

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) is Chosen for Water Metering Pilot

Kittitas County has been chosen as one of two pilot programs in Washington State, which will require water metering for all new uses of groundwater for domestic purposes within the Yakima River Basin. All new uses will require metering through Kittitas County, not just the customers of the Kittitas County Water Bank.

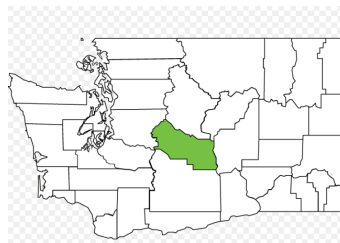
The program is a result of Senate Bill 6091, which addresses the availability of water to support development. The bill addresses the Growth Management Act, water rights, instream flow and watershed planning.

In the bill, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is required to initiate two projects to measure water use in two Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs).

The new pilot program will be administered through an interagency agreement between Kittitas County and Ecology.

Since 2014, Kittitas County has been working with consumers to mitigate all new uses of ground water. Also, in 2015, Kittitas County started offering mitigation through a publicly-operated water bank.

“Our county has worked to provide the best customer service throughout these changes in regard to water use,” states Erin



Moore Water Resources Program Coordinator.

“We have implemented a cistern policy, provided online mapping for customers to search water information per parcel, and offered mitigation through the Kittitas County Water Bank. We want to continue providing the best for our consumers by being leaders in providing metering and water resource information.”

Currently, Ms. Moore is in the process of a Request for Proposals for meters, meter reading equipment, and software in addition to hiring new staff.

The pilot program will begin in 2018 and is required by the Washington State Legislature to continue until 2027.

Dr. John Asriel Receives Family Physician of the Year Award

Dr. Asriel was named the 2018 Family Physician of the Year by the Washington Academy of Family Physicians.

In addition to Dr. Asriel’s work at Community Health of Central Washington, Kittitas Valley Healthcare, and additional volunteer activities, he is also a Kittitas County Board of Health Member. As a Board member, he is responsible for developing local rules and regulations.

He has served on the Board of Health since 2011.

During his time as a BOH member, he has supported amendments to local smoking and vaping legal code,



approved changes to fees, and supported changes to water system programs for KCPHD.

“We have a Board of Health Member and a Health Officer who have both been recipients of the Family Physician of the Year Award (Dr. Mark Larson, 2015), which speaks to how fortunate we are in Kittitas County,” states Administrator Robin Read.

“Dr. Asriel is well versed with the needs of our rural county and makes thoughtful decisions as a BOH Member.”

Department Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	0
Volunteer Hours	1097
Health Data Requests	3
Quality Improvement Projects	1
Health Provider Releases	11
Media Contacts	19
Grant Applications	3
Code/Policy Updates	4
Total Number of Clinic Appointments Provided	49

Vital Records

Hospital Births Registered	83
Birth Certificates Issued	314
Deaths Registered	61
Death Certificates Issued	452

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	185
Referrals to Dentists	5

Communicable Disease (CD)

CD Investigations	33
Confirmed CD Cases	11
STD's Reported	71
Tuberculosis Tests	13
HIV Tests	3
Hepatitis C Tests	2
Syphilis Tests	1
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Tests	2

Harm Reduction Activities

Syringe Exchange Participants	226
Syringes Distributed	9450
Naloxone Kits Distributed	33
HIV Education Participants	2

KCPHD Begins Work on HPV Grant Funded Project

In 2017, KCPHD applied for a Group Health Foundation Community Grant and was awarded funds to assess barriers, behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs around the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

The first activity of the grant began by creating and distributing a survey to target parents and guardians of children aged 18 and younger.

The survey closed at the end of May and KCPHD received four hundred and sixty eight responses.

From the survey, it was determined that parents and guardians in Kittitas County know more about the risks associated with the vaccine than the risks associated with HPV.

With the survey completed, staff will work with partner agencies and stakeholders to come up with strategies to increase HPV vaccination rates in our county.

“For example, almost half of respondents would be likely to vaccinate, if a doctor or nurse recommended the vaccine,”

states Assessment Coordinator Amy Fuller.

“We can take information like this from a survey and create a very targeted effort at increasing HPV vaccination rates, rather than guessing the reasons why our rates were so low.”

The survey was available in English and Spanish and information was distributed through local media, schools, medical providers, Central Washington University, and other partner and community agencies.

KCPHD Begins Youth Marijuana Prevention Work

Beginning in 2018, KCPHD began receiving funds for Youth Marijuana Prevention and as part of the initial program, KCPHD reviewed the Liquor and Cannabis Board's responsible sales information and visited all licensed marijuana retailers in Kittitas County.

