



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AS THE HEALTH BOARD

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 30th, 2021
Virtual

Access information can be found:
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil

A G E N D A

<u>Meeting Topics</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. Roll Call.....	no ppr	10:00-10:05
2. Public Comment.....	no ppr	10:05-10:15
3. Director and Health Officer Report.....	pg 2-3	10:15-10:30
4. Discussion on COVID Impact Assessment.....	pg 4	10:30-10:45
5. Update on State Legislative Session	pg 5-7	10:45-11:00
6. Update on Vaccinations.....	pg 8 to end	11:00-11:30

Child and Family Action Plan Progress Report

March 30th, 2021

Astrid Newell, Community Health Manager
Whatcom County Health Department

Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief summary of progress on implementation of the Child and Family Action Plan (CFAP) adopted by the Health Board in February 2020.

Progress on Key Action Items

1. Infrastructure and Budget to Support County Child & Family Work

- Office of County Executive assigned responsibility for supporting CFAP initiatives to the Health Department, while awaiting recommendations from Task Force for additional infrastructure development
- Office of County Executive worked with City of Bellingham for contribution toward funding CFAP implementation
- Council adopted 2021-22 supplemental budget request to support elements of the CFAP, including task force, fiscal analysis and health navigation system.

2. Establishing a County Child and Family Well-being Task Force

- County funding allocated to support Task Force development and facilitation in 2021-22 County Budget
- Task Force ordinance drafted by Public Health Advisory Board and approved by Council on 11/24/20
- Task Force membership includes 15 representatives identified for permanent organizational positions, 15 additional members appointed by Council on 1/26/21
- First task force meeting was held on 3/8/21 (with plans for twice monthly meetings)

For more information about the Task Force, including roster, meeting agenda and notes see:

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3537/Child-and-Family-Well-Being-Task-Force>

3. Fiscal Analysis and Funding for Child and Family Programs and Services

- Determining scope of fiscal analysis included as a Task Force assignment in early 2021
- Some funding to support fiscal analysis included in County budget

4. County Services for Children and Families

- Limited progress on culturally appropriate/trauma-informed services initiative (may tie in with emerging County racial equity initiatives)
- Funding allocated for child & family Health Navigation System planning and implementation in County Budget. Planning for this program has begun.

5. Initiatives to Support Child Care, Housing, and Behavioral Health Supports for Children and Families

- County staff convening and coordinating with community partners on efforts to increase access to child care, housing stability for families with children, and behavioral health supports for children and families. These priority issues are being addressed as part of Healthy Whatcom's Community Health Improvement Planning in 2021.

Advancing Racial Equity Progress Report

March 30th, 2021

Astrid Newell, Community Health Manager
Whatcom County Health Department

Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief summary of progress on implementation of actions in support of the Health Board's 2020 resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis in Whatcom County.

Link to resolution at <http://documents.whatcomcounty.us/weblink8/0/doc/4665496/Page1.aspx?searchid=dcc97b27-a0db-4f06-9efc-c1f019c8124f>

Progress

1. Establishing Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) Sub-committee on Racial Equity

- PHAB voted to establish a sub-committee on racial equity to identify opportunities for changes to PHAB practices that would support greater diversity on the board and provide support to Health Board and Health Department on matters related to advancing racial equity in Whatcom County.
- PHAB Sub-committee began meeting monthly in February and has had two meetings to date.

2. Establishing an Internal County Planning Group to Determine Next Steps

- Health Department staff are coordinating with the Office of the County Executive to convene a small group of county leaders, including Human Resources leadership, to map out next steps for pursuing membership in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity and other action steps outlined in the Health Board's resolution such as staff training.
- First meeting of the internal planning group to be scheduled for April 2021.

3. Supporting Community Efforts with Focus on Racial Equity

- Staff within the Office of the County Executive are working with the City of Bellingham and community partners to advance the development of a Racial Equity Commission.
- Funding for administrative support for a Racial Equity Commission was included in County Budget for 2021-22. <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/51215/6403>
- A request for proposals from qualified individuals for community outreach, research and proposal development for a racial equity commission is currently posted with bids due 3/23/21 <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/bids.aspx?bidID=377>



HEALTH BOARD Discussion Form

March 30, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #: COVID Impact Assessment

PRESENTER: Sterling Chick, PHAB Chair, Erika Lautenbach, WCHD Director

BOARD ACTION:	Action Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	FYI - Only
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COVID Impact Assessment

A key role for health departments is to collect, assess and disseminate data to help create or inform existing community alliances to improve health.

