

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Kittitas County Public Health Has Two New Registered Sanitarians on Staff

A Registered Sanitarian, or RS, is a credential that is issued through the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). According to NEHA, RS certification means that an individual has the skills to manage clean air, safe food, potable water, emergency response, vector control, sewage sanitation, hazardous material handling, and more.

Jesse Cox, Environmental Health Supervisor, and Melissa Schumaier, Environmental Health Specialist II, both earned the RS credential in



December of 2019. They are currently the only staff at the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) with the RS credential.

The credential requires at minimum, a bachelor's degree, which includes 45 or more science credits and one year of work experience in order to take the examination. The exam is 250 questions and covers a broad range of environmental health topics.

"Having an RS on staff gives us access to qualified subject matter experts," states Administrator Tristen Lamb.

## 2019 Annual Drive Thru Flu Clinic Completed

KCPHD has been conducting an annual drive thru flu clinic since 2003. KCPHD uses the annual drive thru clinic as an emergency exercise called a point of distribution, or POD, drill.

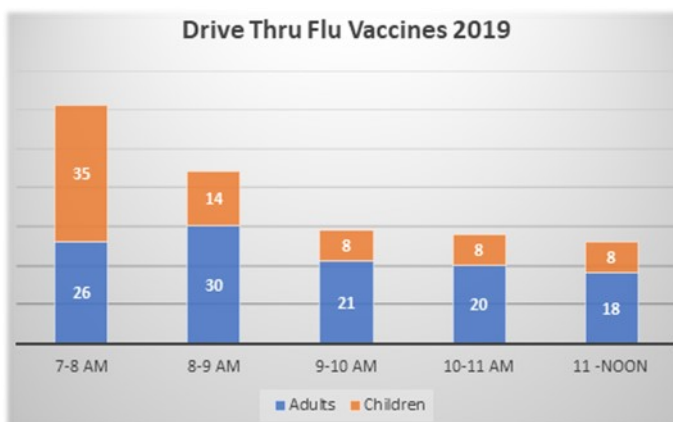
Over the years, the number of people getting a flu vaccine has fluctuated, with an over all decrease. For this year's clinic, we used data that showed the morning time is the busiest, so the duration of the clinic was shortened to noon instead of 4pm. Between 7am and 12 pm, 189 people received free flu vaccinations.

The busiest hour was 7-8 am with 61 vaccines provided.

KCPHD partners with Central Washington University, Kittitas County Search and Rescue, and Kittitas Valley Healthcare to provide the drive through service. Participants do not have to exit their car and can move through the line in as quickly as ten minutes.

Data is tracked for the exercise including number of volunteer hours, vaccines administered, and how people heard about the clinic.

The majority of people heard about the flu clinic from a family member or friend, or social media.



### Department Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	1
Volunteer Hours	117.5
Health Data Requests	8
Quality Improvement Projects	1
Health Provider Releases	3
Media Contacts	8
Code/Policy Updates	1
Total Number of Clinic Appointments Provided	47

### Vital Records

Hospital Births Registered	74
Birth Certificates Issued	262
Deaths Registered	80
Death Certificates Issued	443

### Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	1809
Referrals to Dentists	1

### Communicable Disease (CD)

CD Investigations	19
Confirmed CD Cases	7
STD's Reported	95
TB Tests	5
HIV Tests	0
Hepatitis C Tests	0
Syphilis Tests	0
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Tests	1

### Harm Reduction Activities

Syringe Exchange Participants	209
Syringes Distributed	11260
Naloxone Kits Distributed	31
HIV Education Participants	0

## KCPHD Has Facebook!

We are officially using social media! In October, KCPHD used Facebook for the first time to get the word out about our annual drive thru flu clinic.

