



For Your Information – October 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
Oct. 16-17	Latino Summit & Institute 2009 Bellevue, Washington For information: http://www.latinocommunityfund.org/summit09.html
Oct. 30-31	2009 Prevention Summit Yakima, Washington For information: www.preventionsummit.org

November 2009

Date	Name and Location
Nov. 7-11	137th Annual APHA Meeting & Exposition Philadelphia, Pennsylvania For information: www.neha.org

March 2010

Date	Name and Location
Mar. 23	Weathering the Perfect Storm: Challenges & Changes—8th NW Regional Critical Access Hospital Conference

Spokane, Washington
For information: www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu

Mar. 24-25 **Weathering the Perfect Storm: Challenges & Changes—23rd NW Regional Rural Health Conference**
Spokane, Washington
For information: www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu

April/May 2010

Date **Name and Location**
Apr. 30-May 1 **27th Annual Conference: Primary Care Update**
Spokane, Washington
For information: www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu

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 from the Board

To: County Commissioners/Councilmembers/Executives

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, September 1, 2009
Letter encouraging the preservation of public health financing as 2010 county budgets are developed.

To: Lt. Colonel James C. Selig

From: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health, September 28, 2009
Response regarding the difficulties experienced with a plan for on-site septic systems for portions of Vashon Maury Island.

Correspondence to the Board

To: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health

From: Randy Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, October 8, 2009

Letter appointing Robert Harkins as the OSPI representative on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.

To: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health
From: The Honorable Patty Murray, United States Senate, September 16, 2009

Letter requesting a response to James Selig regarding the difficulties he has been experiencing with a plan for on-site septic systems for portions of Vashon Maury Island.

To: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health
From: Sherri McDonald, RN, MPA, Chair, WSALPHO, September 9, 2009

Letter expressing gratitude for the letter sent to county commissioners on September 1, 2009

To: Ned Therien, Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health
From: Matthew Baerwalde, Water Quality Manager, Snoqualmie Tribe Environmental and Natural Resources Department, September 8, 2009

Letter regarding CR-101 Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry regarding revision of WAC 246-203-130 as well as the associated rules of RCW 90.48.260 and RCW chapter 90.64.

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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

Assistance program for new mothers spared budget cuts: Reimbursement of flu costs lets the Snohomish Health District keep the Nurse Family Partnership going for now.

The Everett Herald, September 14, 2009

EVERETT — A Snohomish Health District program that helps young, first-time mothers, destined to be cut last month because of the agency's financial woes, has received at least a short-term reprieve. The Nurse Family Partnership will now continue on until the end of the year. The save came when the public health agency was reimbursed \$119,000 by the federal government for the extra expenses it racked up during the outbreak of swine flu this spring.

The funds will provide a short-term financial bandage, with an estimated \$74,000 of that money used to sustain the program. "That is good news," said Jim Flower, a Sultan city councilman who is chairman of the health district board. Board members were forced to cut 20 jobs last month as part of the fallout from the weak economy, yet they were reluctant to add this program to the list. Instead, they asked Dr. Gary Goldbaum, who heads the public health agency, to see if there was any way to keep it going. The program helps new moms age 21 and younger with in-home visits from a public health nurse. The visits begin during the woman's pregnancy and continue until the baby is 2 years old.

Sons of Immigrants Have High Obesity Levels, Report Finds

Washington Post, September 4, 2009

The sons of immigrants to the United States suffer from alarmingly high levels of childhood obesity, according to a new report funded by the Foundation for Child Development. Thirty-four percent of

kindergarten-age immigrant boys are obese or overweight, compared with 25 percent of the sons of native-born Americans, according to an analysis of data collected by the U.S. Education Department. By eighth grade, that number rises to 49 percent, compared with 33 percent among natives. No similar discrepancy was found among girls.

