



SNOHOMISH COUNTY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SNOHOMISH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AGENDA

November 4, 2025

3:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

3020 Rucker Ave, Auditorium or Remote: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521553177>

The Snohomish County Board of Health will meet at a special date and time to conduct Board of Health business as described on the agenda below.

Board of Health Members:

Chair: Megan Dunn

Vice Chair: Heather Logan

Members: Janet Anderberg, Lisa George, Summer Hammons, Dale Kaemingk, Jared Mead, Desmond Skubi, Mindy Woods

-
- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Roll Call**
 - 3. Approval of Agenda Contents and Order**
 - 4. Public Comment**
 - 5. Action**
 - a. Reappointment of Janet Anderberg to the Board of Health (SR 25-030; Nicole Thomsen)
Recommended Action: Motion to approve recommendation of the reappointment of Janet Anderberg to the Board of Health for a term of four years
 - b. Proclamation 25-08 Recognizing World AIDS Day (SR 25-031; Carrie Parker)
Recommended Action: Motion to approve proclamation 25-08
 - 6. Director's Report**
 - a. Director's Report
 - 7. Health Officer's Report**
 - a. Health Officer's Report
 - 8. Briefings**

- a. Code of Conduct (SR 25-025B; Nicole Thomsen)
- b. Snohomish County Legislative Priorities (SR 25-032; Nicole Thomsen)
- c. Environmental Health Septic Inventory Project (SR 25-033; Ragina Gray)

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Information Items

- a. Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2025
- b. Upcoming Meetings

12. Adjournment

Board of Health members

The public is invited to attend. Parking and meeting rooms are accessible for persons with disabilities. Questions or additional information about the board meeting may be obtained by contacting the Board Clerk at 425.339.5210; Email SHD-Board.Clerk@snoco.org. To request reasonable accommodations, please contact the Board Clerk by the Friday prior to the board meeting. It's customary at each regular meeting of the full Board to include an assigned period for public comment from individuals present at the meeting. Generally, the public comment occurs near the beginning of the meeting and comments are limited to no more than three minutes per person. The Chair of the board may, as circumstances require at each meeting, reduce the time allotted to individuals or reduce the overall time assigned for public comments.

Reappointment of Janet Anderberg to the Board of Health

Division:

Office of the Director; Nicole Thomsen, Public Affairs & Policy Manager

Background

On January 1, 2023, the Health District integrated into County operations and became the Snohomish County Health Department. With that came the re-creation of the Board of Health under the County. The board is comprised of nine members, including four public members representing public health, healthcare facilities, healthcare providers, and a consumer of public health.

Janet Anderberg was appointed to the healthcare provider position for a term of three years ending December 31, 2025 (Exhibit A). The 3-year term was assigned to establish a staggered rotation within the community voices members.

In compliance with SCC 2.300.120, Ms. Anderberg is eligible for a second term of four years in length. Recommendations will be forward to County Executive for consideration and potential County Council re-appointment.

Board Authority

RCW 70.05.060 - Power and duties of local board of health; and
Snohomish County Code Chapter 2.300

Recommended Motion

Recommended Action: Motion to approve recommendation of the reappointment of Janet Anderberg to the Board of Health for a term of four years

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ [Motion 23-096.pdf](#)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

MOTION NO. 23-096

APPOINTING JANET ANDERBERG TO THE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, RCW 70.05.035 requires Snohomish County to establish a local board of health; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2022, Council adopted SCC 2.300.090 which established the Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health is comprised of nine members: the Snohomish County Council chair and vice-chair, one elected from a large/medium city in Snohomish County, one elected from a small city or town in Snohomish County, one community stakeholder, one healthcare facilities, one healthcare provider, one public health consumer, and one tribal representative appointed by the American Indian health commission; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Executive has recruited and evaluated the membership application for eligibility in compliance with RCW 70.05.35(1)(a), RCW 43.20.300 and chapter 246-90 WAC; and

WHEREAS, Janet Anderberg fulfills the requirements as a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Anderberg is a Washington State registered sanitarian and retired Washington State Department of Health professional with more than 30 years of practical environmental public health experience; and

WHEREAS, Executive Dave Somers nominates Ms. Anderberg to fill the health care provider position and serve a three-year term;

NOW, THEREFORE, ON MOTION, the Snohomish County Council hereby appoints Ms. Janet Anderberg to the Snohomish County Board of Health, term to expire December 31, 2025.

PASSED this 1st day of March, 2023.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington



Council Vice-Chair

ATTEST:



Deputy Clerk of the Council

Proclamation 25-08 Recognizing World AIDS Day

Division:

Prevention Services / Carrie Parker, Assistant Director

Background

World AIDS Day is observed each year on December 1st. It was established in 1988 as the first-ever global health day. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, honor those who have lost their lives to the disease, and show support for people living with HIV around the world. The day also serves as a call to action for continued education, prevention, testing, and treatment efforts. Over the years, World AIDS Day has helped break down stigma and discrimination associated with HIV while promoting compassion, understanding, and solidarity in the global fight to end the epidemic.

This year, Snohomish County Health Department will be partnering with AIDS Project Snohomish County and Lifelong AIDS to co-host the annual Snohomish County AIDS Memorial Walk and ceremony to remember and honor those impacted by HIV and AIDS in our community. We will also be offering additional walk-in testing service hours at our clinic.

Board Authority

RCW 70.05.060 – Power and duties of local board of health

Recommended Motion

Recommended Action: Motion to approve proclamation 25-08

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- [25-08_World.Aids.Day.pdf](#)



Proclamation

Snohomish County Board of Health

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day, observed each year on December 1, is a global opportunity to unite in the fight against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, show support for people living with HIV, and commemorate those who have lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, since the first cases were reported more than four decades ago, over 40 million people worldwide have died from AIDS-related causes, and today an estimated 39 million people are living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, the first two cases of HIV in Snohomish were reported on April 14, 1984, and on May 20, 1985, the Snohomish Health District began offering free testing to anyone who requested it; and

WHEREAS, significant advancements in prevention, testing, treatment, and care have transformed HIV from a fatal diagnosis into a manageable chronic condition, with current medical science confirming that individuals who achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load cannot sexually transmit HIV (Undetectable = Untransmittable or U=U), representing a profound public health success; and

WHEREAS, despite these medical advancements, the persistent stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS remains a significant barrier to testing, treatment, and retention in care, especially within communities disproportionately impacted by HIV, undermining progress towards eradication; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County recognizes the importance of equitable healthcare, community-based prevention efforts, and education to reduce new infections, improve health outcomes, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a full, healthy life free from HIV-related stigma; and



WHEREAS, the theme for World AIDS Day 2025, “*Rethink, Rebuild, Rise*” calls upon individuals, organizations, and governments to remember their history and reaffirm their commitment to ending the HIV epidemic through compassion, inclusion, action, and addressing the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Health Department, local healthcare providers, and community organizations continue to play a vital role in providing testing, treatment, support services, and education to residents of all backgrounds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Snohomish County Board of Health proudly proclaims December 1, 2025, as World AIDS Day in Snohomish County; and

This proclamation serves as a call to action for all members of our community, including residents, visitors, and businesses, to stand together in solidarity. We encourage active participation in recognition activities, including an annual AIDS walk organized by the AIDS Project Snohomish County on December 1 from the Snohomish County Health Department building to the AIDS Memorial on the Snohomish County Campus to honor the lives touched by HIV/AIDS, to strengthen crucial prevention and care systems, and to collaborate on building a healthier future for everyone ultimately free of new HIV infections.

World AIDS Day December 1, 2025

ADOPTED this 4th day of November 2025.

*Megan Dunn
Chair, Board of Health*

Attest:

*Kimberly Van Pelt
Director, Health Department*

Director's Report

Background

Director's Report – November 4, 2025

- **Introduction of New Director:** Kim Van Pelt was appointed by County Executive Dave Somers last month and confirmed by the County Council last week. She most recently served as deputy director of the Pima County Health Department in Arizona. Pima County has a population of about 1 million people. Kim has had a long career of improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and is looking forward to applying her leadership skills to Snohomish County.
- **Strategic Plan Implementation:** With strategic planning completed, focus is shifting to implementation of go first goals and strategies. Topic areas in the initial implementation phase are: Childhood & Adult Vaccinations, Water Quality Protection, Employee Satisfaction, Policy & Procedures, Diversification of Revenue, and Emergency Preparedness & Response. We will be connecting with board members to learn more about priorities and preferred strategies for board engagement and/or participation in the implementation journey.
- **Public Health Finance Working Group:** Establishment of a public health financial working group was approved by Board of Health as part of the 2025 work plan. The goal of this work group is to identify and prioritize strategies to increase and diversify revenue sources that meet current and future strategic and operational needs. Identified strategies will be shared with the Snohomish County Executive for consideration and potential action. Staff are moving forward with hiring a consultant to facilitate the working group and identify potentially applicable national and international strategies. We anticipate convening the work group in January.

Health Officer's Report

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ [Health Officer Report](#)



**SNOHOMISH
COUNTY** 
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

November 2025



Shutdown and Federal Policy Impacts

- Shutdown
 - Primarily impacting WIC and SNAP services for HS/PH side in WA
 - WIC: OK through mid November
 - SNAP: benefits expiring 10/31
 - Unable to reach CDC colleagues for routine work, dashboards not being updated (respiratory viruses)
- Policy Bill and funding
 - Expect wide ranging impacts – state budget also in trouble
 - Expecting budgetary impacts, waiting to hear from DOH re: magnitude
 - Medicaid – working to implement tracking systems

News about Government Shutdown
bing.com › news

Senate, GOP and the Shutdown >



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Government shutdown live updates as Senate fails to advance GOP bill to pay essential federal workers

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USA TODAY · 1h · on MSN

Government shutdown live updates; Senate rejects Democratic and GOP effort...



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npr · 9h

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yahoo! · 23h

The federal government shutdown will disrupt food stamps in November



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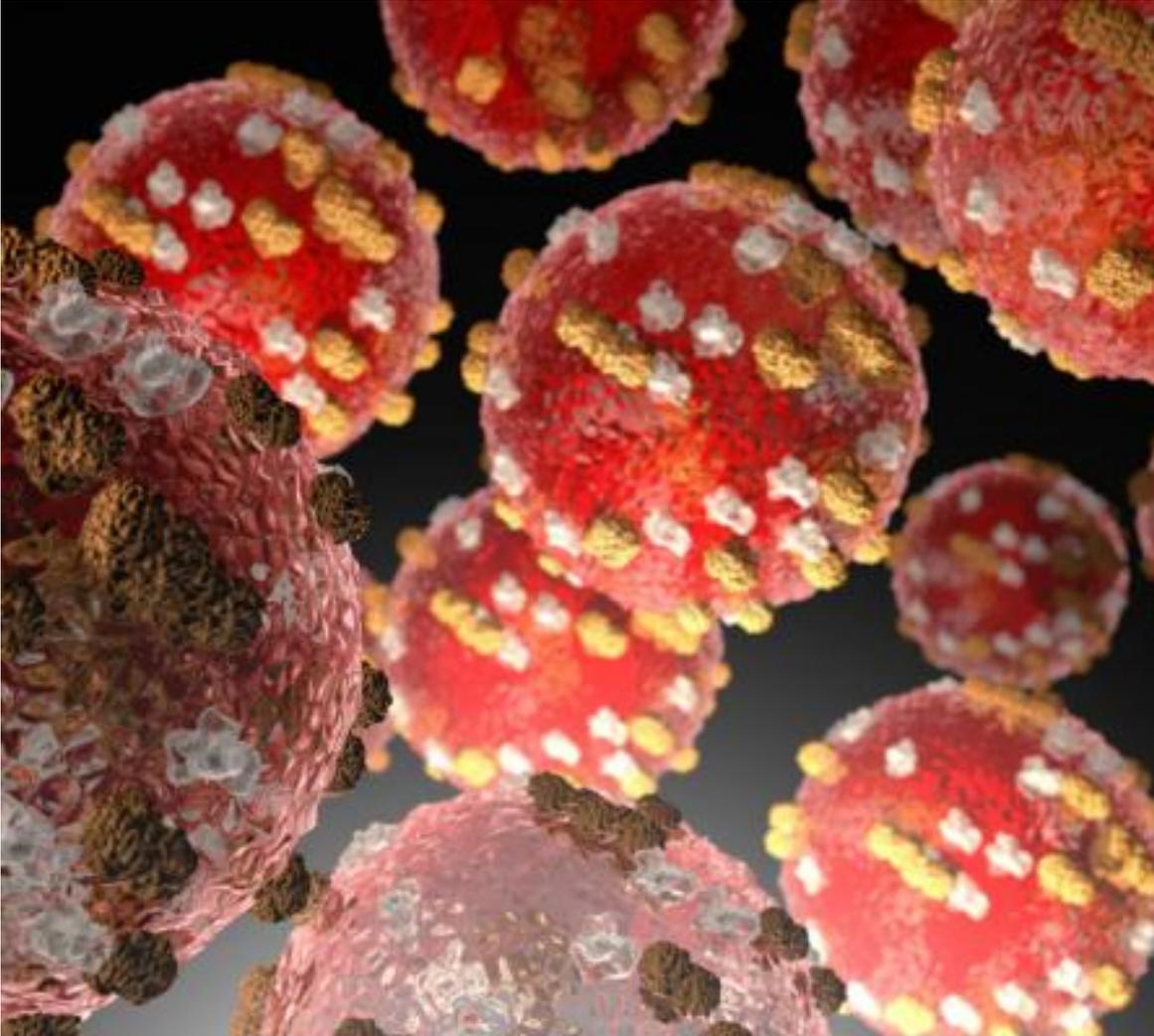


NEWS · 2h · on MSN

Government shutdown updates: Bill to pay for some federal workers fails in...



