



Proclamation

Snohomish County Board of Health

WHEREAS, each year on March 24th we commemorate World Tuberculosis Day to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social, and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic; and

WHEREAS, March 24th marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way toward diagnosing and curing this disease; and

WHEREAS, TB killed 1.25 million people in 2023 worldwide, and again became the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, surpassing COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, global investment into TB diagnostics, medication, and vaccine lag behind, yet TB remains endemic in many countries around the world with 96.9% of confirmed Snohomish TB clients born in a country outside of the U.S. in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Snohomish County Health Department (SCHD) TB Program is to provide low/no barrier, trauma informed and culturally competent care to persons infected with TB and their contact to prevent the spread of TB in Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the SCHD TB Program and their community partners cared for 50 people inclusive of over 30 people with newly diagnosed, confirmed TB disease, with a preliminary annual case rate slightly higher than was seen in previous years; and

WHEREAS, from 2021-2024, the SCHD TB Program and its community partners identified and cared for over 100 people with newly diagnosed, confirmed TB disease; and



WHEREAS, in 2024, the SCHD TB Program identified 254 people as close contacts of individuals with active TB disease in Snohomish County and other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Snohomish County TB Program staff completed 4,264 required observations of clients ingesting their medication with 96.3% of those visits completed using video technology; and

WHEREAS, our SCHD TB Program is composed of one physician, four nurses, one disease interventionist, two outreach specialists, one program specialist, and one supervisor, with support from an epidemiologist and a health educator; and

WHEREAS, we do our work in solidarity with those nationally and globally to strive for the goal of TB elimination.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Snohomish County Board of Health proclaims March 24, 2025, to be World Tuberculosis Day in Snohomish County and encourages all county residents to become aware of this infectious disease and the challenge of its prevention.

ADOPTED this 11th day of March 2025.

Megan Dunn, Chair, Board of Health