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

Journals Reviewed

American Journal of Public Health

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

- Vol. 99, No. 11, November 1, 2009
- Vol. 99, No. 10, October 1, 2009

Environmental Health Perspectives

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

Health Affairs

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

- Vol. 28, No. 5, September/October 2009

The Journal of the American Medical Association

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

- Vol. 302, No. 13, October 7, 2009
- Vol. 302, No. 12, September 23/30, 2009
- Vol. 302, No. 11, September 16, 2009
- Vol. 302, No. 10, September 9, 2009

The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law

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

- Vol. 34, No. 5, October 2009

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

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

- Vol. 58, No. 39, October 9, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 38, October 2, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 37, September 25, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 36, September 18, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 35, September 11, 2009

The New England Journal of Medicine

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

- Vol. 361, No. 15, October 8, 2009
- Vol. 361, No. 14, October 1, 2009
- Vol. 361, No. 13, September 24, 2009
- Vol. 361, No. 12, September 17, 2009
- Vol. 361, No. 11, September 10, 2009

Preventing Chronic Disease

CDC

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

- Vol. 6, No. 4, October 2009

Journal Articles

Availability of Less Nutritious Snack Foods and Beverages in Secondary Schools --- Selected States, 2002--2008

MMWR, Vol. 58, No. 39, October 9, 2009

Foods and beverages offered or sold in schools outside of U.S. Department of Agriculture school meal programs are not subject to federal nutrition standards (1) and generally are of lower nutritional quality than foods and beverages served in the meal programs. To estimate changes in the percentage of schools in which students could not purchase less nutritious foods and beverages, CDC analyzed 2002--2008 survey data from its School Health Profiles for public secondary schools. This report summarizes the results of those analyses, which indicated that, during 2002--2008, the percentage of schools in which students could not purchase candy or salty snacks not low in fat increased in 37 of 40 states. From 2006 to 2008, the percentage of schools in which students could not purchase soda pop or fruit drinks that were not 100% juice increased in all 34 participating states. Despite these improvements, in 2008, the percentage of schools among states in which students could not purchase sports drinks ranged from 22.7% to 84.8% (state median: 43.7%), and the percentage in which students could not purchase soda pop ranged from 25.6% to 92.8% (state median: 62.9%). The percentage of schools in which students could not purchase candy or salty snacks also varied widely among states (range: 18.2%--88.2%, state median: 61.2%). School and public health officials should increase efforts to eliminate availability of less nutritious foods and beverages at school, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) (2).

Changes Not for the Fainthearted: Reorienting Health Care Systems Toward Health Equity Through Action on the Social Determinants of Health

AJPH, Vol. 99, No. 11, November 1, 2009

Entrenched poor health and health inequity are important public health problems. Conventionally, solutions to such problems originate from the health care sector, a conception reinforced by the dominant biomedical imagination of health. By contrast, attention to the social determinants of health has recently been given new force in the fight against health inequity. The health care sector is a vital determinant of health in itself and a key resource in improving health in an equitable manner. Actors in the health care sector must recognize and reverse the sector's propensity to generate health inequity. The sector must also strengthen its role in working with other sectors of government to act collectively on the deep-rooted causes of poor and inequitable health.

Eliminating Health Disparities through Transdisciplinary Research, Cross-Agency Collaboration, and Public Participation

AJPH, Vol. 99, No. 11, November 1, 2009

Despite efforts to the contrary, disparities in health and health care persist in the United States. To solve this problem, federal agencies representing different disciplines and perspectives are collaborating on a variety of transdisciplinary research initiatives. The most recent of these initiatives was launched in 2006 when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Public Health Research and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health brought together federal partners representing a variety of disciplines to form the Federal Collaboration on Health Disparities Research (FCHDR).

A Legal Primer for the Obesity Prevention Movement

AJPH, Vol. 99, No. 10, October 1, 2009

Public health advocates and scientists working on obesity prevention policy face challenges in balancing legal rights, individual freedom, and societal health goals. In particular, the US Constitution and the 50 state constitutions place limits on the ability of government to act, even in the best interests of the public. To help policymakers avoid crossing constitutional boundaries, we distilled the legal concepts most relevant to formulating policies aimed at preventing obesity: police power; allocation of power among federal, state, and local governments; freedom of speech; property rights; privacy; equal protection; and contract rights. The goal is to allow policymakers to avoid potential constitutional problems in the formation of obesity prevention policy.