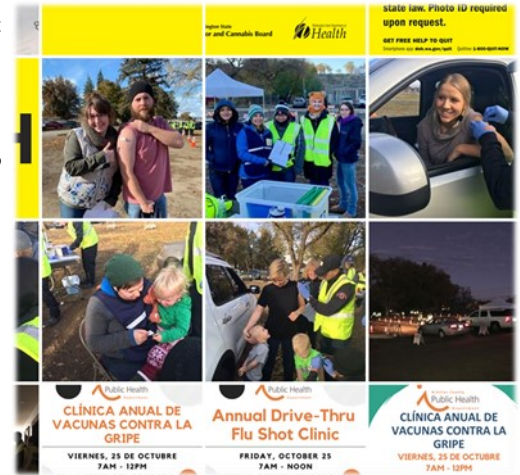
From past years, we know that the majority of our residents get information using social media, specifically Facebook. Instead of relying on our partner agencies to post for us, we now get to post on our own Facebook page.

Since starting, we have posted information about the drive thru flu clinic, new laws for the sale of tobacco and vapor products, the HPV vaccine, Food Access

Coalition, and parenting using the Love and Logic method.

Using social media is a great way for KCPHD to get health promotion messages out to residents. For example, a post on January 25 about the annual flu clinic reached over five thousand people.

Help us get the word out and check out our Facebook page!



## KCPHD Staff Changes - Amy Fuller Moves to Bellingham

After eight years at KCPHD, Amy Fuller has accepted a position with the Whatcom County Health Department in Bellingham. Every one at KCPHD and Kittitas County will miss her.

During her time at KCPHD, Amy Fuller was known for her artistic ability, making data understandable, and her expertise with performance

management and quality improvement.

While she was at KCPHD she moved from Health Promotion to Assessment Coordinator, earned her Master's in Public Health at the University of Washington, and in October received the Washington State Public Health Association's Public Health Excellence Award.



## KCPHD Staff Changes - New Harm Reduction Specialist

When positions open within KCPHD, the hope is that we can promote internally. Because KCPHD was able to hire internally for the Assessment Coordinator position (more on page 4), a specialist position was created to oversee harm reduction services including syringe exchange and naloxone education and distribution.

The Harm Reduction Specialist position is a temporary project

position and is expected to last until October of 2022 with funding through the Kittitas County Health Network.

KCPHD is excited to welcome Lauren Wickerath to the position. Ms. Wickerath has a medical background with previous experience as a registered nurse.



## Environmental Health's Busy Season Continues

KCPHD is seeing one of the busiest Environmental Health (EH) seasons to date. Typically, staff that oversee programs such as on-site sewage or drinking water have a "slow season," that runs during the colder months from October to February.

However, that has not been the case this year. Jesse Cox, Environmental Health Supervisor, has noticed that this year there has yet to be a slow season. "I started as the Supervisor in January of 2019 and have yet to see our permitting processes slow down."

The largest contributing factor to permitting for some EH programs is due to inclement weather. "So far, the weather

has not been cold enough to stop the building process in Kittitas County," states Supervisor Cox.

Normally, EH staff would be catching up on tasks like archiving files, updating policies, or related office work.

Instead, Environmental Health Specialist I Zac Bales is averaging three to four inspections a day for the on-site sewage program, and scheduled up to seven inspections in one day during the month of November.

"We usually have snow on the ground by now, but just this week have had weather in the 40s," states Mr. Bales. "And builders are taking advantage of the weather."

Kittitas County Community Development Services is noticing the same trend.



## Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Training for KCPHD

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point or HACCP (sounds like Has-sip) is required for food service in Kittitas County when there is a specialized process involved. The process is used to ensure food is safe from the time the permitted establishment gets the product, to making the product, to someone consuming the product. HACCP is involved for products that use reduced oxygen packaging, sous vide as a cooking method, canning, or curing.

Additional locations will be required to have a HACCP in place by the end of 2020.

Because this process is a requirement, Environmental Health Specialist II Lucy Garcia has pursued funding through the Association of Food and Drug Officials

(AFDO) to get additional training on creating HACCP plans.

Ms. Garcia procured a total of \$3,000 for general training, which has already included one training specific to HACCP.

