



SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-24

RESOLUTION SUBJECT: WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE REQUEST FOR MEANINGFUL
ACTION TO ADDRESS KRATOM

WHEREAS, Snohomish County is experiencing an opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, during the seven-day period in July 2018, a total of 57 overdoses were reported that appeared to be related to opioids; and

WHEREAS, kratom, a plant grown in Southeast Asia contains compounds similar to opioids producing opioid-like effects, is available for sale and use across Washington and Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommends that consumers not purchase or use any kratom products and dispose of any products in their possession; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency listed kratom as a drug of concern and is considering designating it a Schedule 1 drug, effectively banning it; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration has recommended that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency add kratom as a Schedule 1 drug; and

WHEREAS, in March 2018 the Washington State Department of Health issued a recommendation that people should not consume kratom as is could be contaminated with salmonella; and

WHEREAS, one case of Salmonella associated with kratom was identified in Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Medical Examiner has identified four deaths since January 2018 where kratom, along with other substances, were present in the blood system; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish Health District found that kratom is available for sale in two-thirds of surveyed smoke and vape stores as loose powder and in capsules; and

WHEREAS, seven states (Alabama, 2016; Arkansas, 2016; Indiana, 2012; Rhode Island, 2017; Vermont, 2012; Wisconsin, 2014; District of Columbia, 2014), two cities (Jerseyville, IL, 2017; San Diego, CA, 2016) and one county (Sarasota County, FL, 2014) across the nation have banned kratom from sale or use listing the active compounds mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine as Schedule 1 drugs with other states considering the same action; and

WHEREAS, two states (Illinois, 2015; Louisiana 2012), have restricted kratom sales to persons 18 years or older; and

WHEREAS, City of Denver (2017) has banned kratom for human consumption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Snohomish County Board of Health calls on the Washington state legislature to take meaningful action to address kratom, which could include a ban on specific active compounds (mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine), age restrictions, additional research and data collection, and official guidance on risks and concerns surrounding kratom to programs and those working with persons experiencing substance abuse.

ADOPTED this 11th day of December 2018.

Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Chair
Board of Health

ATTEST:

Jefferson S. Ketchel, MA, RS
Administrator