While there are many existing efforts, including the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), to address health issues, there is a need to update data to include the specific impacts associated with COVID. Notably, social, emotional, health, and economic impacts are of relevance and importance to establishing COVID recovery plans.

While data is a key component in prioritization, much of what is available in national and state surveys and data sets precedes COVID. There is, however, a wealth of information, both quantitative and qualitative, available from our community providers, partners, and businesses, with which to understand the impacts of COVID on Whatcom County.

To that end, PHAB seeks to establish a process for a series of convenings with providers to gain insight, information, and data on issues such as behavioral health, substance use, economic hardship/housing instability, abuse, and other social and behavioral issues within our community. The convenings will also help us understand agency capacity to ramp up to address these issues, and gaps in infrastructure, staffing, and funding. This work, coupled and in collaboration with our economic development partners who are assessing the economic impacts of COVID, will help create a COVID Impact Assessment.

This document will help guide policy, financial investments, and prioritization of workplan topics among participating boards and commissions. It will also help refine or provide further information on the existing CHIP priorities of kindergarten readiness, youth mental health, childcare, and affordable housing for families.

The PHAB will soon establish a workplan and timeline for completing this work, in partnership with the Health Department and with support from internal and external professionals, facilitators, writers, and graphic designers.

The PHAB will keep the Health Board apprised of the progress and will provide a report of the impact assessment results.

BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED

- Discuss as needed





HEALTH BOARD Discussion Form

March 30, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # : State Legislative Update

PRESENTER: Astrid Newell, Community Health Manager

BOARD ACTION:	Action Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	FYI - Only
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The 2021 Washington State Legislature is currently in regular session until April 25. As of March 19, there are several bills that are still under consideration that may be of interest to the Health Board for action or awareness.

Public Health System

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased legislative interest in the state's public health system. Two bills that are particularly relevant for local public health are:

- **HB 1152 Concerning creation of comprehensive public health districts**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1152&Initiative=false&Year=2021>
 - Governor Inslee proposed bill that would dismantle current local health structure and create regionalized models. Creates a work group to develop and recommend to the Dept of Health Secretary a public health system that provides foundational public health services. Proposes changes to local health board structures, adding members with health expertise.
 - Bill has undergone significant revisions with input from stakeholders including local public health. Current striker bill removes many of the references to dismantling local public health structures and includes development of four regional entities to support local public health work and promote shared public health services across regions.
 - Bill is a companion to several public health funding bills.
- **HB 1340 Concerning creation of a statewide pandemic preparation and response task force**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1340&Initiative=false&Year=2021>
 - This task force would review statewide response to COVID-19 and provide recommendations for improving state pandemic preparation.
 - Bill was not approved by committee cutoff, but bill sponsor is working to accomplish the intent of bill via budget proviso.

Public Health Funding

Despite the essential nature of public health services in all communities, the public health system in WA State and across the country has been chronically underfunded. During the past year, the lack of investment in public health has been evidenced by challenges in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to ongoing legislative support for pandemic response, several bills have been proposed in this current legislative session to provide dedicated long-term funding for public health. The Health Board may choose to provide input to the state budget process related to stable public health funding. One example of a bill that is currently under consideration is:



- **SB 5149 Funding foundational public health services**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5149&Initiative=false&Year=2021>
 - Governor Inslee proposed bill that would fund foundational public health services with a per member per month “covered lives” assessment on health insurance carriers, Medicaid managed care organizations and third-party administrators. The resulting fund would be dedicated to public health with up to \$100,000,000/year in fiscal year 2022, increasing each year to a maximum of \$200,000,000/year in fiscal year 2026 and beyond.
 - Current Status as of 3/19: In Senate Ways and Means

Children and Families

Over the past several years, the Health Board has committed their support for children and families in Whatcom County through the passage of resolutions, funding decisions, and adoption of the Child and Family Action Plan in February 2020. Several bills currently under consideration would provide support for Health Board priorities focused on young children and their families.