"We now have templates in place and a better understanding of how to create a HACCP," states Ms. Garcia. "My goal is to make this process easier. I want establishments to understand their plan, and ensure that it is useful to them and not just an item checked off to fulfill a county requirement."

Additional trainings in the future will include plan reviews and risk-based assessments based on HACCP.

Ms. Garcia wants to standardize the food program,

so that establishments know that food inspectors are regularly trained and educated and that information is also provided to food vendors. "There is more funding available through AFDO," says Ms. Garcia. "I plan to apply for future funding to provide more education and training for KCPHD staff as more specialized food items become popular."

### Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	7
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### Living Environment

School Inspections	13
Pool Facility Permits Issued	19
Pool Facility Inspections	0
Camp & Park Inspections	0

### Solid Waste

Permits Issued	0
Inspections	0

### On-Site Septic

Installation Permits Issued	80
Finalized Permits	55
Site Evaluations	64
Inspections	80

### Food Safety

Permanent Food Establishment Applications	267
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	8
Food Handler's Permits	543
Establishment Inspections	69
Temporary Event Inspections	11

### Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	1
Group B Water System Inspections	4
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	26
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	63
Well Delegation Inspections	10
Well Site Inspections	3



## ? Did you know ?

- Behavioral health is another term for mental health.
- Conditions that fall under behavioral health include depression, anxiety, ADHD, learning disorders, eating disorders, mood disorders, et cetera.
- According to the World Health Organization, people with severe mental disorders have 10-25 year life expectancy reduction.
- The Community Health Assessment identified mental health as a top concern for residents.
- There are significant shortages for mental health providers in Kittitas County.
- The ratio of residents to mental health providers is 710:1.
- According to the Healthy Youth Survey, the percentage of Kittitas County 10th graders reporting they have thought about attempting suicide has increased steadily since 2006.



[www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/](http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/)

## Public Hearing Held to Address KCPHD's Fees

On December 19, the Kittitas County Board of Health approved the 2020 Kittitas County Public Health Fee schedule after a public hearing was held.

The 2020 fees are based on the cost recovery fee model that was adopted by the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners.

Fee changes were made to recover one hundred percent of the cost to provide services, which uses actual data from the previous year.

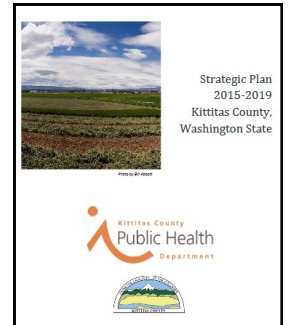
Administrator Lamb offered to look into options for fee reductions for non-profits in the future, specifically when there is community benefit.

## BOHAC Hears Strategic Plan Update

On November 4, the Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee received updates on the Strategic Plan 2020.

Administrator Lamb discussed the lengthy process that it takes to develop a Strategic Plan and reviewed the 2015-2019 along with the most recent Strategic

Initiative Overview and the SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) results from October 7, 2019. Ms. Lamb asked BOHAC members to review the SWOT and provide input, which will be added to the most recent Strategic Plan.



## Introducing Our New Assessment Coordinator

KCPHD has a new Assessment Coordinator! Lianne Bradshaw, previously a Community Health Specialist I, accepted the position as the new Coordinator on November 1.

Ms. Bradshaw is a local to Kittitas County, holds her Master's in Public Health, and has worked for KCPHD since early 2018.

Ms. Bradshaw has been working with Amy Fuller for three months and learning

about data systems and current projects, in addition to her work with harm reduction services.

Lianne is excited for her new role. "I am looking forward to working in a position that interacts across the entire department," states Ms. Bradshaw. "I feel like I can have a greater impact in this position."



**KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**507 N. Nanum St. Suite. 102 · Ellensburg, WA 98926**  
**T: 509.962.7515 · F: 509.962.7581**  
**[publichealth@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:publichealth@co.kittitas.wa.us)**