



Memorandum

TO: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: Steve Bennett, Chair, Public Health Advisory Board

DATE: JULY 7, 2022

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (PHAB) SUPPORT BERK CONSULTING COVID-19 REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Whatcom County Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) met on July 7, 2022 and examined and discussed the *Berk Consulting COVID-19 Review*. We found the review enlightening and very helpful in guiding future policy and planning decisions for our county.

After the discussion, with a unanimous vote, the current PHAB members recommend the Whatcom County Council/Health Board adopt all the recommendations put forward in appendix A of the *BERK Consulting COVID-19 Review*.

We especially want to urge the Council to make note of recommendation #9 to expand the membership of the Health Board to include representatives from public health/medical fields. The PHAB has previously discussed this and offered this same recommendation to the Health Board. Such changes to the Health Board composition would also be in alignment with new state law pursuant to RCW 70.46.140.

We know there has been discussion about addendums to be attached to and/or included with the *Berk Consulting COVID-19 Review*. In our expanded role 'to conduct, assess, and identify the community health needs of the jurisdiction, and review and recommend public health policies and priorities for the local health jurisdiction', PHAB would like our vocal support for the *Berk Consulting COVID-19 Review* recommendations to be included in any additional addendums, if possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Bennett

Steve Bennett, PhD, MSPH
Chair, Public Health Advisory Board