Licensure of a Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine (Hiberix) and Updated Recommendations for Use of Hib Vaccine

MMWR, Vol. 58, No. 36, September 18, 2009

On August 19, 2009, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed Hiberix (GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Rixensart, Belgium), a Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine composed of H. influenzae type b capsular polysaccharide (polyribosyl-ribitol-phosphate [PRP]) conjugated to inactivated tetanus toxoid (PRP-T). Hiberix is licensed for use as the booster (final) dose of the Hib vaccine series for children aged 15 months through 4 years (before the 5th birthday) who have received previously the primary series of Hib vaccination (consisting of 2 or 3 doses, depending on the formulation) (1). The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends Hib booster vaccination for children at ages 12 through 15 months; however, because of the recent shortage of Hib vaccines, many children have deferred the booster dose and therefore require catch-up vaccination (2). This report summarizes the indications for Hiberix use and provides guidance on Hib booster dose administration based on increasing vaccine supplies. Vaccination recommendations in this report update the previous advisory on Hib booster administration (June 26, 2009) (2), which advised that children with deferred booster doses receive it at the next regularly scheduled visit. Vaccination providers are now recommended to begin recall of children in need of the booster dose when feasible and monovalent Hib vaccine supply in the office is adequate.

Lost in Translation

JAMA, Vol. 302, No. 10, September 9, 2009

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) should do a better job in translating documents for individuals with limited English proficiency, concluded the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in a report released July 30. The report studied 134 Medicare documents, such as forms, notices, and publications, that the CMS created and that can be used by beneficiaries. It found that 87% were translated into Spanish and, to a limited extent, other languages, including Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. The GAO said decisions to translate depended entirely on the choices made by individual departments of the CMS and were not based on any agencywide policy.

Mental Health Disparities

AJPH, Vol. 99, No. 10, October 1, 2009

Mental health disparities have received increased attention in the literature in recent years. After considering 165 different health disparity conditions, the Federal Collaborative for Health Disparities Research chose mental health disparity as one of four topics warranting its immediate national research attention. In this essay, we describe the challenges and opportunities encountered in developing a research agenda to address mental health disparities in the United States. Varying definitions of mental health disparity, the heterogeneity of populations facing such disparity, and the power, complexity, and intertwined nature of contributing factors are among the many challenges. We convey an evolving interagency approach to mental health disparities research and guidance for further work in the field.

National, State, and Local Area Vaccination Coverage among Adolescents Aged 13--17 Years --- United States, 2008

MMWR, Vol. 58, No. 36, September 18, 2009

In recent years, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended three newly licensed vaccines: meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4; 1 dose); tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap; 1 dose); and (for girls) quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4; 3 doses) (1). ACIP also recommends that adolescents receive recommended vaccinations that were missed during childhood: measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR; 2 doses); hepatitis B vaccine (HepB; 3 doses); and varicella vaccine (VAR; 2 doses) (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 (2). This report summarizes results from the 2008 NIS-Teen and, for the first time, includes estimates for each of the 50 states and selected local areas. Nationally, vaccination coverage for the three most recently recommended adolescent vaccinations and one childhood vaccination increased from 2007 to 2008: MCV4 (from 32.4% to 41.8%), Tdap (from 30.4% to 40.8%), ≥ 1 dose of HPV4 (from 25.1% to 37.2%), and ≥ 2 doses of VAR among those without disease history (from 18.8% to 34.1%). However, substantial variability in vaccination coverage was observed in 2008 among state and local areas and by race/ethnicity and poverty status. For the first time, the Healthy People 2010 target of 90% coverage among adolescents aged 13--15 years was met for MMR and HepB. Public health agencies should continue annual monitoring of adolescent vaccination coverage levels to identify trends and differences by geographic area, race/ethnicity, and poverty status.

