



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

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## **News Release**

SBOH 08-04

**For immediate release:** March 10, 2008

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360-236-4104

### **Board to discuss response to vaccine shortages, shellfish-related illness**

*Wednesday, March 12, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Point Plaza East, Rooms 152 & 153, 310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater*

Aiming to reduce shellfish-related illness, the state Board of Health will review a rule it put in place last year and determine if any changes need to be made before making it permanent. The review is part of its March 12 meeting held in Tumwater.

The rule was designed to reduce illnesses caused by consuming raw shellfish tainted with the *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* bacterium. It was adopted as an emergency rule last May.

The meeting also includes an update on changes to the school environmental health and safety rule and a presentation by the Health Care Authority on health resource banks. The board will also discuss how it should respond to shortages of vaccines required for childcare and school entry. Other items on the agenda include: a legislative update; discussions on the board's ability to propose legislation; and the structure and membership of its policy committees.

The meeting is open and the public is invited to provide testimony on any public health issue at 1:50 p.m. Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the board at 360-236-4100 or on the [Board of Health Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov) (www.sboh.wa.gov). The emergency and media contact number for the board during the meeting is 360-701-2398.

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The Board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the [Board of Health Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov) (www.sboh.wa.gov/).