



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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News Release

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Board to hold hearings on shellfish-related illness, newborn screening

Wednesday, May 14, 9 a.m. –3:40 p.m., Rosario Resort, 1400 Rosario Road, Eastsound

At its meeting May 14 in Eastsound, the state Board of Health will hold public hearings on two proposed rule changes, one about shellfish and the other on screening for newborns. Both may be adopted at this meeting.

The board will also hear from the San Juan County Board of Health about local activities and concerns, and will receive an update on efforts to modernize the school health and safety rule.

At 11:30 a.m., the Board will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to its shellfish rule. The changes are intended to reduce the risk of illnesses caused by consuming raw or undercooked oysters that contain the *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* bacterium.

At 1:30 p.m., the panel will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to its newborn screening rule. The proposal would add 15 disorders to the list of genetic conditions for which all newborns must be tested.

The meeting also will include an update on the school environmental health and safety rule development process.

The Board meets at locations throughout the state so it is accessible to all Washington residents, and it regularly schedules discussions with local boards of health and local health officials so it can better understand local issues. It last met in San Juan County in 1996.

The meeting is open and the public is invited to provide testimony on any public health issue at 2:50 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 \(www.sboh.wa.gov\)](http://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 \(www.sboh.wa.gov\)](http://www.sboh.wa.gov).