

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Public Health is Essential!

Public Health is Essential! The services provided by the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) are essential to the health of our residents. Services such as permitting and inspecting food establishments and ensuring safe drinking water are just two examples of how we provide services that are critical to the health of the people who live here.

Since 2008, KCPHD as well as other local health jurisdictions, have experienced continued issues with the lack of funding. As a result, on October 5, Washington State Secretary of Health Dr. John Wiesman kicked off

the “Public Health is Essential” campaign to raise awareness with the public as well as ask the legislature for fifty million for local health departments in Washington State. The campaign is intended to inform the public regarding what is at stake for providing statewide and local essential public health services.

In Kittitas County, an increase in funding would mean a better response to sexually transmitted diseases, increased support to

healthcare providers, as well as the ability to take vaccination efforts out into the community.

For more information, please visit [www.publichealthisessential.org](http://www.publichealthisessential.org).



2017 Kittitas County Public Health Staff

## Legislative Season Priorities For Public Health



In addition to the “Public Health is Essential” Campaign, the Washington State Legislative session will potentially address

raising the age of legal tobacco sales to the age of 21 in Washington State. According to Tobacco Free Kids (TFK), California, Hawaii, and at least 170 localities within 13 states have raised the tobacco sale age to 21.

Proponents of raising the tobacco sale age use data from the Institute of Medicine’s National Report from 2015 to show that raising the age could reduce the smoking

rate by 12 percent and would reduce smoking-related deaths by 10 percent.

Ninety five percent of adults who smoke began smoking before the age of 21 and many people who smoke transition to regular use between the ages of 18 and 21. (TFK)

Raising the age to 21 in Washington State would mean that youth would have decreased access to cigarettes. According to TFK, students report that it is easy to get cigarettes. Eighteen year olds are major suppliers of cigarettes to younger kids, and more 18 year olds in high school mean younger kids have daily contact with students who can legally purchase tobacco.

Tobacco use is the main cause of preventable disease and death in Washington State, according to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). In Washington State, tobacco kills about 7,600 people each year.

As part of DOH’s Tobacco Prevention and Control five year strategic plan, statewide policy priorities include educating policymakers and stakeholders about the evidence supporting raising the legal age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21 years statewide. For more information about the strategic plan, visit [www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Tobacco](http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Tobacco).

## Update on vaccine preventable diseases in 2016

### Department-Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	1
Active Volunteers	5
Health Data Requests	4
Quality Improvement Projects Completed	0
Media Contacts	30
Health Provider Releases	2
Community Engagements	139
Code/Policy Updates	0

### Vital Records

Births Registered	69
Birth Certificates Issued	238
Deaths Registered	55
Death Certificates Issued	301

### Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	64
Referrals to Dentists	2

### Communicable Disease (CD)

Tuberculosis Investigations	0
CD Investigations	35
Confirmed CD cases	17
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	65
TB Tests Administered	23

### Immunization

Total Vaccinations	385
Flu Vaccinations	288
Travel Vaccinations	0
Adults Receiving Vaccine	170
Children Receiving Vaccine	175
Travel Consultations	0

### HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

HIV Tests	3
Hepatitis C Tests	4
Syringe Exchange Participants	189
Syringes Exchanged	4180
Education Participants	98

The fourth quarter of 2016 has seen an increased number of vaccine-preventable diseases in Kittitas County. Seven cases of chickenpox (also known as varicella) and six cases of whooping cough (also known as pertussis) were reported to KCPHD. A chickenpox outbreak originated with unvaccinated children in Upper County and spread to unvaccinated children in Lower County. Two elementary schools and a preschool were affected. To stop the spread of disease, students and staff

members who are susceptible to chickenpox are excluded from school for 21 days after their last exposure to chickenpox. They may be readmitted to school if vaccinated within the first five days after exposure. Those who are sick with chickenpox can return to school after all lesions have scabbed over with no further drainage. No vaccinated children became ill with chickenpox. Five out of the six pertussis cases also occurred in unvaccinated children. Ill students and staff can be

readmitted to school after a five day course of antibiotics, but bursts of coughing may persist for weeks, even after treatment. Nationwide mumps outbreaks prompted several providers to test patients with swollen parotid glands for mumps. All tested negative, and none seemed to be associated with known cases of mumps. For now, Kittitas County appears to be free of mumps. For more information visit: <https://www.vaccines.gov/diseases/index.html>