Measles Update:

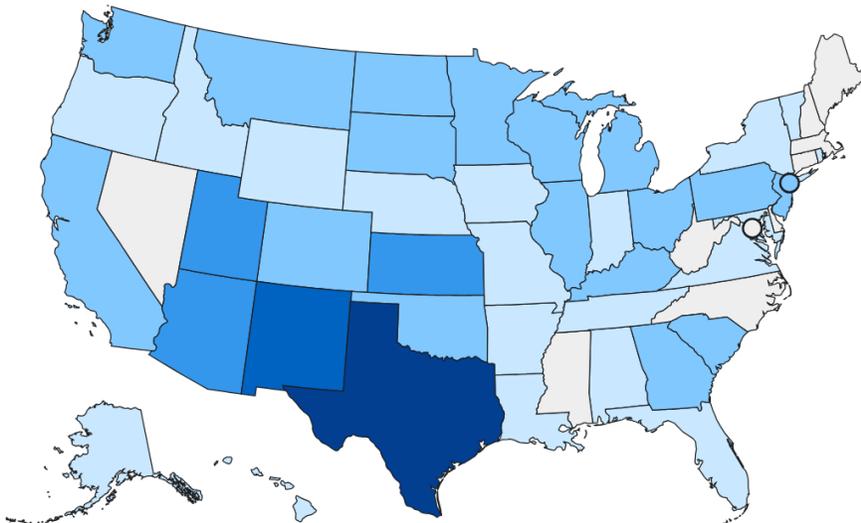
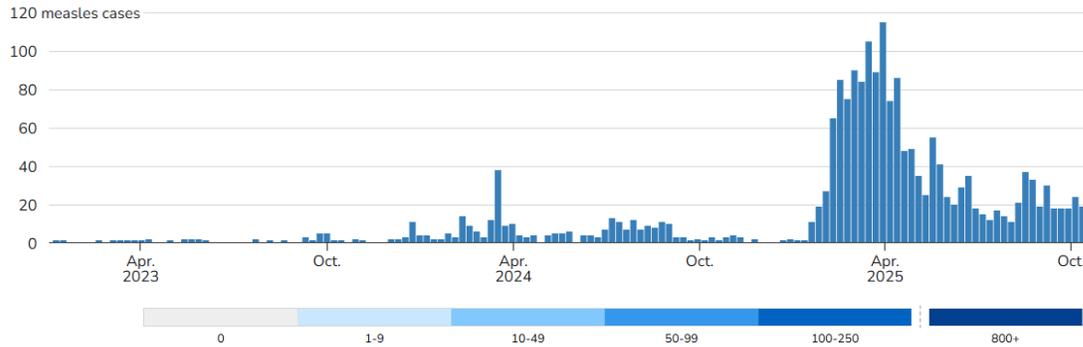


- Now 11 cases in WA to date
 - King, Snohomish, Whatcom, Spokane
 - Newest case in Spokane 8/25/25 – no secondary cases
- Continue to have suspect cases occasionally
- Testing coordinated with PH through State PHL
 - Call Sno [PH](tel:425-339-3503) at 425-339-3503 24/7
- Recent tabletop – exposure during world cup

Measles Update

Weekly measles cases by rash onset date

2023–2025* (as of October 21, 2025)



1618 (last call was ~1375) cases so far in 2025 (285 total in 2024)

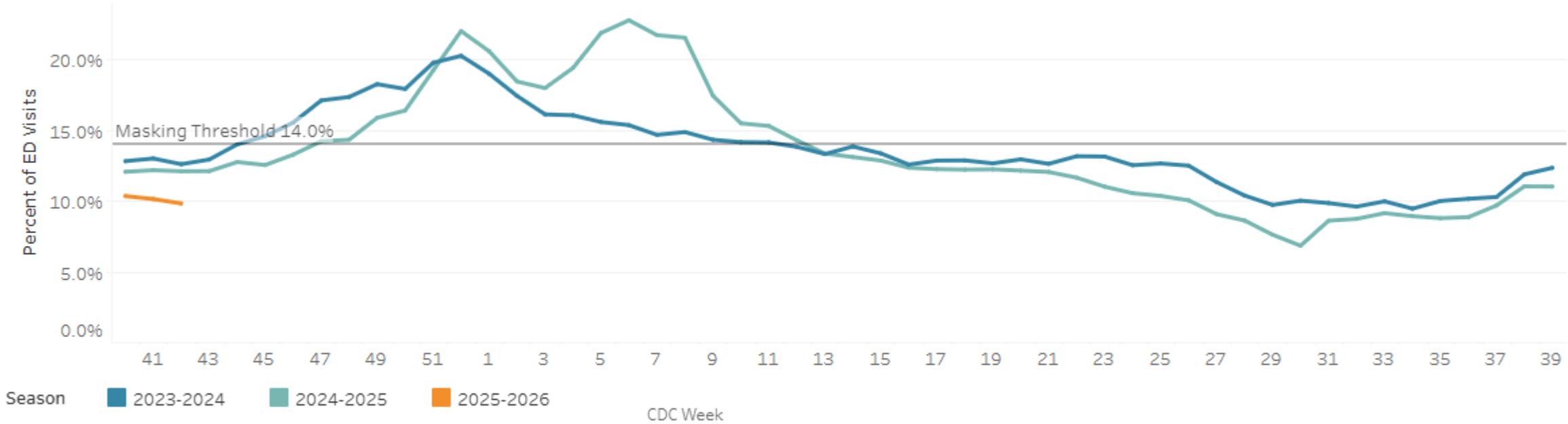
- 42 jurisdictions (stable from last meeting)
- Ongoing outbreaks across the globe
- 12% hospitalization in US, 3 deaths

AZ-UT border outbreak most active - currently at ~126 cases since 8/4/25

Take Away: Measles is all over the place, but might be slowing down

Respiratory Virus Transmission Update: New approach for 25-26 season – ARI single threshold three counties

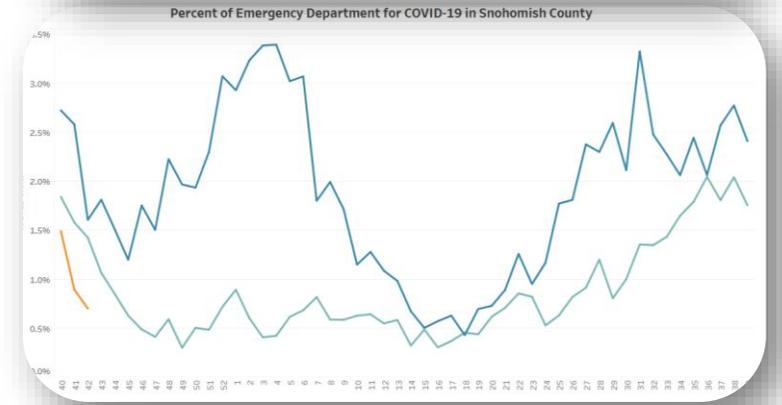
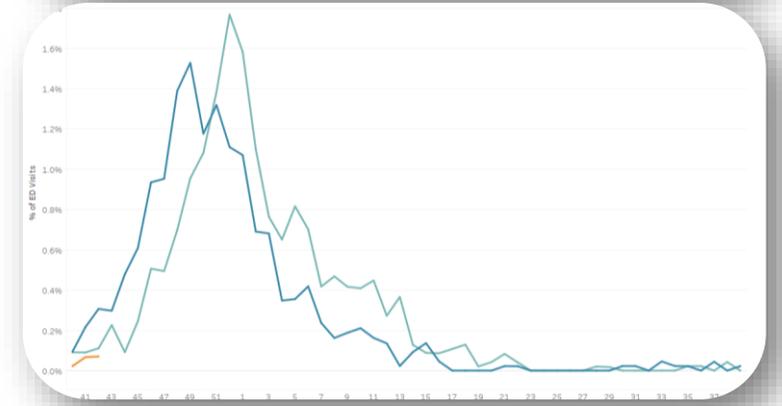
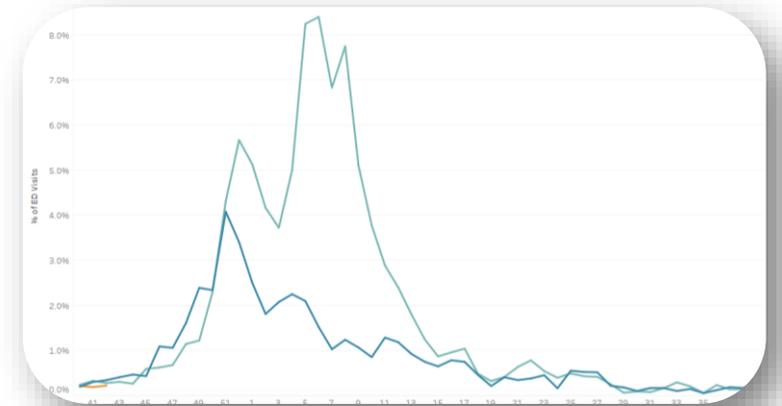
Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Acute Respiratory Illness in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties Combined



IMPORTANT NOTE: WHEN THE ARI METRIC REACHES OR EXCEEDS THE TRANSMISSION ALERT THRESHOLD (14%), THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS HEALTHCARE SETTINGS IMPLEMENT UNIVERSAL MASKING. UNIVERSAL MASKING SHOULD REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL THE ARI IS BELOW THRESHOLD FOR 2 WEEKS. THIS RECOMMENDATION SHOULD NOT BE USED BY REGULATORY AGENCIES.

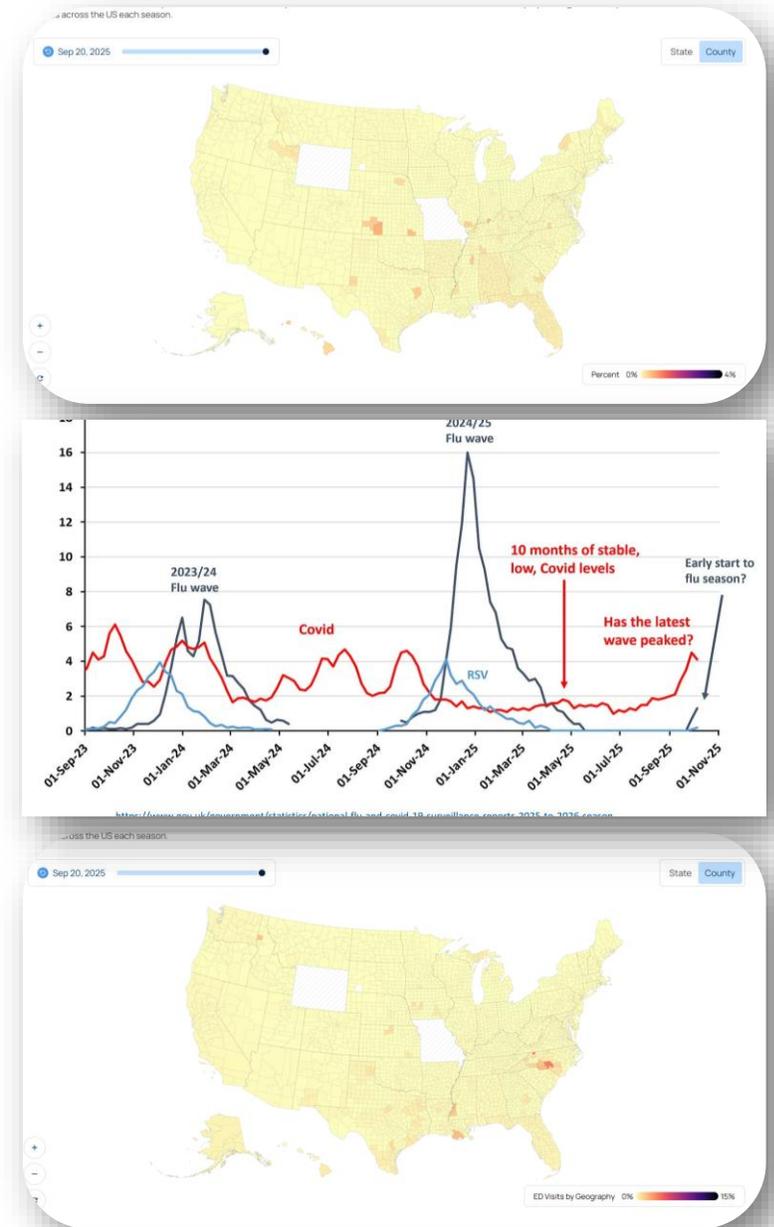
Respiratory Virus Transmission Update

- Still posting flu, RSV, COVID data separately – but no thresholds
- See [NWHRN Statement](#) for more details



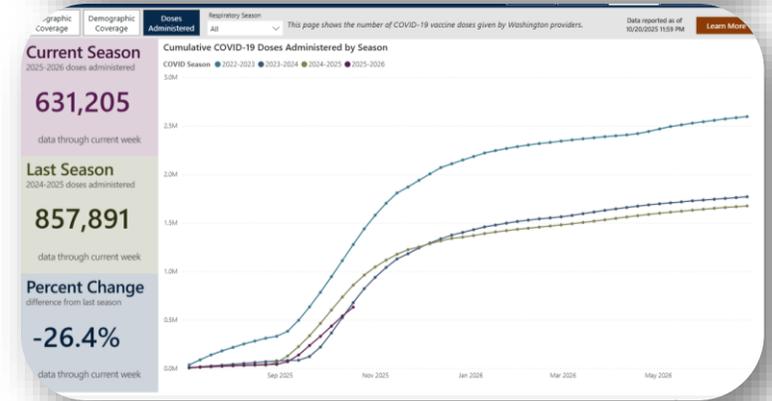
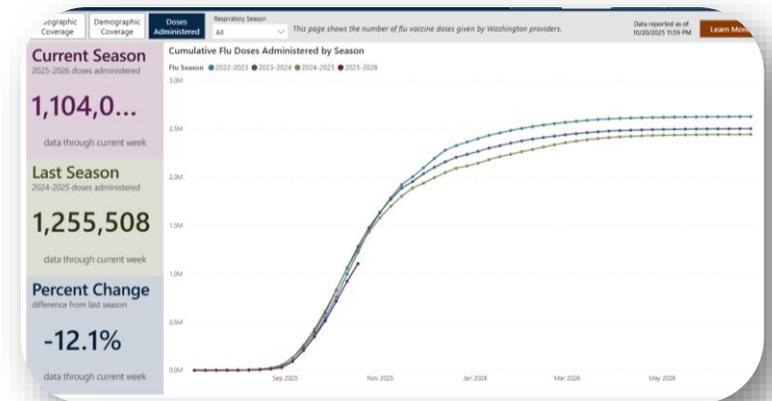
National Respiratory Virus Activity

- Flu, RSV activity low but seems to be starting to rise in SE. ([POPHIVE](#) v CDC)
- COVID is moderately high (but would be below previous threshold and seems to have peaked for now) – [POPHIVE](#), [YLE](#)



Respiratory Vaccine Trends

- Vaccine administration is lagging statewide for flu and COVID compared to previous years – [WA DOH](#)
 - What is your experience?
 - Any interventions seem to be helping?
- RSV immunization seems better – is this true in your experience?



