
  - Alcohol tied to critical number of deaths; studies call for solutions
  - Globe in brief
- Healthy You
  - Washing your hands can be the key to good health
- Health Findings
  - APHA News
  - Plan now for APHA Annual Meeting with online resources: Meeting program, personal scheduler available now on Web
  - New candidates named in APHA vice presidents, board elections
  - Stay up on APHA Annual Meeting through blog, Twitter, Flickr
  - Improve preparedness with Get Ready Day on Sept. 15
  - Climate change article from The Nation’s Health honored
  - APHA Advocates
- APHA Sections
  - APHA Oral Health Section supports dental therapists in Minnesota
  - DisAbility Section working for accessibility at Annual Meeting
- Journal Watch

- President's Column
  - Living treasures: Improving the health of indigenous people
- Letters
- Job Openings
- Web Exclusive
  - Breaking a sweat helps strengthen bones
  - Experienced pilots may be at risk of DNA damage from ionizing radiation
  - Discovery of new transmission patterns may help prevent rotavirus epidemics
  - WHO network supports efforts to address noncommunicable diseases
  - Honey adds health benefits
  - Sun exposure may trigger certain autoimmune diseases in women
  - Childhood health disparities can have lifelong health effects
  - Influenza virus in 1918 and today
  - Community health center performance vulnerable to changes in financing
  - Prevention program helps teens override gene linked to risky behavior
  - "Hidden health tax" for family coverage climbing
- Newsmakers
- Resources

### **Zoonotic Disease Newsletter**

*Washington State Department of Health*

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

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## **Publications - Reports**

### **Changes in Health Care Financing & Organization Issue Brief: Impact of the Economy on Health Care**

*RWJF, August 2009*

In the United States, the economy shapes the complex interactions among employment, health coverage, and costs, as well as financial access to care and health outcomes. In economic downturns, few employers drop health coverage or restrict employee eligibility. More commonly, they reduce costs by changing benefits and cost-sharing provisions. Employees in low-wage jobs, those working in small firms, and those in certain industries have been far more likely than others to have been uninsured when they lost their jobs, but this recession is affecting a broader swath of the workforce.

### **Education Matters for Health**

*RWJF, September 9, 2009*

Education can influence health in many ways. This issue brief, prepared by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America, examines three major interrelated pathways through which educational attainment is linked with health—health knowledge and behaviors; employment and income; and social and psychological factors, including sense of control, social standing and social support. In addition, this brief explores how educational attainment affects health across generations, examining the links between parents' education—and the social and economic advantages it represents—and their children's health and social advantages, including opportunities for educational attainment.

## **IOM recommends more details categories for race, ethnicity and English-language proficiency data**

*RWJF, September 2009*

Despite efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care, gaps remain. In order to better analyze the data, develop targeted interventions and ultimately eliminate disparities, health care organizations need to collect standard and more detailed information about patients' race, ethnicity and English-language proficiency. In addition, standardization will allow for stratifying quality performance measures, combining data from different sources and comparing data across systems. A new report released by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommends that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) develop nationally standardized lists for granular ethnicity categories and spoken and written languages.

## **Local government actions to prevent childhood obesity**

*RWJF, September 2009*

In the United States, 16.3 percent of children and adolescents between the ages of two and 19 are obese. This epidemic has exploded over just three decades. Among children two to five years old, obesity prevalence increased from 5 percent to 12.4 percent; among children six to 11, it increased from 6.5 percent to 17 percent; and among adolescents 12 to 19 years old, it increased from 5 percent to 17.6 percent (see Figure 1). The prevalence of obesity is so high that it may reduce the life expectancy of today's generation of children and diminish the overall quality of their lives. Obese children and adolescents are more likely than their lower-weight counterparts to develop hypertension, high cholesterol, and type 2 diabetes when they are young, and they are more likely to be obese as adults.

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## **Rule Development**

### **Proposed Rule Making (CR-102)**

#### **Chapter 246-272C WAC - On-site Sewage System Tanks**

CR-102 filed: September 2, 2009

CR-102 filed as: [WSR 09-18-123](#)

*The proposed rule establishes sewage tank design and construction requirements; establishes the review and approval process; and creates a prefabricated sewage tank registry. This proposed rule protects public health by making certain the Department of Health reviews and approves the sewage tank design and construction plan before the tank is used as part of an on-site sewage system design.*

### **Proposed Rule Making (CR-105)**

#### **WAC 246-105-040 - National Immunization Guidelines**

CR-102 filed: September 2, 2009

CR-102 filed as: [WSR 09-18-124](#)

*This proposal updates the reference to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule from the 2008 version to the 2009 version. The proposed effective date is July 1, 2010. Because the 2009 ACIP immunization schedule has no substantive changes from the 2008 version for Washington's school and child care immunization requirements, the proposal's update will be technical only. Nothing in the reference of ACIP's 2009*

*immunization schedule will require any change to the work schools and child care centers currently perform to implement the immunization requirements of 246-105 WAC.*

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