



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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September 13, 2021

David Schumacher, Director
Office of Financial Management
Post Office Box 43113
Olympia, Washington 98504-3113

RE: Department of Health 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget Submittal

Dear David:

I respectfully submit the Department of Health's 2022 supplemental operating budget requests for Governor Inslee's consideration.

The COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery remain the Department's top priorities; however, it is still important for the state to maintain and build a resilient public health system that protects our citizens and prepares us for the future. This budget request includes the necessary funding to continue supporting the ongoing statewide effort to control the spread of COVID-19, looking to American Rescue Plan Act resources provided to Washington State by the federal government specifically for these purposes.

It places significant focus on behavioral health and equity, two areas of need prior to the pandemic but exacerbated by its disparate impacts on our communities, particularly our youth. And our proposal looks to the future by positioning the state to better address and respond to the next wave of health challenges, including modernizing data systems and addressing health impacts from climate change.

While the department's budget submittal includes the highest priority and most urgent public health needs, there are still outstanding challenges and equally important priorities not included in this request that need to be addressed immediately. The state needs to identify a long-term solution to isolate and quarantine individuals who have been exposed or tested positive for a communicable disease. There are also lab capacity needs that align with the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act.

My team will continue to work with your staff to identify the most effective solutions to address these needs for consideration in the Governor's proposed supplemental budget to the legislature. These requests are a priority as well for our public health system to be effective in protecting the health of our people.

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Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to discussing these issues.

Sincerely,



Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health

Enclosures

cc: Breann Boggs, Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management
Molly Voris, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Deputy Secretary for Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Kelly Cooper, Director, Policy and Legislative Relations, Department of Health
Amy Ferris, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health