

Legislative Session2020 Public Health Priorities

Funding Priorities



Foundational Public Health Services

Increased funding is needed to fully implement the set of public health capabilities as adopted in HB 1497 (2019). This continues a phased approach to fully funding core public health services. The Snohomish Health District supports federal and state efforts toward fully funding FPHS, and DOH's request to backfill an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in statewide vapor revenue.



Title X

Support the preservation of federal Title X family planning programming. Changes to federal Title X regulations make Washington in conflict with state law and unable to accept previous federal funding. This action is to support Washington Department of Health's revenue request to continue providing services until resolution of legal challenges. *The Snohomish Health District supports WA DOH request of \$8.4 million from General Fund.*



Opioids

Opioid deaths are increasing across Snohomish County, largely due to fentanyl. Snohomish County is also the second highest number in the state for the number of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. *The Snohomish Health District supports funding focused on prevention, treatment and recovery.*

Policy Priorities



Vapor Products

Vapor products have linked to hundreds of vaping-related illnesses across the nation, including two in Snohomish County. In October 2019, the State Board of Health passed a 120-day emergency rule banning the sale of flavored vape products. The Snohomish Health District supports state and federal bans on the sale of flavored vapor products, increased funding for vape education and outreach, increased oversight on the manufacturing and sales of vapor products, and additional research on the health impacts of vaping and vapor products.



Adult Mortality Review

Like the Child Death Review and Prevention system authorized by RCW 70.05.170, adult mortality review teams would seek to gather data and identify preventable circumstances in adult deaths and consider systems, policies or environmental changes to reduce and prevent deaths. Initial focus can emphasis deaths of despair, including suicide and drug or alcohol overdoses. The Snohomish Health District supports the development, implementation and funding of an adult death review and prevention system.



Sharps Product Stewardship

The Health District has been distributing free needle clean-up kits since 2017, as well as partnering with County Solid Waste to ensure proper disposal. Providing a financially sustainable system for the safe collection and disposal of residential sharps reduces the risks of accidental needle sticks, while providing an equitable solution for individuals with medical needs like diabetes. *The Snohomish Health District supports creation of a residential sharps disposal stewardship program.*



Suicide as a Notifiable Condition

Rates of suicide are increasing across all populations in Snohomish County and has been identified as a top issue of concern. The purpose of notifiable conditions reporting is to enable public health officials to track and describe conditions and take appropriate actions to prevent disease. *The Snohomish Health District supports legislation adding suicide as a notifiable condition to WAC 246-101.*



Quarantine or Isolation Employment Protection

As the rate of infectious diseases rise so does the use of quarantine or isolation (WAC 246-100-040). This stems the spread of disease yet leaves the individual and care givers at risk for loss of employment and income replacement. The Snohomish Health District supports legislation providing protections for impacted individuals and caregivers.