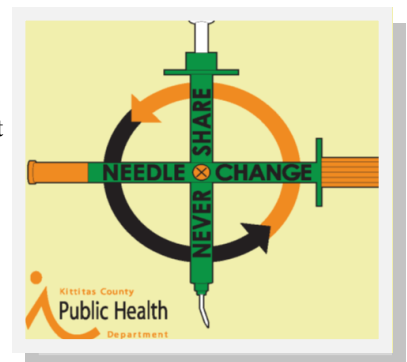
## Record Number of Naloxone Distributed

Part of the Never Share Syringe Exchange is training people about overdose prevention and how to use naloxone, or Narcan, with access to free naloxone. Anyone who is prescribed a narcotic for chronic pain or anyone who spends time with someone who is using narcotics for any reason (friend, partner, spouse, parent, etc.) should

have naloxone and overdose prevention training. From October to December, 12 kits were distributed, which is a record high. The previous quarter (July, August, September) was just under with 10 kits distributed.

The kit contains a one page informational sheet on what to do in case of an overdose,

a CPR barrier mask, and naloxone.



## KCPHD Partners to Pursue Rural Health Network Grant

A group of local health care and social service providers, including KCPHD, are collaborating to form a rural health network. The effort stemmed from local efforts to provide better care coordination to patients. While the group will continue to work on care coordination, they also want to have a broader focus on community

health improvement and local health care transformation. A planning grant has been submitted to the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources & Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services for \$100,000 to further develop the health network and provide some funds for KCPHD to lead a

community health assessment and improvement process with the health network members. HopeSource is the lead applicant on the grant, and the network will be notified by June if the grant is awarded.

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## 2016 Drive Thru Flu Clinic is Success in Partnerships

On October 21, KCPHD held its annual drive thru flu vaccination clinic. KCPHD has been conducting these drive thru clinics, which also serve as an annual emergency exercise, since 2003.

“Our annual drive thru flu clinic relies on our partnerships with the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office, Central Washington University Paramedicine, Kittitas County Search and Rescue (SAR), Medical Reserve Corp volunteers, and this year we had Kittitas Valley Healthcare volunteers as well. We could not provide this service without our partners,” asserts Administrator Robin Read.

At the clinic, 98 children and 85 adults received the flu vaccine. Forty-nine personnel assisted including setting up, taking down, traffic control, and vaccine administration.

The emergency exercise is to test our ability to provide a point of distribution (POD) to deliver either vaccine or supplies in an emergency.



Search and Rescue and CWU Paramedic Students

## Mountain River Trails Camping Association (MRTCA) Appeals

The Kittitas County Public Health Department received details of campsites disposing of gray water illegally within MRTCA by way of an anonymous complaint to Kittitas County Code Enforcement. On July 6, 2016 county divisions met with MRTCA board members at which time it was confirmed that campground bylaws allowed for gray water disposal onto the ground. On August 10, 2016 staff entered the resort and verified this to be true. On August 22, 2016, KCPHD issued a health order for proper disposal of all wastewater into the existing, permitted septic systems. The health order required the following:

- All wastewater within

MRTCA be properly disposed of into septic waste pots.

- Any and all buckets or other buried wastewater receptacles must be removed or made inoperable from the site within 14 days of receipt of order.
- Within 60 days, MRTCA shall supply a proposal from a licensed engineer that explains the system and its adequacy for MRTCA.

On December 15, the Kittitas County Board of Health met to hear the MRTCA’s appeal of KCPHD’s health order.

The meeting began with a brief overview of the events prior to the appeal hearing including

complaints received by KCPHD, which led to an inspection, which resulted in the observation of septic failure violations.

The MRTCA Legal Representative spoke to the point as to why the Association brought forth the appeal; MRTCA was formed in 1970, and the association sells memberships and with a membership you get exclusive rights to each lot. Therefore, MRTCA believes that the grey water discharge issue is the responsibility of each lot owner.