Executive Summary



Influenza & RSV: Both starting to show signs in SE US, RSV > flu at this point



COVID had a period of increased transmission, may have peaked for now



Vaccine uptake continues to decline year over year for flu/Covid.

New Return to Work Guidance for HCWs

- [Guidance](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- Summary:
 - Combines recommendations for resp illnesses – similar to other states including CA and MA
 - 3 days without fever and improving symptoms
 - Source control until day 10
- Thoughts?



Interim Return to Work Guidance for Healthcare Personnel with COVID-19, Influenza, RSV, and Other Acute Viral Respiratory Infections

The recommendations in this document are not regulatory in nature, except when required by a regulatory agency such as Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), DOH-Health Systems Quality Assurance (HSQA), and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). When creating policy and procedures, healthcare settings should ensure they meet regulatory requirements.

Background

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has updated guidance based on draft guidelines developed by the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) Healthcare Personnel Guideline Workgroup (HCP-WG). HICPAC was in the process of updating the 1998 "Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel" guideline prior to the dissolution of HICPAC in June 2025. The purpose of this guidance is to reduce the risk of transmission of viral respiratory infections to patients, visitors, and other HCP while balancing the risk to patient safety and workforce fitness for duty with prolonged work exclusions and workforce strain.

These interim recommendations provide guidelines on the return-to-work (RTW) of healthcare personnel (HCP) with suspected or confirmed viral respiratory infections, including SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), seasonal influenza (flu), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and other acute respiratory infections that are not otherwise specified in public health guidance. See glossary on the last page for the definition of acute viral respiratory infection used in this guidance.

This guidance does not apply to viral infections for which specific public health guidance is available, including novel viral pathogens. Follow any additional Local Health Jurisdiction recommendations. Additional measures may be recommended by public health during situations such as periods of high community circulation and in response to outbreaks.

This guidance applies to all paid and unpaid individuals serving in healthcare settings and also applies to healthcare personnel providing healthcare services in other settings.

Avian Flu is Back

- Avian flu activity is ticking back up with migration season, but no human cases reported to date in US – [CIDRAP](#), [WSDA](#)
- WA DOH forthcoming announcement to scale back on hospital flu subtyping recommendation

Flurry of H5N1 activity noted in commercial poultry, wild birds

Stephanie Soucheray, MA, October 9, 2025

Topics: [Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu\)](#)



The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has noted several new H5N1 outbreaks and detections in commercial poultry flocks, backyard flocks, and wild migrating birds.

The uptick in H5N1 activity signals that the avian influenza season is fully under way, with states in the Midwest and the South mostly affected in the new reports.

Over the last 30 days, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in 38 flocks, including 24 commercial flocks and 14 in backyard locations. Over that period, more than 4.4 million birds were affected. In the past week, 5 commercial and 6 backyard



PUBLIC HEALTH
always working for a safer & healthier
SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Questions?



Code of Conduct

Division:

Office of the Director / Nicole Thomsen, Public Affairs & Policy Manager

Background

Adoption, by resolution, of a Code of Conduct was approved by Board of Health as part of the 2025 work plan. This work is required in alignment with [Snohomish County Board of Health Code 1.10.110](#), "The Board will establish a code of conduct that provides ethical standards and expectations for Board of Health members, including grounds for removal."

Proposed content is in alignment with Washington State laws, Snohomish County Code, The American Public Health Association, and related 2024 Board of Health conversations.

Contents center on:

- Standards and Commitments
- Conflicts of Interest
- Confidentiality
- Applicability
- Removal

Based on feedback from the October general Board of Health meeting revisions (in red-line) are provided. Staff are requesting feedback on contents of the revised draft. Legal review will be conducted once Board feedback and changes are made.

Board Authority

RCW 70.05.060 – Powers and duties of local board of health and Snohomish County Code Chapter 2.300

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ [CodeOfConduct_BOH_2025-11.pdf](#)



BOARD OF HEALTH
CODE OF CONDUCT

2025

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Purpose

In alignment with [Snohomish County Board of Health Code 1.10.110](#), “a code of conduct that provides ethical standards and expectations for Board of Health members, including grounds for removal” will be established.

A code of conduct is essential for maintaining public trust, ensuring ethical decision-making, and promoting transparency and accountability. It provides a clear framework for acceptable behavior, preventing conflicts of interest and fosters a culture of integrity.

Values Standards & Commitments

Professional

As stewards of the public trust, each member of the Board of Health is expected to:

- Conduct themselves with self-awareness, self-respect, and professionalism;
- Treat all others with respect, dignity, and civility, regardless of status or position; and
- Refrain from engaging in hostile, intimidating, offensive, or unlawful activities or behaviors that may include discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, or bullying.¹

From [Snohomish County Code 2.46.010](#), “Prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, and discrimination occasioned thereby threaten the rights and privileges of the county’s inhabitants and menace the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state. It is the policy of the county to reject discrimination which denies equal treatment to any individual because of his or her race, creed, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, as provided in the law against discrimination, chapter [49.60](#) RCW, and this chapter.”

Public Health

Public health is the science and art of promoting health and preventing disease and premature death of a population by systematic efforts of society, communities, or individuals. Our work strives to do that through a blend of health protection, health promotion, and disease prevention efforts. Board members come from a variety of disciplines and represent numerous scientific and technical areas of study and lived experiences.

[The American Public Health Association² established a set of core values and related obligations for public health practitioners, including the Board of Health.](#)

¹ Washington State Legislature. Legislative Code of Conduct. Accessed 7/18/2025 from <https://leg.wa.gov/about-the-legislature/senate/administration/legislative-code-of-conduct/>

² [American Public Health Association. Public Health Code of Ethics Issue Brief. 2002](#)

- Disclose conflicting interests and influences;
- Prevent, minimize, and mitigate health harms, and to promote and protect public safety, health, and well-being;
- Promote equitable distribution of burdens, benefits, and opportunities for health, regardless of an individual's or a group's relative position in social hierarchies;
- Foster positive and mitigate negative relationships among individuals, societies, and environments in ways that protect and promote the flourishing of humans, communities, nonhuman animals, and the systems in which they live;
- Respect for personal autonomy, self-determination, privacy, and the absence of domination in its many interpersonal and institutional forms; and
- Transparent and accountable to the public at large, and to include and engage diverse publics, communities, or stakeholders in their decision making.

The values and standards of public health apply to board members.

The American Public Health Association³ established a set of core values and related obligations for public health practitioners. These values are multi-faceted and are to be actualized at every level of public health practice, including the Board of Health.

- **Professionalism and Trust.** The effectiveness of public health policies, practices, and actions depends upon public trust gained through decisions based on the highest ethical, scientific, and professional standards. Public health gains public trust in part because its practices are informed by evidence. When the needed evidence is lacking, public health seeks it, and when the evidence reveals faulty or inadequate practices, public health seeks to improve those practices. At times public health practitioners must respond to a situation in the absence of complete scientific information, which highlights the importance of having an ethical framework to drive decision making. Public health practitioners and organizations promote competence, honesty, and accuracy and ensure that their work is not unduly influenced by secondary interests. Public health decision makers need to be transparent and honest about disclosing conflicting interests and influences.
- **Health and Safety.** Health and safety are essential conditions for human flourishing. Public health practitioners and organizations have an ethical responsibility to prevent, minimize, and mitigate health harms and to promote and protect public safety, health, and well-being.
- **Health Justice and Equity.** Human flourishing requires the resources and social conditions necessary to secure equal opportunities for the realization of health and other capabilities by individuals and communities. Public health practitioners and organizations have an ethical obligation to use their knowledge, skills, experience, and influence to promote equitable distribution of burdens, benefits, and opportunities for health, regardless of an individual's or a group's relative position in social hierarchies. Health justice and equity also extend to ensuring that public health activities do not exacerbate health inequities. In addition, health justice does not pertain only to the distribution of scarce resources in transactions among individuals; it also involves remediation of structural and institutional forms of domination that arise from

³American Public Health Association. Public Health Code of Ethics Issue Brief. 2002

inequalities related to voice, power, and wealth. It is difficult for public health to promote health justice at the transactional level if it does not take steps to promote it at the structural and institutional levels as well.

- **Interdependence and Solidarity.** The health of every individual is linked to the health of every other individual within the human community, to other living creatures, and to the integrity and functioning of environmental ecosystems. Public health practitioners and organizations have an ethical obligation to foster positive—and mitigate negative—relationships among individuals, societies, and environments in ways that protect and promote the flourishing of humans, communities, nonhuman animals, and the ecologies in which they live. Attention to potential intergenerational conflicts over resources can sometimes be essential.
- **Human Rights and Civil Liberties.** While coercive legal measures limiting behavior can be ethically justified in certain circumstances, overall the effective and ethical practice of public health depends upon social and cultural conditions of respect for personal autonomy, self-determination, privacy, and the absence of domination in its many interpersonal and institutional forms. Contemporary public health respects and helps sustain those social and cultural conditions.
- **Inclusivity and Engagement.** Preventing adverse health outcomes and protecting and promoting the flourishing of individuals, societies, and ecosystems require informed public decision-making processes that engage affected individuals and communities. Public health practitioners and organizations have an ethical responsibility to be transparent, to be accountable to the public at large, and to include and engage diverse publics, communities, or stakeholders in their decision making.

Appearance of Fairness Doctrine

Established in Washington State in 1969 and codified in 1982, appearance of fairness doctrine is a rule of law requiring government decision-makers to conduct non-court hearings and proceedings in a way that is fair and unbiased in both appearance and fact. Though not required for legislative actions conducted by the Board of Health, it provides a solid foundation that if followed, protects the legislative process and board members from suspicion of fairness.

Guidelines as provided by Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC)⁴ are:

- become familiar with fair-hearing procedures;
- be aware of personal and employment situations that might form the basis for a challenge;
- strive to preserve an atmosphere of fairness and impartiality – even if a given decision may seem to be a foregone conclusion;
- evaluate whether a financial interest or bias would limit ability to function as an impartial decision-maker;
- make sure decisions are made solely on the basis of matters of record;

⁴ Municipal Research and Services Center. [The Appearance of Fairness Doctrine in Washington State](#); 2011

- make sure that contacts with those involved in or who can benefit from the action are avoided; and
- make sure the information about the contact is placed on the record.

Conflict of Interest⁵

No member of the Board of Health shall derive any personal or organizational profit or gain, directly or indirectly, by reason of his or her service as a Board member. Members of the board shall conduct their personal affairs in such a manner as to avoid any possible conflict of interest with their duties and responsibilities as members of the Board.

- When there is a decision to be made or an action to be approved that will result in a conflict between the best interests of the Board of Health and the Board member's personal or organizational interests, the Board member has a duty to immediately disclose the conflict of interest so that the rest of the Board's decision making will be informed about the conflict.
- It is every board member's obligation, in accordance with this policy, to ensure that decisions made by the Board reflect independent thinking. For any board member that receives compensation from persons or organizations related to the Board's business such compensation will be determined by and approved by the full Board in advance.
- Any conflicts of interest, including, but not limited to financial interests, on the part of any board member or their organization, shall be disclosed to the Board when the matter that reflects a conflict of interest becomes a matter of Board action, and through an annual procedure for all Board members to disclose conflicts of interest.
- Any board member having a conflict of interest shall not vote or use his or her personal influence to address the matter, and he or she shall not be counted in determining the quorum for the meeting.
- All conflicts disclosed to the Board will be made a matter of record in the minutes of the meeting in which the disclosure was made, which shall also note that the board member with a conflict abstained from the vote and was not present for any discussion, as applicable, and was not included in the count for the quorum for that meeting.

Confidentiality

Board members are reminded that confidential financial, personnel and other matters concerning the Snohomish County Health Department, staff, or clients/consumers may be included in executive session or discussed from time to time ([Snohomish County Code 2.50.130](#)). Executive sessions consistent with [RCW 42.30.110](#) are permitted for focused discussion on specific matters including legal matters.

