



Proclamation

Snohomish County Board of Health

WHEREAS, the week of April 1-7, 2024, is National Public Health Week and the theme is “Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health;” and

WHEREAS, since 1995, National Public Health Week has educated the public, policymakers, and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health; and

WHEREAS, governmental public health is rooted in three main functions of assessment, policy development, and assurance, and is a shared state and local responsibility that includes the Washington State Board of Health, Washington State Department of Health, the Snohomish County Health Department, and Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Community Health Assessment of Snohomish County shows the four leading causes of death, in order, are cancer, heart disease, unintentional injury, and COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, data from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Office of Firearm Safety, and Violence Prevention dashboard shows that there were 174 firearm-related suicide deaths in Snohomish County from 2019-2021 ; and

WHEREAS, from 2015 through 2020, the opioid overdose mortality rate has nearly doubled in Snohomish County and has remained statistically higher than the statewide rate over the same period; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has one of the highest per capita rates of sexually transmitted infections in the state with gonorrhea cases doubling and a more than 400% increase in syphilis cases from 2015-2021; and



WHEREAS, there is a significant decrease in health status among persons who are more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as racism, poverty, adverse childhood experiences, transportation barriers, and lack of economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Health Department helps communities prevent, navigate, and recover from the impact of many health threats, including disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, measles, lead poisoning, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, sustainable support of local public health can, together with health care systems, create a system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Board of Health proclaims the week of April 1 to April 7, 2024, to be Public Health Week in Snohomish County and encourages residents to observe this week by celebrating the value of public health in improving the quality of life for all its communities.

Public Health Week April 1 through April 7, 2024

ADOPTED this 12th day of March 2024.

AFFIX SEAL

Megan Dunn, Chair, Board of Health