The meeting ended with a motion to continue the hearing for board deliberation and possible board decision on January 12, 2017.

### Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	18
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### Living Environment

#### *Schools*

Building Inspections	23
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#### *Public Pools & Spas*

Permits Issued	30
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Inspections	59
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#### *Camps & Parks*

Permits Issued	13
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Inspections	14
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### Solid Waste

Permits Issued	1
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Inspections	9
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### On-Site Sewage

Installation Permits Issued	43
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Finalized Permits	45
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Site Evaluations	55
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Inspections	39
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### Food Safety

#### *Permits*

Permanent Food Establishment Applications	179
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Temporary Food Establishment Applications	7
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Food Handler’s Permits	531
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#### *Inspections*

Establishment Inspections	165
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Temporary Event Inspections	7
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### Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	10
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Individual Well Site Application Reviews	19
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Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	30
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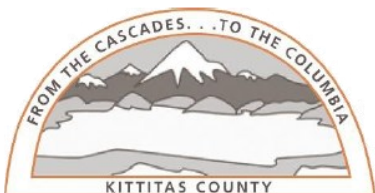
Well Delegation Inspections	27
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Well Site Inspections	2
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? Did you know ?

- If your stove is older than 20 years, you should replace it with a new EPA certified stove.
- Fine particles come from burning wood and fossil fuels and can cause major health problems when inhaled.
- To help reduce smoke, make sure to burn dry wood that has been split, stacked, covered, and stored for at least 6 months.
- Check out <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/p/state.html> for live updates on wildfire smoke and air quality on Ecology's website.
- There are two types of burn bans; those regarding **fire safety** and those regarding **air quality**. You can find fire safety burn bans at <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/firemarshal/burn-ban.aspx> and air quality burn bans can be found at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/outdoor\\_woodsmoke/Burn\\_Ban.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/outdoor_woodsmoke/Burn_Ban.htm).

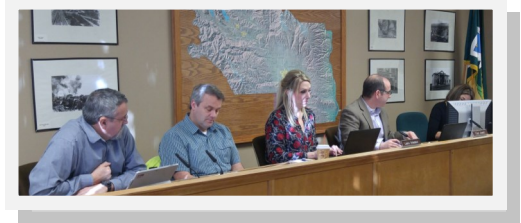


## BOH & BOCC Approves 2017 Budget and Fee Schedule

KCPHD had their 2017 budget and fee schedule approved, which included a new fee methodology that will be implemented county wide. The new fee method, mandated by the Board of County Commissioners was used to create transparency between departments that charge fees for service by having one methodology that everyone uses.

Fiscal Analyst Kaitlyn Reddick emphasizes that this methodology provides the department a way to calculate cost recovery for services while having a transparent relationship with customers. "Now the department has a reliable system for

tracking the amount of time it takes per fee by using real data from the department's time keeping system."



## Board of Health Advisory Committee Completes Prioritization

On November 14, the Board of Health Advisory Committee completed a prioritization of subjects to address in 2017 and the top four issues were identified as social determinants and equity, comprehensive planning, mental health, and prevention treatments for drug addiction.

The prioritization was a result of a survey completed with the group that asked members to identify specific topics under four main topic areas including reports/updates, feedback requests and recommendations, taking action, and priorities.

make decisions on what actions BOHAC should take in 2017.

Moving forward into 2017, the BOHAC members have decided to start with the top priority, which is mental health and comprehensive planning.

Information will be gathered around the top priority to present to the group in order to

## Quality Improvement

The quality improvement leadership team (QILT) at KCPHD is currently in the process of steering the health department to accreditation. Recently new members have been added including Public Health Nurse Tim Roth and Public Health Technician Hollie Casey. Health Promotion Specialist, Tristen Lamb comments that "QILT is one of my favorite things to

work on in public health because we take pride in completing important projects". The team is responsible for creating performance measures for different divisions and determine their quality improvement based on those measures. Another important aspect to meeting accreditation standards is that the team also provides key performance

indicators to see whether the program is meeting its goals. If not, the QILT would examine root causes for why benchmarks are not met and come up with solutions to solve them. QILT follows domain 9 accreditation standards and is looking forward to putting KCPHD on the map of accreditation.