



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council
FROM: Council Staff
RE: COVID-19 Pandemic Response Review - Project update
DATE: March 1, 2022

Council staff would like to provide the following updates on the recent activities and next steps for the Council's COVID-19 Pandemic Response Review project:

Recent Activities:

- On July 13, 2021, Council adopted ordinance 2021-045 to establish an independent review of the community response to the COVID-19 Pandemic ([AB2021-360](#)). An amendment to the ordinance was adopted on October 12, 2021 (Ordinance 2021-064; [AB2021-561](#)) to refine the description of the independent Special Commissioner and associated details.
- On September 28, 2021, Council approved a scope of work ([AB2021-525](#)) to be included in a request for proposals (RFP 21-60) and identified members of a consultant selection committee.
- On January 11, 2022, Council authorized Contract #202201020, [AB2022-009](#).
- On January 27, 2022, the project team held a kick off meeting with council staff, Councilmember Kershner, Deputy Executive Tyler Schroeder, Director Lautenbach (Health Department), and John Gargett (Deputy Director, Emergency Management)
- On February 8, 2022, Council reviewed the project work plan ([AB2022-085](#)) and added a summary of county expenses related to the pandemic
- On February 22, 2022, Council adopted a second amendment to Ordinance 2021-064 ([AB2022-083](#)) to extend the report deadline to September 30, 2022 (Ordinance 2022-019).
- During the month of February, consultant team completed the first round of interviews and began collecting data through document requests to the Executive Office, Sheriff's Division of Emergency Management, Health Department, and Finance Department.

Next Steps:

- Continue data collection and prepare a summary of findings (March/April)
- Update to County Council (late April)
- Develop preliminary recommendations (May/June)
- Present an update to County Council (late June)
- Develop Final Report and present to Council (July)

Please contact Cathy Halka, Legislative Analyst, at x5019 with any questions.