Board members should not disclose such confidential information to anyone.

⁵ National Council of Nonprofits. [Sample Conduct Policies for Board Members](#). 2022

Open Public Meetings

Board members are reminded that meetings of the Board of Health shall be open to the public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend such meetings, except executive sessions and non-quorum working groups as authorized by the laws of the state of Washington. ([42.30 RCW](#) and [Snohomish County Code 2.48.070](#))

Conduct Outside General Board Meetings

Board members may not speak on behalf of the board in public, except to reiterate stated board decisions or when authorized by the board.

County Resources

Assets

The County and Department has an inherent responsibility to safeguard its assets and guard against improper or unauthorized use of resources intended for public benefit. No appointed official shall sell, divert, convert, give away, or use any county equipment, vehicles, or other county property, real or personal, other than in the performance of his/her official duties in behalf of the county ([Snohomish County Code 2.50.140](#)).

Compensation

Board of health members shall serve without compensation and may receive reimbursement for mileage to and from meetings and for such other expenses as approved by the health department director as limited by budgetary constraints. ([Snohomish County Code 2.300.150](#))

Email

Board members will be issued a Snohomish County e-mail address to support public records compliance. This will be the primary method for communications between staff and board members. Board of Health e-mails sent and received using personal devices and e-mails, are considered and are eligible for public records requests.

Applicability

Any new board member will be advised of this policy during board orientation and all board members will be reminded of the Code of Conduct and of the procedures for disclosure of conflicts and for managing conflicts on a regular basis, at least once a year.

This policy shall also apply to any board member’s immediate family or any person acting on his or her behalf.

Removal

[Snohomish County Code 2.03.080](#) states, “Members of boards or commissions may be removed subject to rules promulgated by the particular body. In addition, members may be removed by the county council for misfeasance.”

Points of Contact

Board of Health Chair: The Chair position is elected annually and is a Snohomish County Councilmember. The Chair is responsible for determining the agenda and workplan in consultation with the Board Administrator and Public Health Department Director. Any inquiries about workplan, potential board action, and requests for specific agenda ideas should be directed to the Board Chair and their staff.

Board Administrator: Nicole Thomsen is the BOH administrator. She can assist with policy questions, background, and requests for information on agenda items, Public Health Department information, etc. Email: nicole.thomsen@snoco.org

Board Clerk: Sarah ~~de Jong~~Buker supports members on ~~any~~ questions related to technical assistance, stipends, reimbursements, and other administrative supports. Email: shd-boardclerk@snoco.org. sarah.dejong@snoco.org

Snohomish County Legislative Priorities

Division:

Office of the Director / Nicole Thomsen, Public Affairs & Policy Manager

Background

The intent of this briefing is to provide information and context for the upcoming 2026 Washington State Legislative Session and gather direction from the board on preferred strategic priorities for engagement in this session.

Washington State's short (60-day) legislative session begins January 12, 2026, with adjournment planned for March 12, 2026. What is known at this time:

- The legislature's focus is on addressing a projected \$12B revenue shortfall.
- In November 2024, Snohomish County adopted a two-year legislative agenda (Legistar File #: 2024-2794; Exhibit A) that aligns with the biannual Washington State legislative cycle. No updates to the public health priorities are proposed for council consideration related to the 2026 legislative session. Health department approved priorities are:
 - **Foundational Public Health Services:** Snohomish County recognizes the importance of public health and supports continued and increased state funding for public health. The state must begin stabilizing the crumbling system and fill the most critical gaps in core public health services that support the entire governmental public health system in Washington and that threaten the health of Snohomish County communities. The requested funding will restore key functions that have already been lost and improve local public health's ability to respond to the threat of communicable diseases. These are core public health services that need to be available to every community in the state.
 - Vapor tax is insufficient to fund a statewide public health system and is regressive; however, it can be part of a solution. We do support a shift in legislative foundational public health services (FPHS) funding package requests from 'gap' to base plus annual cost adjustments.
 - Snohomish County also asks the legislature to ensure fall funding for FPHS remains intact if budget cuts are made.
 - **Data Sharing Across Jurisdictions:** We support creating policies and procedures that allow local health jurisdictions and health departments to access de-identified data and limited datasets created or maintained by local, county, and state agencies.
 - We also support the establishment of a work group to determine the minimum requirements necessary for a universal data sharing agreement that respects the relevant policy and statutory controls (e.g., HIPAA, 42 CFR) that currently are in place to safeguard personal and protected information. We also support creating a standard data sharing agreement that can be used across and between all government agencies at the local, county, and

state level.

- In August, Washington State Department of Health released its 2026 agency legislative and budget requests. Of note is the updating of federal standards for preventative services, "State statute currently relies on recommendations from several national bodies to determine coverage for preventative services including immunizations. As the uncertainty around federal recommendations grows, concerns about ongoing access to the services are also growing. The Department of Health is working with sister agencies and the Governor's Office to propose legislation that will move authority to recommend preventative practices to the state. This will include reviewing science-based evidence and working with local health officers and other appropriate experts to develop recommendations."
- The Washington State Public Health Association is hosting its annual advocacy day on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in Olympia.

Board Authority

RCW 70.05.060 - Powers and duties of local board of health and Snohomish County Code Chapter 2.300

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ [Exhibit A: Snohomish County 2025 Policy Document Draft](#)
- ▣ [Exhibit B: Department of Health 2026 Agency Legislative and Budget Request](#)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

2025 Legislative Policy Document
DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Snohomish County Core Policy Principles – December 2025

To ensure a consistent approach when working with the government of the State of Washington, Snohomish County affirms the following core policy principles.

Agent of the State

As established in the Washington State Constitution, Snohomish County is an agent of the State on the local level and provides many services on behalf of the State. **Snohomish County provides these services to all State residents whether in cities and towns or unincorporated areas.** The State must engage the County as an equal partner to determine the services offered and method of delivery to ensure that we are seamless, cost-effective, and responsive to our joint constituents. Without a strong and effective county government, the State will not succeed in achieving its own policy objectives.

Local Control

County government is the government closest to the people. To be responsive to the people, and appropriately reflect the diversity of our community, Snohomish County supports the principle of local control. **Snohomish County will strongly resist policies that erode local determination.** Additionally, policy, taxing, and regulatory authority should not be given to persons who are not directly accountable to the people through election.

Unfunded Mandates

In adopting Initiative 601, Washington voters required the Legislature to provide adequate funding to local governments when it mandates new or expanded local responsibilities. The State has an obligation to keep local responsibilities within existing revenue sources or to provide additional funding or funding authority when it imposes new mandates. **Snohomish County will seek appropriate funding for all legislative and agency mandates.** Further, the County will, in general, oppose new or expanded local responsibilities that are not fully funded and do not include ongoing funding for increases in costs or caseloads (subject to bill review). State funding must ensure equal access to basic county services such as public safety, law and justice, public health, human services, transportation, property tax assessment and collection, elections, and treasury services.

Provide Adequate State-Shared Revenue

State-shared revenues include items such as municipal criminal justice assistance, funding for foundational public health services, streamlined sales tax mitigation, distressed city-county assistance funding, liquor profit and tax revenue, marijuana tax revenue, rural economic development funding, motor vehicle fuel tax, and others. **These revenues remain incredibly important to Snohomish County because the only other legislatively provided revenue sources are property taxes and sales taxes.** Just as the State must provide new funding for new requirements imposed upon counties, it must also continue to provide existing funding.

Safe and Equitable Access to Local Government Services

Snohomish County believes its residents deserve equitable, easy access to local government services. This means mitigating the need for residents to travel long distances and addressing their needs in their primary language and in a culturally appropriate manner. State and local funds should support access to internet-based services as well as the resources necessary to provide safe and convenient in-person services.

Specific Legislative Policy Positions – 2025

Consistent with Snohomish County’s Core Policy Principles, Snohomish County will act to support, oppose, or monitor the following items as they become the subject of State policy discussions.

OPERATIONS AND FINANCE	
Washington State Association of Counties	Snohomish County supports the 2024-2025 legislative priorities adopted by the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and its affiliates. Within WSAC, we also support the legislative priorities approved by the SWISS (Snohomish, Whatcom, Island, Skagit, San Juan) regional partnership’s executive committee.
Washington Association of County Officials	Snohomish County supports the 2025 legislative priorities adopted by the Washington Association of County Officials and its affiliates.
Fiscal Sustainability	Snohomish County strongly supports measures that allow our financial structure to meet our residents’ expectation of a modern county government; specifically, the Legislature must give counties the authority to control their cost drivers and provide counties the flexibility to establish revenue sources that keep pace with their costs.
Correlate Property Tax Rates to Meet Increasing Service Requirements	<p>Snohomish County strongly supports the pursuit of legislation which allows property tax revenue growth to be commensurate with inflation and population growth (factors that cause an increased need in services) to preclude counties being forced to make cuts to core governmental services.</p> <p>Property taxes comprise approximately 30% of Snohomish County’s general fund revenue. Current state-mandated caps on property tax assessments fail to address growing costs. In Snohomish County, public safety and the courts make up about 75% of County’s total general fund expenditures, which makes property tax revenue inextricably linked to ensuring adequate justice, health, and safety for Washington’s residents.</p>

Ensuring the Safety of Election Officials ¹	Snohomish County supports measures that ensure its election workers are not subjected to harassment and that there are adequate consequences if someone threatens an election official, defined as “any staff member of a county auditor’s office, regardless of whether the member is employed on a temporary or part-time basis, whose duties relate to voter registration or the processing of votes as provided in Title 29A RCW.”
Tax Title Property	Snohomish County supports legislation to eliminate or revise RCW 36.35.150(2) which requires counties to give notice to cities of any tax foreclosed property and provide the opportunity for the city to acquire the property for affordable housing purposes. In 2018, 86 of 106 tax title properties acquired by the county were under .25 acres and would be too small to support affordable housing development. Yet complying with the statute’s process imposes an administrative burden.
Provide Election Materials in Multiple Languages	<p>HB 1861 (Rep. Shavers). As currently written, the bill would not create an additional burden on Snohomish County as the county does not contain a language minority group meeting the bill’s population trigger. The Snohomish County Auditor, along with the Washington State Association of County Auditors and the Washington Secretary of State, have worked with sponsor Rep. Shavers to draft amendments to improve the ability to implement the proposal. While Snohomish County would not currently be triggered, these amendments are critical to avoid any challenges should the county be designated in the future.</p> <p>The Snohomish County Auditor, along with the Washington State Association of County Auditors and the Washington Secretary of State, have worked with Rep. Shavers to ensure the amendments specify that the State will provide funding. Without state funding, best practice indicates an impact of \$238,000 per year per county for each triggered language minority group.</p>
Predictable Recording Fees	Predictable recording fees are still a policy goal for county auditors and recorders. The cost to record a document with the county has increased over the last several legislative sessions as the Legislature has used the recording fee to raise additional homelessness and housing dollars. The recording fee is an unreliable source of funding as the amount of money brought in is reliant on the number of documents recorded. With the significant decrease in recording volumes related to the slowdown of the housing and refinance markets, revenue for homelessness and housing programs has dropped. This trend has continued into the 2023 and 2024 Legislative Sessions, creating a revenue shortfall for local housing and homelessness programs. The

¹ WACO supports similar legislation.

	<p>response from the 2023 Legislature was to increase the recording fee, leaving Washington State with the highest recording fee in the nation. The 2024 Legislature provided \$25 million from the State General Fund to backfill document recording fee shortfalls for Fiscal Year 25. Snohomish County asks the Legislature to consider solutions to address document recording fee shortfalls that do not raise recording fees. Auditors and recorders are concerned that people will forego recording documents based on the high cost of recording, leaving our property records incomplete.</p>
<p>Public Records Act Reform</p>	<p>The Public Records Act is a cornerstone of government transparency in Washington. Snohomish County implements the Public Records Act every day, ensuring transparency in government decision making and public access to government records. However, some individuals abuse the Public Records Act by making requests that are intended to harass public employees or are motivated by profit. These abusive requests require a disproportionate number of resources, diminishing the ability of the county to respond efficiently and effectively to requests made by citizens with a legitimate desire to interact with their government. Snohomish County will continue monitoring both prior legislative changes and new legislative proposals that may affect operations in connection with our compliance with the Public Records Act, (PRA) RCW 42.56.</p>
<p>Clean Buildings Act</p>	<p>Snohomish County’s CBA Tier 1 portfolio consists of 13 buildings totaling 1.6 million square feet. We currently have identified \$7.4 million in energy efficiency measures (EEMs) for these buildings. This ROM estimate does not include costs for unforeseen conditions or remediation efforts. Not all identified EEMs are required for CBA Tier 1 compliance, but if targets are reduced for subsequent compliance cycles, they may be needed. A couple of items impacting compliance that would be helpful for further consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many airport hangars are used for industrial purposes. However, the industrial exemption relies upon international building code occupancy designations ‘Factory Group F’ and ‘high hazard group H’. Constant ownership and complex lease agreements make it impractical to change occupancy designations, even though it may be required by the occupant’s business. Aircraft Manufacturing falls under Group F, but not Aircraft Maintenance or Storage. Hangars used for aircraft storage and repair are classified under 3.112 Moderate-hazard storage, Group S-1. Adding this designation to the exemption likely would not have a big impact on carbon reduction but would ease administrative work related to complex lease and ownership agreements at airports.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofits in older publicly owned buildings may require materials such as asbestos and PCBs to be abated prior to work which adds costs to retrofit work. It would be helpful to have a special pool of money made available for this remediation work to ensure that these retrofits are done properly to reduce the possibility of environmental harm outweighing the benefits of compliance.
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ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT / TOURISM	
Economic Alliance Snohomish County	<p>Snohomish County is a proud partner in the Economic Alliance and supports its annual priorities.</p> <p>EASC is currently in the middle of the SnoCo ADO designation agreement, which ends the state fiscal year July 2025. The EcoDevo team will do an assessment with EASC on progress in March 2024.</p>
Cross Laminate Timber	<p>Snohomish County supports the establishment of a Cross Laminate Timber facility, research and development CLT as well as the reform of building code amendments for greater use of CLT in construction. Snohomish County will support CLT funding opportunities that become available.</p> <p>The building code was amended to allow CLT buildings to now go up to 18 floors. The EcoDevo team continues to meet with lead project manager (LN with DCNR) to support their vision for attracting a European industry partner to create jobs and bring investments to Darrington and larger SnoCo as a part of the Wood Innovation Center. EcoDevo along with the FWA board intends to further discuss with DCNR the needs for the workforce and training that will be a part of the innovation center.</p>
Support Local Tourism Investments	<p>Snohomish County also supports the Washington Tourism Marketing Authority and a marketing plan and advertising campaign that focus on bringing more tourists to Washington and out to rural and tourism dependent counties. The State Legislature increased the amount for state tourism and Snohomish County will continue to support any continual requests for additional funds.</p>