- **SB 5237/HB 1213 Expanding accessible, affordable child care and early childhood development programs** <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5237&Initiative=false&Year=2021>
 - Referred to as the “Fair Start for Kids Act” this legislation would establish a new account for child care and early learning purposes and includes a non-exhaustive list of spending goals and strategies. It will expand eligibility and decrease copayments in the Working Connections Childcare Program (child care subsidies) and expand eligibility in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance program. The bill would also provide increased rates, training, grants, supports and services for child care and early learning providers. It would also increase the social safety net for families of children from birth until age 3, as well as for their providers.
 - As of 3/19, this bill has passed out of the Senate and is being considered in the House.
- **SB 5068 Improving health outcomes by extending coverage during the postpartum period**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5068&Initiative=false&Year=2021>
 - This bill extends Medicaid/Apple Health coverage for new mothers to one year postpartum rather than current 60 days. This bill is in response to concerns about high rates of maternal mortality, particularly in communities of color, and other postpartum concerns experienced by mothers in WA State including behavioral health challenges.
 - As of 3/19, this bill was unanimously approved by the Senate 46-0, and is currently in the House.

Health Equity

In November 2020, the Health Board adopted a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis, and committing to take a variety of actions that promote racial equity. The State Legislature is considering several bills with a focus on equity. One bill that could impact local public health is:

- **SB 5052 Concerning creation of health equity zones**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5052&Year=2021>
 - Requires the State Dept of Health, subject to funding, to designate **health equity zones** statewide and develop projects that meet the needs of each zone. Allows communities to self-identify as a health equity zone and develop projects. Defines that health disparities must be documented or identified by WA State Dept of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - As of 3/19, the Second Substitute bill was approved by the Senate 30-17. Currently in the House Appropriations Committee.

BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED

Health Board may choose to provide testimony or letters of support/opposition for bills or concepts under consideration by the State Legislature.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- *None*



HEALTH BOARD Discussion Form

March 30, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # : *COVID-19 Vaccine Update*

PRESENTER: *Amy Hockenberry*

BOARD ACTION:	Action Item	Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI - Only
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The Whatcom County Health Department began planning for COVID-19 vaccines in the early fall of 2020, and the first vaccines started to arrive in Whatcom County in mid-December. Since then, Whatcom County vaccine providers have developed a strong vaccine delivery system and are prepared for when there is an increase and steady vaccine supply. As of mid-March 2021, there are over 45 individual vaccine provider locations throughout the county, and almost 50,000 Whatcom County residents have been able to receive at least one COVID-19 dose.

Weekly vaccine allocations to Whatcom County providers continue to fluctuate, making vaccine clinic planning a challenge. However, the WA State Department of Health has indicated that vaccine supply will increase in the coming months.

During this time, the Whatcom County Health Department has focused on working with medical and pharmacy vaccine providers to build a coordinated and collaborative approach for vaccine administration. This has included the Community Vaccination Center's launch, the deployment of our Mobile Vaccine Clinic Program, coordination with the National Guard to host clinics, and conducting outreach to our most vulnerable populations.

The Health Department will provide an update on vaccine allocations, prioritization guidance and timelines, vaccine planning efforts, program progress, and ongoing community collaborations to ensure equitable vaccine access for our most vulnerable populations.

BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED

ATTACHMENT(S)

PowerPoint Presentation will be provided the day before the meeting, in order to present with the most updated information.

