



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