<p>Build a Reliable, Diverse, and Skilled Workforce</p>	<p>Support legislation allowing aerospace and advanced manufacturing companies to retain a portion of their B&O tax for in-company training to enhance competitiveness. Support continued funding for the Economic Security for All initiative. Current funding for the initiative comes from state general funds through state fiscal year 2025.</p>
<p>Address Immediate Workforce Needs</p>	<p>Support efforts to address immediate workforce needs and develop a future talent pipeline through various programs, including apprenticeships. Critical areas include behavioral health and healthcare services, clean energy transition, aviation and aerospace, life sciences and medical device manufacturing, and Information Technology (IT).</p>
<p>Complying with FAA Policy Regarding Fuel Taxes</p>	<p>The state has collected a Petroleum Product Tax (PPT) and a Hazardous Substance Tax (HST) since about 1987, which applies to fuel pumped on airports in the state. This amounts to a tax of \$0.18 per gallon of fuel pumped on airports across the state and currently totals about \$20 million annually that should be returned to airports in the state; however, it is going into the “general fund” and has never been returned to airports as mandated by the FAA. This tax by federal law should be given back to airports helping them remain self-sufficient. The FAA’s Policy and Procedures Concerning the use of Airport Revenue; Proceeds from Taxes on Aircraft fuel (FAA Policy) requires that state and local taxes imposed on aviation fuel after December 30, 1987, be used exclusively for airport purposes and aviation programs, it has not.</p> <p>The legislature is aware and will receive a report on the topic as required by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6168. The Department of Revenue will submit this report to the Legislature and is required to update the publication titled “Washington Action Plan—FAA Policy Concerning Airport Revenue” and to consult with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Aviation Division, to develop and recommend to the fiscal committees of the Legislature a method of separately tracking the actual amounts collected from the hazardous substance tax (HST) and the petroleum products tax (PPT) to the extent these taxes are imposed on aviation fuel.</p> <p>In parallel, airports in the state are working together to partner with legal counsel to force the issue. Paine Field is looking to join on with the efforts. We are still trying to figure out the mechanism as an ILA would need to be signed and then council approval. Either way, Paine Field is supportive of the efforts to force the state to return the funds to airports and no longer divert the revenue.</p>

Commercial Aviation Workgroup	The Legislature established the Washington State Commercial Aviation Workgroup in the 2023 Legislative Session. This workgroup replaces the Washington Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee, which concluded its work in 2023. The Commercial Aviation Workgroup is tasked with evaluating the state’s long-range commercial aviation and transportation needs, including identifying options to meet capacity needs specifically by expanding existing airport(s). Snohomish County will monitor the work of this group, which began meeting in July 2024. The Workgroup’s first report is due to the Legislature July 1, 2025.
Support Predevelopment Opportunities for Airport Land	Snohomish County will monitor state grant or budget funding opportunities to bring undeveloped portions of Paine Field to shovel-ready status, allowing the county to remain ready for strategic economic development opportunities. In particular, the county could be interested in developing 120 acres on the west side of Paine Field; however, this land needs significant environmental work to become ready for any future development.
Ongoing Support for the Regional Apprenticeship Pathways Program	Snohomish County secured ongoing funding for the Regional Apprenticeship Pathways Program in the 2023 State Operating budget. The county supports the continuation of this ongoing funding and asks the state to ensure these investments are retained.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Restore Funding to the Public Works Assistance Account	Snohomish County supports continued full funding of the Public Works Assistance Account. The County supports continued use of the state Public Works Assistance Account revolving loan program for local roads, streets, bridges, water systems, sewer systems and storm water facilities. Counties also support expanded use of the loan fund for county courthouse facilities, and adult or juvenile detention facilities. In addition, counties support state grant assistance for the construction and maintenance of county law and justice facilities.
Implementation of the Connecting	Snohomish County will monitor the implementation of the Connecting Washington Transportation Package to ensure efficient and timely delivery of projects, particularly in the Snohomish County region. As

Washington Transportation Package	Snohomish County regional projects are completed early or under budget, Snohomish County asks that those cost savings be transitioned to other projects within the region that are need of timely completion. Snohomish County supports developing planning and funding solutions for chokepoint and congestion relief in alignment with priorities of Snohomish Committee for Improved Transportation (SCCIT).
Culverts/Fish Passage	Snohomish County supports a systematic approach to funding county culverts/fish passages across the state. All counties need dedicated funding sources to achieve this, and we support a more coordinated effort with the state to ensure we are spending the limited funds effectively to open habitat and remove barriers.
Transportation Program Funding	Snohomish County supports continued and additional funding for the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and the County Road Administration Board (CRAB).
High-Capacity Transit Systems	<p>Snohomish County supports funding for Bus Rapid Transit and non-motorized connections to light rail stations. Improving east-west multimodal capacity on state and county arterials is increasingly important as light rail is constructed along the I-5 spine, and riders from the east and west need access to stations. This will require funding for improvements to SR 96, 128th Street SW, 164th Street SW and SR 524.</p> <p>Additionally, Snohomish County supports maintaining funding for light rail and bus rapid transit expansion into the County to achieve light rail to Everett by 2036.</p>
Freight Mobility and Rail	Snohomish County supports funding and policy solutions to improve freight mobility, including short-line railroads, at-grade crossings, and rail/trail integration; however, we will monitor and weigh-in on the timeliness of proposals related to track infrastructure improvements within the county boundaries.
Local Broadband Implementation Support	Snohomish County supports the state funding budget proviso of \$1.3 million per year to staff local broadband implementation support services for all entities working on broadband.

<p>Prevailing Wages on Public Works</p>	<p>Snohomish County will monitor proposals requiring the hourly minimum rate of wage for laborers, workers, or mechanics be adjusted to provide that such wage is not less than the latest prevailing rate of wage in effect at the time the work is performed, amending RCW 39.12.030.</p> <p>If this change is made, the County expects bids to come in higher to cover potential wage increases, or a rise in change orders, force account, and increase our administrative costs with far more complicated review and oversight. We propose that it be limited to projects with a duration of more than two years.</p> <p>In the 2023 Legislative Session, the proposed bill, HB 1099, did not move beyond the House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards. We can expect to see this bill come back in some other form.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">SOLID WASTE</p>	
<p>Disposal of Derelict Recreational Vehicles</p>	<p>The 2024 Legislature considered SB 5844, directing the Department of Ecology to establish a voluntary grant program providing funding to counties to administer a dilapidated recreational vehicle program. Program funds to be used for: scrapping, recycling and reimburse vehicle owner full/partial cost of towing and hauling of vehicle. Title/Proof of ownership required when disposal vehicle through this program. Snohomish County Solid Waste currently has a program to process RVs and would like to see the transfer of RV processing to the private sector. We will monitor similar proposals going forward.</p>
<p>Achieving Higher Rates of Recycling</p>	<p>The Legislature has considered several proposals to increase statewide recycling access and uptake (including HB 1900 from the 2024 Legislative Session). Proposed legislation creates new requirements for recyclable products that include truth in labeling, material characterization and info for public to be published by Dept. of Ecology. It also includes the development and identification of a statewide list of materials for curbside collection and drop off collection (Transfer Stations).</p> <p>Snohomish County Solid Waste is in favor of increased recycling and the standardized list of items to be accepted would clarify inconsistencies across the state regarding recyclables; however, depending on the details of legislative proposals, county facilities could need significant infrastructure improvements or substantial staffing increases to support a statewide recycling program.</p>

<p>Improved End-of-Life Management of Used Batteries</p>	<p>SB 5144 (passed in 2023; implementation in 2029). This legislation created a Battery Stewardship Program funded by producers to ensure proper handling, recycling, and end-of-life management of used batteries. Through a contractual agreement between producers and government entities, government facilities can service as a collection site for the program.</p> <p>Snohomish County Solid Waste is in favor of battery EPR. Of main concern related to battery collection is the addition of medium format batteries, physical storage of materials, and added hazards of larger items.</p>
<p>Additional EPR Programs</p>	<p>There are several other legislative proposals adding or overhauling EPR programs potentially returning in the 2025 Legislative Session that could impact Snohomish County. Examples could include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mercury-Containing Lights (replacement of current program – we’d support this but need to consider contractual issues of the EPR framework) 2. EV Battery Recycling (EV recycling is an important component of the industry, however, SWD does not have capacity or expertise to collect. Would need to see the specifics of the EPR) 3. EPR for Refrigerant Gases (Snohomish County would generally support this concept, but need to see the specifics of the EPR) 4. Right to Repair (Snohomish County would generally support this concept; we currently support WSU Extension service in sponsoring repair cafes throughout the year) <p>We would advocate that the developers of the programs coordinate with local government on insurance and indemnification aspects of the agreements. Local government purchasing, code and risk management perspectives should be directly considered when drafting program agreements.</p>
<p>Funding Flexibility</p>	<p>County solid waste responsibilities are expanding and modernizing as the Legislature has shifted focus to decarbonizing the solid waste sector. Snohomish County supports legislation providing flexibility in using solid waste dollars to allow funding to be spent on a greater breadth of activities, such as greenhouse gas reduction projects at county landfills.</p>

PUBLIC SAFETY / LAW & JUSTICE	
Criminal Justice Funding	Snohomish County will work to gain adequate funding for all essential law and justice services, and to remove unnecessary or overly burdensome state requirements on the law and justice system. As subdivisions of the state, counties believe the state must take a greater role in funding state-mandated law and justice activities that are administered at the county level, including all costs associated with the arrest, prosecution, defense, and detention of persons charged with felony crimes. The state also should assist in funding discretionary court services, such as drug and mental health courts that reduce impacts to state prisons and juvenile institutions and other costly state programs.
Indigent Defense	Snohomish County requests ongoing and increased funding for indigent defense. Each year, Snohomish County receives approximately \$500,000 in state funding to comply with state standards for indigent defense. The state assigned the duty to counties to provide an adequate defense for indigent citizens, yet the state only funds less than five percent of what counties currently spend for these services.
Funding for Law Enforcement Training Academies	<p>Snohomish County supports ongoing funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy and the expansion of regional academies.</p> <p>The 2023-25 Operating Budget provided \$funding for three additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes at the main Burien campus each fiscal year and three new regional training academies (one each in Pasco, Snohomish County, and Clark County) to support six additional BLEA classes per year.</p>
Funding for Corrections Academy	Snohomish County supports funding for additional Corrections Officer Academy courses. The 2024 Legislature provided \$484,000 for FY 24 and \$3,187,000 in FY 25 for additional corrections classes. The county believes law enforcement's best path is to continue to encourage regional academies for the law enforcement BLEA classes, to create additional capacity for Corrections courses to become available.

