

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

New Water Regulations In Effect

Kittitas County negotiated a settlement agreement with the appellants of the Growth Management Hearings Board case. The settlement agreement was signed on May 15th. As part of the settlement agreement, new county regulations require mitigation for new uses of ground water in Lower Kittitas County as of June 2nd.

The new regulations will be implemented in two phases. Interim measures starting June 2nd require total water supply mitigation for all new uses of ground water for domestic, commercial, irrigation and industrial purposes within the areas of Lower Kittitas County, which are inside the Yakima River Drainage Basin. On

December 2, 2015, permanent measures will take place with tributary mitigation required for all new uses of ground water in all of Kittitas County that are inside the Yakima River Drainage Basin.

Water quantity and quality in the county has been an issue since 2008 when the Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board found that the County's Comprehensive Plan and County Code did not assure protection of quantity or quality of water within the County. The State Supreme Court agreed in 2011.

The County is addressing these issues and the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) has been

working hard to provide education to the public as well as assist customers through the new water regulation process.

KCPHD staff have been fielding customer questions, sending out press release information and frequently asked questions, as well as speaking to interested groups like the Realtor's Association.



Employees Are the Pride of the Kittitas County Public Health Department

As an administrator, I am fortunate to have qualified and experienced staff. Many KCPHD employees have been here over five years and some as long as twenty-five.

We are happy to welcome new team members and wish well to those who move onto other careers. Such is the case in 2014. In April we hired a new Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator, Amy Kocher. Ms. Kocher is a student at Central Washington University and a volunteer for numerous agencies that support people with developmental disabilities.

In June Alisa Spieckerman, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Associate, moved to Texas to work at the State Department of Health after her assignment through the CDC ended at KCPHD.

KCPHD also is fortunate enough to get quality volunteer student interns, who spend hundreds of hours volunteering their time, like Roger Parker and Sarah Jalali, CWU Public Health students. Our department also has nursing students who are completing their practicum, such as nursing student Jennifer Wilson. KCPHD has

volunteers who have been assisting our department for years. Sue Kendall has been volunteering with the Never Share Syringe Exchange for five years.

I can say that my staff and volunteers truly care about the work they do, because every employee resides and calls Kittitas County home. Our mission "to protect and promote the health and environment of the people of Kittitas County" is the equivalent to asking KCPHD staff to take care of their neighbors.

-Robin Read
Public Health Administrator

Department-Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	0
Active Volunteers	7
Health Data Requests	4
Quality Improvement Projects Completed	0
Media Contacts	14
Health Provider Releases	3
Community Engagements	59
Code/Policy Updates	1

Vital Records

Births Registered	85
Birth Certificates Issued	193
Deaths Registered	58
Death Certificates Issued	61

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	19
Referrals to Dentists	2

Communicable Disease (CD)

Tuberculosis Investigations (TB)	0
CD Investigations	36
Confirmed CD cases	15
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	56
TB Tests Administered	30

Immunization

Total Vaccinations	369
Flu Vaccinations	5
Travel Vaccinations	9
Adults Receiving Vaccine	242
Children Receiving Vaccine	17
Travel Consultations	10

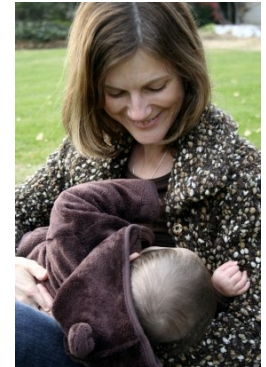
HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

HIV Tests	3
Hepatitis C Tests	2
Syringe Exchange Participants	14
Syringes Exchanged	82
Education Participants	72

Baby Feeding Station at Ellensburg’s Farmer’s Market

The Kittitas County Breastfeeding Coalition (KCBC) has been hosting a baby feeding station at the Ellensburg Farmer’s Market each Saturday since the commencement of the market starting the first weekend in May. The station is under a tent to provide some shelter from the sun and wind and has chairs set up, so mothers can

nurse their babies and be comfortable. A member of the KCBC is available to help provide support or direct a family to breastfeeding resources in our community if needed. The station has been used and appreciated every weekend of the Farmer’s Market so far.



KCPHD Participates in Kittitas Valley Healthcare Wellness Fair

On April 17, staff members from KCPHD set up a table at the Kittitas Valley Healthcare Wellness Fair. The fair took place at the Rosewood Community Clubhouse and focused particularly on the health needs of the senior population. There were almost forty organizations represented at the health fair and the doors were open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

KCPHD staff administered free shingles vaccine to

eligible clients as well as provided education on hepatitis C. There was also a staff member, trained as an in-person assister, available to help clients sign up for health insurance.

Numerous clients took advantage of the free shingles vaccine and staff was told by several that we “made their day!” The clients were happy to be protected against shingles as many had friends or family members who had been

affected by this often painful reactivation of the chickenpox virus.



Get Your Flu Shot Advertisement Playing Now

On May 15, KCPHD worked with the Kittitas County Special Response Team (SRT) to film an ad to promote influenza vaccinations.

The concept of the advertisement is to equate the protection of bulletproof vests to flu vaccines.

Dr. Larson (pictured right), KCPHD Health Officer, acted as the official advertisement spokesperson.