QuickStats: Prevalence* of Obesity† Among Adults Aged ≥ 20 Years, by Race/Ethnicity§ and Sex --- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, United States, 2003--2006

MMWR, Vol. 58, No. 39, October 9, 2009

The figure shows the prevalence of obesity among adults aged >20 years, by race/ethnicity and sex for 2003-2006 from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. According to the figure, the age-adjusted percentage of adults aged >20 years who were obese during 2003-2006 varied by race/ethnicity among women, ranging from 53.3% for non-Hispanic black women to 41.8% for Mexican-American women and 31.6% for non-Hispanic white women. Obesity levels were more similar for Mexican-American men (28.8%), non-Hispanic black men (35.0%), and non-Hispanic white men (32.0%). None of the groups had met the Healthy People 2010 target of 15% (objective 19-02).

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Publications - Inside this Issue

Advances

RWJF, September 2009

<http://www.rwjf.org/global/email.jsp?nsid=865>

- Survey Reveals a Majority of Physicians Support Inclusion of a Public Option in Reform Efforts
- Bending the Curve: Effective Steps to Address Long-Term Health Care Spending Growth
- RWJF Index: Confidence Among Medicare-Eligible Seniors Continues to Slide
- Education Matters for Health
- IOM Releases Action Steps for Local Governments to Prevent Childhood Obesity
- Financial Incentives Drive Doctors' Practice Patterns
- A Snapshot of U.S. Physicians: Key Findings From the 2008 Health Tracking Physician Survey
- An Update on Health Reform in Massachusetts
- RWJF Community Mourns Passing of Frank Karel

Alliance

Western Washington Area Health Education Center, Summer 2009

- *Western Washington Area Health Education center's national voice in Washington, DC*
- *Project H.O.P.E. students participate in internships, Mini-camp*
- *Making connections: Washington joins National Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC)*
- *Family Medicine of Port Angeles receives 2009 Rural Health Quality Award*
- *Interview with a volunteer: Dr. Phil Bernes, MD*
- *Medical Surgical Nursing Practice & Certification Review Course 2009*
- *How Project Access works*

Elaborations

Department of Health, Vol. XIV, No. 5, September/October 2009

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

- 2009-H1N1 Influenza A (Swine Flu): CDC Biosafety Guidance
- 2009 H1N1 Influenza WAPHL Update
- H1N1 Influenza Websites of Interest
- Training Course: Basic Course in Microscopic Examination of Vaginal Fluid (Wet Mount)

EpiLog

Public Health Seattle & King County

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

EpiTrends

Department of Health, Vol. 14, No. 9, September 2009

<http://ww2.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/epitrends/default.htm>

- Reducing the Impact of Pandemic Influenza — Community Mitigation
 - Interventions
 - School Closures
 - Community Social Distancing
 - Resources

The Nation's Health

American Public Health Association

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

Zoonotic Disease Newsletter

Washington State Department of Health, Vol. 3, No. 3, Fall 2009

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

- West Nile virus activity continues to swell in Washington
- Do bats control mosquitoes?
- Fido's and Fluffy's bowls need cleaning too!
- Pests looking for warmth in all the wrong places
- World Rabies Day
- Cryptococcus gattii west coast meeting held in Seattle
- Welcome Wayne Clifford, our new Program Manager

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Publications - Reports

Moving to the Land of Milk and Cookies: Obesity among the Children of Immigrants

Migration Policy Institute, September 1, 2009

Many immigrants hope for better lives for themselves and their children. Yet adapting to life in the United States can be risky even among the most economically successful immigrants. Poor nutrition, low levels of physical activity, and obesity have reached alarming levels in the United States. Past studies on obesity among immigrants have focused almost exclusively on adults and adolescents. Much less work has examined young children, and the studies on children have used small, locally drawn samples. In a new study funded by the Foundation for Child Development, we used a large, nationally representative sample to document the prevalence and patterns of obesity among young children of immigrants. We discovered that children of newly arrived immigrants are particularly vulnerable to this growing health problem.

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