<p>Funding for Regional and Local Drug Taskforces</p>	<p>We believe the funding emphasis for drugs is likely to be continued around treatment, outreach, and recovery. The 2024 Legislature provided \$2.7 million to support regional drug taskforces through FY 25. A portion of this funding was reserved for the Governor’s Office to convene three roundtables to discuss the future of regional drug task forces and funding with state, local, and tribal governments.</p>
<p>Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs</p>	<p>WASPC has three major areas they are focusing on this session: Funding for recruiting and retaining law enforcement, a new look at juvenile Miranda (to ensure it is not resulting in more juveniles getting booked), and pursuit laws (which would give each agency more control). SCSO recommends supporting these efforts.</p>
<p>Dispute Resolution Centers</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation which allows a county legislative authority to impose a new surcharge of up to \$20 in addition to civil filing fees in superior court for the purpose of funding Dispute Resolution Centers (DRCs). Proposed legislation also allows a county legislative authority to raise the existing surcharge fee in district court and small claims court from a maximum of \$10 to \$15 respectively, to a maximum of \$20 for the purpose of funding DRCs. Lastly, the legislation would exempt persons paying an annual assessment for the manufactured/mobile home dispute resolution program from paying the surcharge on superior court civil filing fees for DRCs.</p>
<p>Support Funds Dedicated to Auto Theft Enforcement</p>	<p>Auto theft continues to be a major source of crime in Washington State. Snohomish County continues to support dedicated funds for auto theft enforcement through the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA). When the WATPA account was created, it was funded through a \$10 surcharge on traffic infractions. WATPA now only receives \$2.58 for every \$10 collected. Because of this funding, law enforcement has been able to dedicate additional resources to identifying and investigating organized and prolific individuals responsible for numerous auto thefts (e.g., the Kia Boys arrest).</p>
<p>Hate Crimes</p>	<p>Snohomish County has been experiencing a rise in hate crimes and incidents of hate in our communities. We have taken actions as a county to condemn hate crimes and believe here is no place for hate, violence, and racism in Snohomish County.</p>

	<p>We support efforts to reduce hate crimes as well as data tracking to better respond to hate crimes against protected classes when they are committed.</p>
<p>Monitor New County Responsibilities for Competency Restoration and Juvenile Rehabilitation</p>	<p>State facilities are at capacity to provide court-mandated services, including competency restoration for individuals in the forensic mental health system, and Juvenile Rehabilitation for youth convicted of crimes. The state has floated short- and long-term proposals shifting some of these populations into county-owned facilities, placing the county at potential risk for legal liability and placing greater burden on our under-resourced systems. Snohomish County will monitor any proposals that place state responsibilities to provide these services onto counties.</p>

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

<p>Stable Emergency Management Funding</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation and funding proposals that provide sustainable funding for statewide emergency management. Local and state emergency management organizations rely heavily on federal grant funding, which has been substantially reduced in recent years. Snohomish County, like other counties, currently receives no direct funding from the state to support emergency management. Since 1996, Snohomish County has had the most federally declared disasters in Washington. Statewide sustainable funding for emergency management means the county receives more resources we can use to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the range of significant to potentially catastrophic hazards facing our various communities.</p>
<p>Increase and Stabilization of 911 Excise Tax</p>	<p>The E911 Excise tax is used to fund the local portion of the 911 system. In total, the tax brought in approximately 8.3 million dollars. The tax is restricted at .70 cents per subscriber line and the County is required to assess the maximum rate to participate in a State Grant program that brings in another \$80,000 to the EESCS Office. The only way to increase the total annual collection is through an increase in subscribers, either through in migration to the county or expansion of business. Currently, Snohomish County sees about a one percent increase in population annually. This increase has not kept up with the inflation of costs associated with running the system which has resulted in increased costs to the agencies that participate in SNO911. The State 911 advisory committee is exploring changes to the law to allow us to</p>

	<p>either increase the total amount the counties can collect or to find another funding mechanism to help offset costs. Snohomish County should support any legislation that comes forward to allow for an increase in the 911 excise tax.</p>
<p>Bolster Funding for Climate Emergencies and Resilience</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports greater state investment in adapting to climate emergencies and increasing climate resiliency, including upgrades to facilities for extreme weather events, and planning.</p>
<p>Funding the State’s Individual Assistance Program</p>	<p>Washington State is the state with the fourth highest number of presidentially declared disasters, yet only rarely do these declarations qualify for individual assistance that goes directly to impacted residents. To bridge this gap, WA EMD developed and piloted an individual assistance program which would provide limited, state-funded, support to individuals after disasters that do not meet Federal individual assistance thresholds. This program was piloted in 2022, and funding was requested but not received in the 2024 budget. If this program had been funded, there could have been state funding available to provide some support to the Snohomish County residents who had no flood insurance and had greater than 40% loss on their primary residence in the early December storms.</p>
<p>Banning UAS Aircraft manufactured in China</p>	<p>SB 5755 (2023). There has a been a movement nationwide to ban UAS (Drones) manufactured in China due to security concerns. Most of these concerns have been unfounded and Snohomish County does not use the aircraft for matters of national security. Proposed bans would only apply to UAS and no other technology made in China like computers and cell phones. Currently, Snohomish County DEM has 4 aircraft that are used on a regular basis that would be banned by this legislation. The cost to replace these aircraft would be in the \$60,000 to \$80,000 range. Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office has 20 aircraft that would be banned. There are no US-made drones currently on the open market that meet DEMs criteria for a similar price point. If similar proposals are introduced, the county would support a ban on new purchases but cannot support a total ban including aircraft already purchased and in service with local governments</p>

<p>PLANNING / LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT</p>	
<p>Open Space Funding</p>	<p>RCW 36.70A.160 requires the identification of open space corridors. With increased pressure to expand urban growth areas, funding to identify and conserve open space would help local governments plan for or</p>

	provide access to and connect open space, create urban separators, or develop other tools to preserve green space.
Military Compatible Land Use	Adjacent to military lands, Snohomish County encourages land uses that are compatible with military uses and discourage land uses that are incompatible. Snohomish County will monitor legislation regarding encroachment, transportation access and military compatible land use.
Transit Oriented Development	Snohomish County supports legislative proposals that establish a dedicated funding source for infrastructure improvements associated with Sound Transit's planned Everett Link Extension Light Rail Stations and Operations and Maintenance Facility.
Boundary Review Board Review Period	<p>Under current law, cities submit a Notice of Intention (NOI) for annexation, which triggers a formal 45-day review process under the jurisdiction of the Boundary Review Board. During that time, the County may identify complicated, but resolvable issues. Unfortunately, 45 days is oftentimes not enough time to resolve the issue with the city. To lengthen the time, the only mechanism allowed under law is to invoke the Boundary Review Board, adding costs to both the city and the County. The County supports legislation that will allow the 45-day review period to be extended if all parties agree to the extension.</p> <p>This continues to be problematic and may best be addressed through legislation brought forward by WSAC, Washington Association of Cities and Boundary Review Boards.</p>
Implementation of HB 1110/1120	Snohomish County supports funding for the Department of Commerce to monitor implementation of HB 1110/1220 rather than delegating to individual jurisdictions.
Abandoned Homes/Nuisance Abatement	<p>In 2018 the Washington State Legislature enacted Second Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2057 (HB 2057). This bill requires counties, cities, and towns to inspect residential real property and determine if it is abandoned and a nuisance within 15 days of receipt of a request from a mortgage lender. Such requests must be accompanied by documentation showing the property is in mid-foreclosure.</p> <p>In adopting HB 2057, the Legislature created an unfunded mandate requiring the County to visit and inspect residential properties that it otherwise would not be required to inspect. Snohomish County supports</p>

	<p>amending Chapter 7.100 RCW to lengthen the time that a jurisdiction has to complete the inspect from 15 calendar days to 45 calendar days; expressly allow jurisdictions to charge a fee to the mortgage servicer for the inspection commensurate with the cost of the service; and clarify what conditions at a residential property would be sufficient for a local official to determine that a nuisance exists.</p> <p>Clarification is also needed on authority of who will determine if a structure does not meet minimum requirements. Multiple departments are needed to address this issue in determining abatement (Health and Building currently, including L&I if a manufactured home). Only one inquiry this past year and no mortgage lenders have made a formal request.</p>
<p>Sewer Connections</p>	<p>A goal of GMA and Vision 2050 is to prioritize development within urban growth areas. There are areas within Snohomish County's unincorporated urban growth areas that are not served by sewer. The cost to replace septic system with a connection to sewer is considerably high. Improved ground water quality is a big incentive for connecting to a sewer system. Snohomish County supports efforts to find financial solutions to property owners to connect to a local sewer system.</p>
<p>OFM Projections</p>	<p>Under current state law, Snohomish County’s deadline to complete mandated updates to the comprehensive plan is December 31, 2024. Updates were restored to a 10-year cycle by the legislature in a recent session which puts the deadline for the next comprehensive plan update in 2034. There were considerable timing challenges in 2022/20233 with regards to OFM population forecast numbers and Department of Commerce 20-year housing targets. To avoid future problems, it may be advisable to amend state law to require OFM and Commerce to deliver 20-year growth forecasts to those counties subject to the 2034 deadline no later than December 2031.</p>
<p>Implementation of SB 5290</p>	<p>The Legislature adopted SB 5290 in the 2024 Legislative Session. The bill adjusted local permitting processes and timelines to streamline permitting processes for the public. However, Snohomish County – and other local jurisdictions – have identified issues implementing the bill, particularly around the definition of “consolidated review.” The county supports legislative fixes to the statute to correct implementation issues and provide greater clarity around the definition of “consolidated review.”</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP / CLIMATE CHANGE

<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation that encourages and allows counties to adopt policies and ordinances to reduce their organizational/business practices impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the County supports legislation that encourages and allows counties to incorporate into plans, policies, regulations, and ordinances that reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with activities within the comprehensive planning and environmental review processes.</p> <p>In lieu of mandated requirements, counties support the following efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide incentives and education to achieve goals; • Provide performance outcomes and not prescriptive measures to follow; • Create an optional climate change element in GMA. Do not make any climate change goal or element within the GMA subject to the appeals process; • Recognize emerging science and subjectivity of solutions; • Fund incentive grants for counties to integrate climate change into Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations. • Provide funding to counties for a set of programs that will illustrate how counties propose to integrate climate resiliency into Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations. <p>Any legislation that directs counties to address climate change and greenhouse gas emissions must come with adequate and ongoing state funding to support local processes to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate the requirements.</p>
<p>Clean Energy and Conservation</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation that promotes clean and renewable energy, including but not limited to, the continuation of federal and state funds that support the electrification of transportation, low carbon fuels, high performance buildings, clean air and water, and minimization of greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p>Optional Property Tax Exemption for Green Building</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation that allows counties to exempt green building certified (i.e., energy efficiency and low-impact development) single- family or multi-family construction from the county property tax levy.</p>

<p>Funding for EV Infrastructure</p>	<p>Snohomish County remains concerned about funding availability for electrical vehicle charging infrastructure. While there are some grants available, the infrastructure isn't staying up with the growing demand. We can address infrastructure for the county's operational needs, but within current resources, the county is unable to consider improvements to public infrastructure in Snohomish County.</p>
<p>Preserve Funding for Environmental Priorities</p>	<p>Snohomish County as a partner in preserving our environment supports continued funding for state programs that provide grants to local governments to implement high priority projects that advance state environmental goals. Examples of these grant programs include:</p> <p>Department of Commerce: Clean Energy Fund, Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants</p> <p>Department of Ecology: Centennial Clean Water program, Floodplains by Design program, Coastal Protection Fund – THA, Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Grants, Section 319 pollution control grants, Stormwater Financial Assistance</p> <p>Department of Fish & Wildlife: Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board</p> <p>Recreation and Conservation Office: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Salmon Recovery Lead Entity grants, Salmon Recovery Funding Board Community Based Restoration Funding, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Marine Shoreline Protection, Farmland Protection Program (WWRP)</p> <p>Additionally, many of the grant programs are funded or have been bolstered by Climate Commitment Act (CCA) dollars. Snohomish County asks that the Legislature retain adequate funding for these programs should the CCA no longer be a viable funding source.</p>
<p>Increased Funding for WWRP Farmland Protection Program</p>	<p>Farmland protection through the WWRP granting program through the Recreational Conservation Office has been limited due to the allocation of funding and the number of high-quality projects. Snohomish County supports increasing funding to the WWRP program, which will increase funding to the Farmland Protection Program. This is the only statewide funding source available.</p>

<p>Stormwater Funding</p>	<p>Snohomish County is a Phase 1 NPDES jurisdiction. As the state adopts its capital budget, the county requests that ongoing funding be allocated to stormwater grant programs. Snohomish County supports state funding to help counties meet the requirements of the state issued NPDES stormwater permit. The permit imposes significant requirements on local governments to inspect, maintain, operate, monitor, and plan for stormwater systems. The annual operating cost of complying with these requirements in Snohomish County is over \$10 million and the annual capital cost is over \$4 million. At a gross level, the estimated cost to retrofit all existing county roads to meet the highest current stormwater management standards is on the order of \$2-\$3 billion. Substantial state funding would need to be added to local funding streams to make progress in these two priority areas.</p>
<p>Dependable Funding for Savvy Septic Program</p>	<p>Jurisdictions and County Health Districts across the Puget Sound and the state share this problem of not having a reliable, stable funding source to assist in financing septic repairs. Snohomish County does not have a stable funding source to continue offering the Savvy Septic program to homeowners, especially the low-income grant portion. Yet, the County has over 80,000 septic systems and approximately (75% have reached the end of their useful life). The county would support legislation similar to HB 2527 introduced in the 2016 legislative session that would provide a funding source for onsite septic programs. Snohomish County believes it is the state’s responsibility to fund onsite septic programs at the county level.</p>
<p>Food & Farming Center</p>	<p>Snohomish County can enhance agriculture food production in the region with the creation of the Snohomish County Food and Farming Center at McCollum Park in South Everett. Working with local farmers infrastructure needs have been identified which include processing, aggregation, and distribution of local farm products. A commercial kitchen for the creation of value-added products which can also serve as an incubator kitchen, and a year-round indoor farmers market to increase farm sales as well as providing local fruits and vegetables to local communities. Two existing buildings will be remodeled, and a market building will be constructed. The county received \$2.55 million for this project in the 2022 Capital Budget for planning and design of the project. As this project continues developing, the county asks the Legislature to support future capital and operating needs.</p>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	
<p>Foundational Public Health Services</p>	<p>Snohomish County recognizes the importance of public health and supports continued and increased state funding for public health. The state must begin stabilizing the crumbling system and fill the most critical gaps in core public health services that support the entire governmental public health system in Washington and that threaten the health of Snohomish County communities. The requested funding will restore key functions that have already been lost and improve local public health’s ability to respond to the threat of communicable and chronic diseases. These are core public health services that need to be available to every community in the state.</p> <p>Vapor tax is insufficient to fund a statewide public health system and is regressive; however, it can be part of a solution. We do support a shift in legislative foundational public health services (FPHS) funding package requests from ‘gap’ to base plus annual cost adjustments.</p> <p>Snohomish County also asks the Legislature to ensure full funding for Foundational Public Health remains intact if budget cuts are made.</p>
<p>Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU)</p>	<p>MCFU is a group of insurance investigators who work for the Attorney General. Washington State is the only state in the country that does not give MCFU investigators any law enforcement authority. These investigators have access to pharmacies and providers and can determine who is overprescribing opioids. Local law enforcement does not have the capacity to investigate these issues. Snohomish County supports legislation that gives law enforcement authority to these fraud investigators.</p>
<p>Data Sharing Across Jurisdictions</p>	<p>We support creating policies and procedures that allow local health jurisdictions and health departments to access de-identified data and limited datasets created or maintained by local, county and state agencies.</p> <p>We also support the establishment of a work group to determine the minimum requirements necessary for a universal data sharing agreement that respects the relevant policy and statutory controls (e.g., HIPAA, 42 CFR) that currently are in place to safeguard personal and protected information. We also support creating a standard data sharing agreement that can be used across and between all government agencies at the local, county and state level.</p>