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Kaizen Training Improves Permit Process

KCPHD staff, Erin Moore, joined staff from Kittitas County’s Community Development Services, Public Works, and Code Enforcement to participate in a Lean Kaizen event to improve the building permit submittal process for a single family residence. The team met for four straight days, and mapped out the existing building permit submittal process. They were able to pinpoint some areas of difficulty for the staff and customers. The team discovered that the detailed parcel review, called the Preliminary Site Analysis (PSA), was causing considerable delays in the permit process, since many

applicants do not always have the requirements in place to complete the PSA. Therefore, the team decided to move the PSA to the front of the submittal process, making it mandatory to have it complete prior to submittal. The County will implement this PSA as a mandatory process prior to submitting a building permit beginning August 1, 2014.

This PSA will provide a report detailing information such as critical areas, septic, water, zoning, setbacks, and plat conditions specific to the parcel.

This information can be used to determine how the parcel can be developed, and avoid costly corrections to building plans and delays in the review process. Kittitas County staff believes that requiring a PSA to be completed prior to applying for a building permit will result in more accurate and complete applications, which will go through the building permit review process faster and with fewer corrections, saving applicants both time and money.



Partnership for Marijuana Prevention and Control

KCPHD and the Kittitas County Community Network & Coalition (KCCN) have teamed up to create and propose a marijuana prevention program aimed at preventing and decreasing youth initiation of marijuana use. The program will be proposed to the Board of County Commissioners and the Kittitas County Law and Justice Committee for future funding.

The program dubbed “Teens Against Pot Smoking (TAPS)” has six goals:

1. Participants will develop skills to teach younger peers about marijuana.
2. Participants will understand and identify the positive aspects of

staying away from marijuana.

3. Participants will understand that marijuana use is only legal for those over 21.
4. Participants will understand that marijuana is addictive and can negatively affect their development.
5. Teens Against Pot Smoking will develop more self-confidence.
6. Recipients of youth presentations will also be able to identify the harmful effects of drug use.

The program is based on the Teens Against Tobacco Use model, where older students learn about the dangers of

marijuana and then present that information to younger, elementary and middle school-aged kids.

“There are many misconceptions among youth about marijuana, and with the legalization of marijuana, we anticipate the trend to increase among kids in Kittitas County,” states KCPHD Administrator Robin Read.

According to the 2012 Healthy Youth Survey, fifty nine percent of Kittitas County 12th graders reported little or no risk from using marijuana once or twice. KCPHD and KCCNC want to educate kids about the consequences of marijuana consumption and reinforce decisions made by Kittitas County youth to remain drug free.

Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	25
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Living Environment

Schools

Building Inspections	0
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Public Pools & Spas

Permits Issued	0
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Inspections	0
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Camps & Parks

Permits Issued	14
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Inspections	0
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Solid Waste

Permits Issued	0
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Inspections	0
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On-Site Sewage

Installation Permits Issued	65
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Finalized Permits	22
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Site Evaluations	81
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Inspections	26
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Food Safety

Permits

Permanent Food Establishment Applications	13
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Temporary Food Establishment Applications	31
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Food Handler’s Permits	770
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Inspections

Establishment Inspections	32
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Temporary Event Inspections	0
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Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	0
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Group B Water System Inspections	0
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Individual Well Site Application Reviews	19
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Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	129
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Well Delegation Inspections	5
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? **Did you know?** ?

According to water.org:

- There are 10 million people without water access in developed countries.
- 345 million people live without water access in Africa.
- 3.4 million people die each year from a water related disease.
- The majority of illness is caused by fecal matter. Only ten percent of wastewater gets treated.
- 99 percent of water related disease deaths are in the developing world.
- An American taking a five minute shower uses more water than the average person in a developing country slum uses for an entire day.
- More people have a mobile phone than a toilet.
- On average, every US dollar invested in water and sanitation provides an economic return of eight US dollars.



Board of Health Looks to Long Term Water Solutions

With the interim phase of the new water restrictions underway, the Kittitas County Board of Health (BOH) is looking to the permanent measure phase, specifically the amount of water allocated on a daily basis.

Commissioner Paul Jewell discussed details in May's BOH meeting about the process for determining the standard for allocation of water.

An advisory committee comprised of Kittitas County residents will be formed in

order to provide recommendations on how much water from the county bank will be allocated for domestic use.



BOHAC Sponsors First Public Health Champion Award

The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) is sponsoring the first annual Kittitas County Public Health Champion award. The award is intended to honor and recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made

significant contributions to the health of Kittitas County.

Anyone can submit a nomination for the award. Nomination forms will be available online and at KCPHD later this year.

An award amount ranging from \$500 to \$1000 will be awarded for current or future projects. Awards will be given in April 2015 during National Public Health Week.

Quality Improvement

Amy Fuller, Assessment Coordinator, received an all expenses paid trip to Kansas City for the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) conference. Ms. Fuller received the trip as a result of her abstract for a poster presentation about "Using Quality Improvement Techniques in Strategic Planning."

Ms. Fuller continues to work on KCPHD's strategic plan update. Ms. Fuller is utilizing the Quality Improvement Leadership Team (QILT) at KCPHD to integrate tools and principles into the daily life at KCPHD in order to improve efficiency.