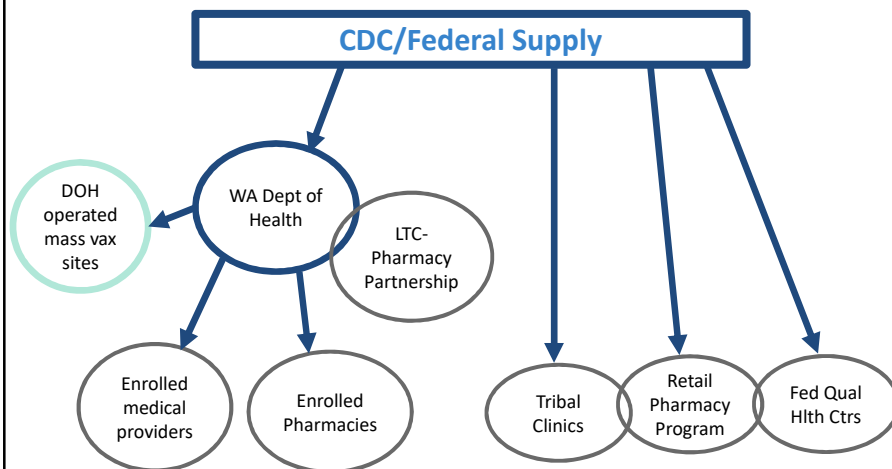
COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Whatcom County Health Board

3/30/21



COVID Vaccine Supply



Whatcom County Vaccine Providers

Demand remains higher than supply

COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Update ORDERING/RECEIVING

WEEK
STARTING
MARCH 29

Washington state
providers requested

489,690

- 321,260 first doses
- 168,430 second doses

Washington will receive from
the federal government

343,700

- 173,020 first doses
- 170,680 second doses

Vaccinate
WA
CovidVaccineWA.org

This forecast did not include the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Whatcom County Vaccination Progress

Whatcom County Residents Who
Have Received First
Pfizer/Moderna Dose or J&J Dose

61,244

27.2%

As of 3/25

Whatcom County
Residents Who Are
Fully Vaccinated

(Received both Pfizer/Moderna doses or J&J dose)

34,198

15.2%

For the Week of March 15, 2021

CDC Allocation to WaDOH	5,710
Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership	2,000
Federally Qualified Health Centers	0
Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnership (data not available)	
Indian Health Service (data not available)	

First Doses/J&J Doses
Allocated to Whatcom
County Providers

For the
Week of
Mar 15

Total
7,710

For the Week of March 22, 2021

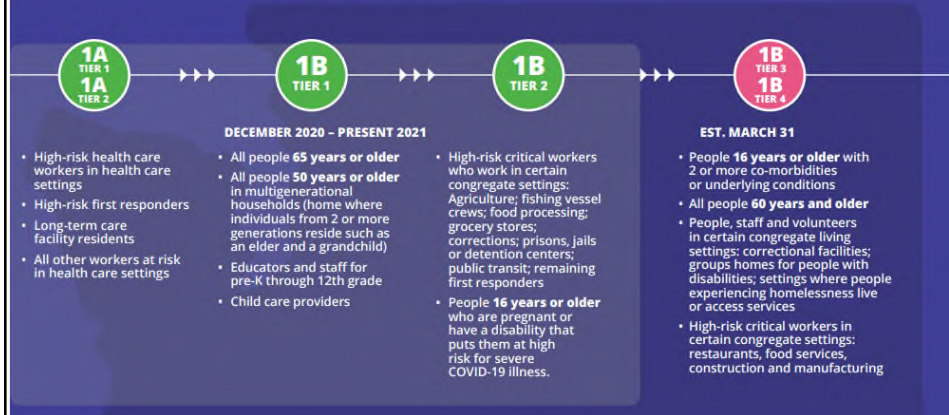
CDC Allocation to WaDOH	3,470
Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership	not yet available
Federally Qualified Health Centers	0
Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnership (data not available)	
Indian Health Service (data not available)	

For the
Week of
Mar 22

Total
(not final)
3,470

WASHINGTON'S COVID-19 VACCINE PHASES

Find out if it's your turn at [FindYourPhaseWA.org](https://www.findyourphases.org)



- PhaseFinder – no longer in use after 3/31
- Vaccine Locations to make an appointment:
www.covidvaccinewa.org

WCHD Vaccine Planning & Operations

- Community Vaccination Center
- WCHD Mobile Vaccine Clinic
- National Guard
- Ongoing coordination with vaccine providers & community partners
- Outreach, education and connecting groups, employers and individuals to vaccines