<p>Allowing EMTs to Work in Stand-alone Facilities</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports revisions to RCW Chapter 18.73 Emergency Medical Care and Transportation Services to allow EMTs to work in stand-alone facilities. The Snohomish County Diversion Center opened in June 2018 with a one-year license from the Department of Health that allows EMTs employed by Pioneer Human Services, the County’s subcontractor to work within the Diversion Center. Revisions to RCW Chapter 18.73 are required to allow Pioneer Human Services to obtain the required Department of Health license to continue to employ EMTs beyond May 2019. This RCW revision is also needed for King County’s Sobering Center to continue to utilize EMTs. A temporary extension was granted, but revisions still needed for longer-term solution.</p>
<p>Community Services Advisory Council and Developmental Disabilities Citizen Advisory Board</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports the 2019 Legislative Recommendations of the Community Services Advisory Council and Development Disabilities Citizen Advisory Board.</p>
<p>Sustainable and Flexible Funding</p>	<p>Snohomish County provides services on behalf of the state for which we are underfunded. Frequently this is a product of payment structures which don’t allow the County to right size services to the funds available. State government must break down barriers to providing services to multi-need individuals and families. The state must remove programmatic, administrative, and regulatory barriers to local government. Local service providers must be allowed to work collaboratively to design and implement comprehensive service packages that meet all the challenges of serving the multi-needs client. Counties also request adequate funding to meet the complex needs of individuals and families with both multiple medical diagnoses and economic challenges.</p> <p>Counties support full state funding of all mental health services the state requires counties to provide, as well as for any additional state mandates and shifts in priority populations. In addition, counties advocate sound policy decisions regarding the provision of appropriate care to individuals experiencing mental illness based upon the best judgment of county mental health professionals and administrators.</p>

Case Management Funding	<p>In-home long-term care is an under-appreciated support for 4,000 people with serious mental illness. One in four of the people discharged to long-term care from the state mental health hospitals is placed in-home.</p> <p>In 2019, the Governor's budget included a total of \$9.9 million for case management. This was not funded by the legislature, so we are making a request to include the funds in 2025; specifically, \$7.2 million to provide adequate time for case managers to oversee care of people with the most complex combination of mental and physical health challenges and \$2.7 million to index case management funding to match inflation to prevent caseloads from increasing.</p>
Early Intervention Services	<p>Early identification and intervention services greatly enhance the developmental growth of the child and increase the child's long-term quality of life. Early Intervention Services are cost-effective, saving many times over the initial investment in public funding. Due to services received, 31% of toddlers exiting Early Intervention no longer required special education services at age three. Overall base funding level per child continues to decline, due to the increased number of children served. Snohomish County supports additional legislative funding for Early Intervention Services.</p>
Employment Services	<p>Exiting high school graduates and working age adults need automatic annual increases for employment service. Protecting the public investment in students is crucial, with continued efforts towards a more strategic coordination of the schools, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the State Developmental Disability Administration (DDA), and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSHS/DVR) services assuring the cost-effectiveness of public funds invested on behalf of graduating students.</p>
Vulnerable Populations	<p>The county recognizes the growing need for services that help seniors and people with disabilities lead lives of optimal independence and dignity and supports continued and increased state funding for such services in future budget cycles. The county encourages the legislature to focus on individuals with a developmental disability, supporting them to realize full, active lives in their community; specifically, we need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge the unique capacity of families to support their son or daughter and make available the resources that each family needs. • Recognize that any reductions to community services put individuals at risk for more restrictive and expensive services.

	<p>Snohomish County recommends the state legislature develop a comprehensive policy approach that recognizes that individuals are best served when they are supported by their communities and families through investing in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for individuals to work, live and actively participate in and contribute to their community. • Support to families who provide long term support and care. • Support to continue to develop inclusive and accessible communities. • Support to community agencies to provide a living wage to retain qualified staff.
<p>Access to Service</p>	<p>The unserved and underserved need equitable access to services. The state should assure its service offerings embrace cultural relevance for all families, and include flexible respite services, along with a skilled, well-paid cadre of respite providers and caregivers, purchase of medical supplies, adaptations to the home, both in-and-out of home crisis resource supports, and long-term residential support for children and adults. We need to develop a comprehensive plan for recruitment, training, and retention of providers.</p>
<p>Respite Care</p>	<p>Families need crisis respite and support services in their community. To meet the broader expectations placed on families and to avoid further emergency placements in the state’s RHCs, support for families should also include expansion of emergency respite and crisis stabilization services in local communities. Crisis stabilization also requires access to information, increased residential resources, affordable and creative housing options, adequate transportation, access to mental health services, and better coordination of services. Finally, the county supports anticipation of and preparation for the residential support needs of an increased number of adults with developmental disabilities that are projected to age beyond a given family’s capacity to provide care.</p>
<p>Workforce and Critical Services</p>	<p>It is critical that the community services workforce, including those providing community residential, employment and in-home support services, be compensated with a living wage. They provide essential supports that allow individuals to become active participants in their home communities. Without adequate support, there is high staff turnover which jeopardizes the health and safety of individuals residing in the community. This is cause for serious concern and has led to institutionalization.</p>

	<p>The county supports policies that protect state rental and income assistance for disabled, elderly, and extremely low-income adults. This includes but is not limited to protecting the Housing and Essential Needs Program, Aged, Blind, and Disabled income assistance, and Medical Care Services. We support increased access to medical records for people applying for federal SSI benefits and revisions to resource restrictions for public assistance programs.</p>
<p>Support for Low-Income Families</p>	<p>Infants, toddlers, and parents should receive appropriate screening, diagnosis, and treatment services to meet their mental health needs. Low-income parents of infants and toddlers should have access to affordable adult education and training to improve their employment opportunities. Low-income families with infants and toddlers should have affordable, safe, and stable housing.</p>
<p>Medicaid and Medicare (dual-eligible)</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports increasing the distribution of a portion of shared Medicaid savings to coordinate care for people covered by both Medicaid and Medicare (dual-eligible). The Health Home program funds care coordination for people on both Medicaid and Medicare who have the greatest chronic health problems. By avoiding hospital and nursing home visits, care coordination has reduced per-capita Medicare costs by 6%, saving \$21 million in the first year.</p> <p>Current care coordination rates in Snohomish County are 20% below the cost of providing services once a provider is fully operational based on having a caseload of 55 individuals. The program has expanded statewide by adding King and Snohomish counties in 2017, but without adequate rates that are based on meeting the basic costs of Care Coordination Organizations, statewide coverage will continue to be a challenge, particularly in King and Snohomish Counties. Creating a reinvestment that accrues to the Care Coordination Organizations of the shared Medicare savings in health home care coordination in HCA will assure seniors and people with disabilities can improve health and avoid expensive hospital and nursing home stays.</p>
<p>Preserve Washington State’s Long Term Care System and Senior Independence</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports community-based options that help older adults remain as independent as possible in the community. Fully fund the Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA). Retain Medicaid as an entitlement program which allows for enrollment increases during economic downturns and does not convert to block grants. Support unpaid family caregivers. Additionally, Snohomish County asks the state to develop a contingency plan for ensuring long-term care needs are met if WA Cares Fund is repealed by the voters.</p>

<p>Respond to the Needs of a Growing Older Population</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining adequate funding for the Older Americans Act. • Maximizing the transportation resources available to older adults and people with disabilities through greater collaboration among transit, planning agencies, the Aging Network, and disability organizations. • Expanding options for safe, accessible, and affordable housing for older adults and people with disabilities. • Supporting Family Caregivers and loved ones by developing Dementia Friendly Communities.
<p>Medicaid Transformation Demonstration (MTD)</p>	<p>The Medicaid Transformation Demonstration is a five-year demonstration project that provides federal investment for regional health system transformation projects. Snohomish County will advocate for full Operating Budget authority for the supportive housing services Medicaid benefit in the State’s Medicaid Transformation Demonstration.</p>
<p>Revise Resources Restrictions for Public Assistance Programs</p>	<p>Eligibility for public assistance is generally determined based on a combination of factors including disability status, income, and resources or assets available to the applicant. Currently, exempted resources include a motor vehicle worth \$5,000 or less and all other resources not to exceed \$1,000. Snohomish County supports legislation that would exempt a motor vehicle if it is used for transportation for the individual or a member of the individual’s family and all other resources up to a limit set by the Department of Social and Health Services and adjusted to local cost of living expenses. Similar legislation (HB 1831) passed the House with bipartisan support in 2017.</p>
<p>Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)</p>	<p>The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program helps families with low incomes pay for child care while they work, participate in WorkFirst, or are enrolled in an educational program. WCCC reimbursement rates were increased in 2019 session and there continues to be a need allocate additional funding to support licensed family and center programs to comply with new licensing requirements and to provide quality early</p>

	<p>learning services. Snohomish County supports increasing WCC reimbursement rates and/or capacity building funding.</p> <p>The Working Connections Child Care program (WCCC) has specific guidelines for eligibility based on enrollment in an education program. 2019 changes exempt single parents that are full-time student from the 20 hours a week work requirement. The County supports extending this work requirement exemption for full-time students as a condition of receiving WCCC benefits for two parent families.</p>
<p>Funding for 211</p>	<p>Ensure 211 is funded to meet that system's needs.</p>
<p>Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP)</p>	<p>Reimbursement rates for ECEAP services were increased by 6% in 2019-2020 budget. This increase, though, is not sufficient to cover the increase in costs to provide ECEAP services, especially for school districts that are impacted by increased costs in wages and benefits due to McCleary and SEBB decisions. Reimbursement rates will need to increase by at least an additional 5% in 2020 to ensure programs has sufficient funds to continue to operate. Snohomish County ECEAP serves approximately 1,500 children and their families. The ability to continue to provide these services, in collaboration with our subcontractors, depends on increased funding for this program.</p> <p>The County supports an increase in the reimbursement rate for ECEAP slots and/or other funding that reduces the impacts caused by the McCleary and SEBB decisions.</p> <p>Snohomish County supports funding for the Early Learning Facilities grant program. Funding for this program will allow ECEAP providers in Snohomish County to apply for capital projects needed to house the expected ECEAP expansion.</p>
<p>Building Out Community Behavioral Health and Crisis Response Systems</p>	<p>Snohomish County encourages the legislature to build out and fully fund community behavioral health and crisis response systems. While there are many opportunities for policy and funding efforts in this area, for the 2025 session the focused for Snohomish County will be on funding for community behavioral health, supporting the new Secure Withdrawal Management & Stabilization (SWMS) Facility, and other investment opportunities to support behavioral health and crisis response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Behavioral Health: To adequately build out a comprehensive Community Behavioral Health system in Washington, Snohomish County supports:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increasing behavioral health rates (Medicaid and non-Medicaid) to allow for BH agencies to attract and retain therapists into the community behavioral health system. ○ Require Medicaid reimbursement to be sufficient to cover round-trip costs for Ambulance transport. There is also interest in increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for ambulances overall in order to attract and maintain quality ambulance providers. <p>- Secure Withdrawal Management & Stabilization (SWMS) Facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify opportunities for capital or operational funding support from the state. - Look for policy barriers that could be addressed to maximize the use of the SWMS facility, once built and operational. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assess the state Involuntary Treatment Act under RCW 71.05 to ensure it allows for involuntary detention under specific circumstances. ○ Require hospitals to hold patients for but SUD and non-SUD involuntary detention until a bed is available and a patient can be transported to a facility. ○ Identify barriers for reimbursement for ambulance transport to certain non-medical facilities ○ Request funding for an onsite medical clearance pilot at the SWMS facility. <p>- Other Investment Opportunities in Behavioral Health & Crisis Response Services: Pursue other funding opportunities that can be considered for priorities relating to behavioral health and crisis response services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look for opportunity to fund Trueblood Services in Snohomish County (forensic navigators, FHARPS, FPATH, and more) with state funding while awaiting the County’s ultimate inclusion in a future phase of the Trueblood Settlement implementation. ○ Request funding to continue and expand the EMS buprenorphine administration pilots currently funded by HCA grants ○ Secure funding for additional Street Medicine Teams outside of Everett. ○ Request state funding to continue the EMS nursing line ○ Continue and expand the North Sound pilot for BHASO flexibility to other interested BH-ASOs. ○ Support legislation establishing parameters for HCA for MCO re-procurement.
<p>Veterans Services Officers</p>	<p>HB 1448, passed in the 2019 Legislative Session, created the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Program to provide funding for counties with a population of 100,000 or less to establish and maintain a Veteran Service Officer Program. The Legislature has gradually expanded this program through the budget. In 2024,</p>

	<p>the Legislature provided \$1.2 million in the Operating Budget to add VSOs in four additional counties, but not in Snohomish County. Meanwhile, claims work for veterans' services has increased significantly in Snohomish County in the last several years. The County asks that the Legislature provide sufficient funding for a VSO in Snohomish County to accommodate this increase.</p>
Tribal Health Parity	<p>Snohomish County supports the Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee request to bring parity to Tribal Health Funding.</p>
Local Board and Commission Volunteer Participation Stipends	<p>In 2022, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 5793, authorizing stipends of up to \$200 per day and payment of costs for travel, childcare, and lodging for low-income participants and individuals with lived experience participating on state task forces and workgroups. This policy removes a potential barrier for community member participation in these workgroups, which are unpaid and can often conflict with essential activities such as childcare or work. Though the state modified their policy, counties and other local governments are still not authorized to provide similar stipends for positions on boards or commissions. Snohomish County supports legislation authorizing a similar change for local boards and commissions.</p>
Continue Extension of Apple Health Expansion Coverage	<p>Washington State authorized an expansion of Apple Health coverage (the state's Medicaid-like health insurance program) to include individuals 19+ that do not qualify for regular Apple Health programs due to their immigration status. This program covers individuals who do not meet the federal 5-year waiting period. However, the program has reached its enrolment limit. Snohomish County supports further expansion of this program for undocumented individuals that are not covered under the program.</p>
Monitor State Opioid Funding	<p>The Supreme Court's 2024 ruling on the Purdue Pharma (Sackler) settlement puts billions of opioid settlement dollars at risk. These dollars fund essential public health and opioid response programs and are critical to statewide and local strategies to address the opioid crisis. Snohomish County will continue to monitor state action around opioid settlement dollars and funding for opioid and drug epidemic response.</p>
Refugee Resettlement	<p>Snohomish County supports continued investment in refugee resettlement efforts and asks that the county receive its fair share of state dollars available for these services.</p>

<p>Facilities Contaminated with Fentanyl</p>	<p>Snohomish County asks the state to expedite development of health and safety standards for facilities contaminated with fentanyl.</p>
<p>Local Plans for Aging</p>	<p>Each state is required to develop and submit a multi-sector State Plan on Aging to the federal government. Washington’s plan, which runs through the period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2027, identifies policy suggestions that go far beyond services currently available to seniors, many of which would be beneficial to implement at a statewide or local level. Snohomish County asks the state to provide resources for local jurisdictions to complete similar local plans on aging. Additionally, the county asks the state to provide funding to implement policy suggestions outlined in these plans</p>

EDUCATION

<p>EDUCATION</p>	
<p>Developmentally Disabled/Early Learning Resources</p>	<p>Infant/child mental health services are critical to ensuring that families and children have the resources for strong parent-child attachment and healthy birth - 5 years child development. There are not enough certified and experienced infant-child mental health providers and services are difficult to access, especially for low-income families. Funding to increase capacity and availability of infant/child mental health services needs to be a priority to ensure that children have a strong foundation from which to develop to productive and healthy adults.</p> <p>The county will also monitor proposals addressing barriers in statute that prevent or discourage individuals from becoming mental health providers for infants/children to determine how we can better encourage individuals to pursue this career path.</p>
<p>Early Learning</p>	<p>Quality preschool helps children to reach their full potential for success in school and in life. Snohomish County supports the continuation of expanding access to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) by increasing enrollment of currently eligible children and increasing funding to support and retain high quality, diverse teachers.</p>

	Before supporting the expansion of the program, we should monitor if the Legislature appropriates the additional funds necessary.
Higher Education	<p>Snohomish County continues to support expansion of higher education opportunities within the county. EcoDevo and the FWA continues to work with Workforce Snohomish and all education partners, and are looking toward partnering on more specific initiatives such as SAF R&D Center, cybersecurity, data analytics, aviation, and aerospace.</p> <p>We support the provision of appropriate capital and program funding for UW Bothell, WSU Everett/ Everett University Center & partners such as Western Washington University, Edmonds CC, Everett CC, Medical Pathways Facility at Everett High School, and the WSU College of Medicine to expand STEM and other high-demand programs. We also support Career Connected Learning by fully funding CTE programs, continued funding STEM networks including Snohomish STEM, and allocation of funds for career pathway programs and facilities.</p>
Adequate Funding for School Districts	Snohomish County supports legislative proposals to ensure school districts receive adequate funding to remain whole. Snohomish County will monitor the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction’s 2025 Agency Decision Package for opportunities to support a funding package.

HOUSING

Affordable Low Barrier Housing	<p>Snohomish County supports the elimination of duplicative planning and regulatory burdens at the state level that impact housing affordability and support the reduction of other regulatory requirements that significantly impact housing affordability without a commensurate benefit for the environment or the general welfare of our communities. The county supports the Legislature continuing increases to the amount of funding dedicated to the Housing Trust Fund for the needs of special populations, the elderly, those with low incomes, permanent supportive housing, and workforce housing, including the need for low barrier housing for individuals experiencing opioid addiction and other substance use disorders. The county supports increased administrative flexibility in developing housing programs and the reduction of any state organizational barriers such as multiple licensing requirements and overlapping directives.</p>
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<p>Multiple Family Tax Exemptions</p>	<p>State law allows the creation of multi-family tax exemption program which can be useful to create housing which is more affordable. Unfortunately, Snohomish County is not eligible as it cannot meet the criteria in RCW 84.14.040(d). The county supports legislation that would allow utilization of the program. There have been several legislative proposals authorizing county use of MFTE that are likely to return in the 2025 Legislative Session; Snohomish County will monitor these proposals for opportunities to support.</p>
<p>Condo Liability Reform</p>	<p>Condominiums are one tool to increase the supply of dense, affordable or workforce housing in communities. However, condo construction has lagged, with the state’s condo liability laws often cited as a barrier to construction. Snohomish County supports reducing barriers to condo construction and will monitor proposals reforming condo liability for opportunities to engage.</p>
<p>Mobile Home Purchase Moratoriums</p>	<p>Mobile home communities are an important source of affordable housing in Snohomish County. However, mobile home communities statewide are being purchased by developers, who are subsequently raising rates for owners in the communities. The Legislature has attempted to address this issue by adopting opportunity-to-purchase legislation or moratoriums on purchases in recent sessions; however, state statute is inconsistent, leading to a patchwork of moratoriums. Snohomish County supports continued state attention to this issue to ensure mobile home communities remain affordable and residents are not priced out of their homes.</p>



Washington State Department of Health

2026 Agency Legislative and Budget Requests

August 2025

Agency Request Legislation

Opioid Treatment Program Accrediting Body Sustainability

Federal law requires behavioral health agencies certified for Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) services to become accredited by an accrediting body approved by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). The department has offered this essential accreditation service to opioid treatment programs at no cost to those programs. However, the funding sources for these services are not eligible to be supported by licensing fees and they have reduced available funding to support other key department activities. This bill will authorize the department to charge a fee for accreditation services, creating a stable and long-term funding source and enabling the department to continue to offer these important services to accredit more opioid treatment programs.

Updating Federal Standards for Preventative Services

State statutes currently rely on recommendations from several national bodies to determine coverage for preventative services including immunizations. As the uncertainty around federal recommendations grows, concerns about ongoing access to these services are also growing. The Department of Health is working with sister agencies and the Governor's office to propose legislation that will move authority to recommend preventative services to the state. This will include reviewing science-based evidence and working with local health officers and other appropriate experts to develop recommendations.

Budget Requests

Newborn Screening Fees

Laboratory, support, and personnel costs at the Newborn Screening Lab have increased significantly over the last five years. DOH is requesting a fee increase to ensure that the department can continue to provide testing services for Washington newborns as required in law.

Fees for Shellfish

DOH conducted an economic impact assessment of the Shellfish Licensing and Certification Program and determined current fees are not generating sufficient revenue to cover operating costs. DOH is requesting a fee adjustment to address existing program deficits, reductions in funding from General Fund – State and increased costs of business.

Certificate of Need

The certificate of need program is a regulatory program that approves proposals to establish or expand certain facilities or health care services. Currently, this program is facing a revenue shortfall, driven primarily by a significant reduction in application requests in the post-COVID era. DOH is requesting funding to sustain the program.

Trauma System IT

One of the essential tools that keeps Washington's trauma system functioning is the statewide Trauma Registry. This platform, however, was established in 1994 and is currently out of compliance with state data security requirements. DOH is requesting funding to upgrade this registry to meet this need.

988 Call Centers

Washington's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers around-the-clock support for suicide prevention and behavioral health crises through call, text, and chat services. However, crisis centers are currently underfunded and will soon be unable to maintain the staffing levels necessary to consistently meet the 90% in-state answer rate. DOH is requesting funding to cover the shortfall as well as the additional costs of anticipated growth over the biennium.

988 IT

Within the 988 structure, each regional hub uses different technologies that are not connected. This fragmented IT landscape means that a person in crisis must retell their story with different crisis counselors, behavioral health providers, and emergency medical responders. DOH and HCA partnered to plan for a technology solution to seamlessly connect crisis counselors with resources for a less burdensome help-seeker experience. DOH is discussing funding needs and project timing with policy leaders in the executive branch, considering current fiscal challenges and competing budget demands.

Funding Essential IT Operations

Rapid and substantial reductions to state and federal funding have left DOH unable to adequately support the IT infrastructure needed to meet Washington's public health priorities. To manage rising IT costs, DOH scaled back core IT services such as infrastructure, software, contracts, and personnel. DOH is requesting funding to help cover the cost of this core IT infrastructure and staffing which support the state's public health systems.

Environmental Health Septic Inventory Project

Division:

Environmental Health / Ragina Gray, Director

Background

Up until recently, Snohomish County has not had a comprehensive inventory of the septic systems located within the county. In 2024, the Health Department's Environmental Health division contracted with a vendor, Amalgam, to inventory and geolocate all systems, as well as connect systems with the historical files we have for each property. The work was completed in September 2025. The project cost approximately \$450,000, and was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Health Department hopes to utilize the data set to inform a variety of program decisions in the future, including targeting marketing efforts for Savvy Septic, targeting inspection reminders to homes near critical areas, or understanding more about our septic landscape, including information such as age and type, and whether the system is "known" or "unknown" to us in our records system. We've begun a preliminary analysis of the data set in collaboration with our Epidemiology and Informatics program, and we'll be presenting some of the initial findings, as well as a tutorial of the Fetch EH mapping system that currently contains the data layer.

Board Authority

RCW 70.05.060 - Powers and duties of local board of health

Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ [Minutes_2025-10-14_DRAFT.pdf](#)

**Snohomish County Board of Health
Board of Health Minutes
October 14, 2025**

The regular meeting was held in the auditorium of the Rucker Building and via Zoom conference call/video.

Members Present

Megan Dunn, Chair
Heather Logan, Vice Chair
Janet Anderberg
Lisa George
Summer Hammons
Jared Mead

Members Absent

Dale Kaemingk
Desmond Skubi
Mindy Woods

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order using a hybrid setting at 3:00 p.m. by Ms. Megan Dunn.

Comings and Goings

Heather Logan left the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Ms. Sophia Encalada who reported there was a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda Contents and Order

It was moved by Heather Logan and seconded by Janet Anderberg to approve the agenda contents and order. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Lisa George and seconded by Jared Mead to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Megan Dunn opened the floor for public comment. No member of the public volunteered to speak and Ms. Dunn closed the public comment period.

Public Hearing

Ordinance BOH25-08 Relating to Health Department Fees; Amending Chapter 1.40 of the Snohomish County Board of Health Code (SR 25-042B; Hailey Fagerness)

Environmental Health Director Ragina Gray shared there have been no substantive changes since this item was briefed last month. If approved today, the fees would take effect November 1.

Megan Dunn opened the public hearing on this item. No member of the public volunteered to speak and Ms. Dunn closed the public hearing.

As only elected members of the board are allowed to vote on matters regarding the fee schedules, the full Board chose to perform an advisory vote in support of this item.

It was moved by Heather Logan and seconded by Jared Mead to support approving Ordinance BOH25-08. The motion passed with 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 3 absent (Kaemingk, Skubi, Woods).

It was moved by Heather Logan and seconded by Jared Mead to approve Ordinance BOH25-08. The motion passed with 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 absent (Kaemingk).

Action

Proclamation 25-07 Recognizing National Blood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (SR 25-028; Katie Curtis)
Programs, Policy, and Partnerships Manager Nicole Thomsen read aloud the proclamation.

It was moved by Lisa George and seconded by Heather Logan to approve Proclamation 25-07. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Interim Department Director Pam Aguilar provided an update including:

- New department director start date and onboarding plan
- Federal and state funding and strategic hiring process
- Strategic plan
- Rucker building remodel

Briefings

Code of Conduct (SR 25-025; Nicole Thomsen)

Nicole Thomsen briefed the board on the draft Code of Conduct. This item will come back on the November agenda and Ms. Thomsen requested comments or suggestions be shared with her.

Unpermitted Food Vendors Update (SR 25-026; Ragina Gray)

Ragina Gray and Environmental Health Assistant Director Tony Colinas provided an update regarding unpermitted food vendors. This item will be brought back to the board in the coming months.

Old Business

New Business

Information Items

Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Dunn reviewed the dates of the next Board of Health meetings, noting the Board will hold a special meeting on November 4 as the regular meeting date occurs on a holiday (Veteran's Day).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Megan Dunn
Board of Health, Chair

Kimbery Van Pelt, Department Director

Upcoming Meetings

Board Authority

Upcoming Meetings:

December 9, 2025

January 13, 2026

February 10, 2026