In person visits were conducted in order to inquire about age

identification of customers and any other pertinent information in order to restrict under age sales of marijuana to youth.

As funds continue, KCPHD will increase from policy maker outreach, retailer education, and adult education, but also promote cessation as well as changing youths' attitude towards marijuana.

“We have seen a decrease in perception of harm from data in regard to marijuana over the years. When perception of harm decreases, then use increases among youth,” states Amy Fuller, Assessment Coordinator.

Cascade Prevention Coalition Moves to KCPHD

The Cascade Prevention Coalition (CPC) started in 2011 as part of the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative.

In 2018, KCPHD was asked to take over the

Coalition, which works to grow healthy, resilient, engaged youth and families in Upper Kittitas County.

CPC is comprised of school personnel, law enforcement, youth serving organizations, along with public health, and other partner agencies.

CPC implements Love and Logic Parenting Education, the

Start Talking Now Campaign, and youth mentoring in Cle Elum and Roslyn.

“I am excited to learn about this program and meet coalition members,” states new Coalition Coordinator Audelia Martinez.

The DBHR grant provides funding for the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in Kittitas County.



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Tristen Lamb Awarded Professional of the Year

Tristen Lamb, Environmental Health Supervisor, was awarded the Environmental Professional of the Year Award.

The Washington State Environmental Health Association provides the award annually and has been providing EH awards since 1962.

The EH Professional of the Year award is to give recognition for personnel who have contributed to the advancement of the field, shown dedication to promoting environmental health, and have advanced environmental health in a community service activity or project.

Ms. Lamb, within her first year as Environmental Supervisor, has addressed significant EH issues in the county from a boil water advisory, a drug contaminated property, to numerous septic complaints, and has responded with poise and professionalism.

In addition to the award, Ms. Lamb was also recognized by the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners on May 15, to formally recognize her achievement.

“Tristen Lamb is an absolute asset to our county,” states Robin

Read. “She will continue to keep our county healthy.”



Tristen Lamb (center), posing with her newly-accepted Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award from Larry French (left) and James Rivard (right).

Environmental Health Cross Trains with Sanitary Surveys

The 2018 Kittitas County budget priorities specifically addresses cross training of staff as a priority and KCPHD has started the process of cross training environmental health personnel.

A priority area has been identified with sanitary surveys. Sanitary surveys are periodic inspections of a water system facility, operations, equipment, and records used to identify any condition that might present a public health risk.

Group A water systems receive sanitary surveys every three to five years, depending on various circumstances (violations or treatment, for example, may result in a three year period between surveys versus five.)

Holly Erdman, Environmental Health Specialist II currently completes sanitary surveys and has been with the Kittitas County Health Department since 1988.

In addition to Ms. Erdman, all Environmental Health Specialists are now expected to be certified and have knowledge and training in order to conduct sanitary surveys.

To do this, all staff attended an annual sanitary survey training. Next steps include going on sanitary surveys with Ms. Erdman in order to gain field experience.

“The paperwork that is included with each sanitary survey is lengthy and staff will need an opportunity to get

comfortable with the paperwork,” states Ms. Erdman.

In order to maintain the water quality with community systems, sanitary surveys are needed to make sure that water quality is safe for the consumer.

Roughly a dozen sanitary surveys are completed by KCPHD every year. “Generally Group A System purveyors are compliant and complete recommended changes based on the surveys, because they are permitted through the Washington State Department of Health and the annual operating permit relies upon whether sanitary survey changes are corrected,” states Ms. Erdman.

Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	30
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Living Environment

School Inspections	0
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Pool Facility Permits Issued	1
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Pool Facility Inspections	32
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Camp & Park Inspections	3
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Solid Waste

Permits Issued	0
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Inspections	7
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On-Site Septic

Installation Permits Issued	66
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Finalized Permits	75
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Site Evaluations	79
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Inspections	55
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Food Safety

Permanent Food Establishment Applications	13
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Temporary Food Establishment Applications	31
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Food Handler’s Permits	719
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Establishment Inspections	148
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Temporary Event Inspections	10
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Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	5
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Group B Water System Inspections	1
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Individual Well Site Application Reviews	29
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Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	110
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Well Delegation Inspections	0
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Well Site Inspections	5
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? Did you know ?

- Did you know that Kittitas County has 7 licensed marijuana retailers? (Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board).
- More information about marijuana sales can be found at <https://lcb.wa.gov/records/frequently-requested-lists>.
- From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 LCB shows Kittitas County Retailer sales totaling \$6,225,580.40.
- Kittitas County retailer sales were similar to Mason and Jefferson counties.
- Only adults 21 and older can purchase marijuana.
- It is illegal to consume marijuana in public.
- 77% of Kittitas County 12th graders report that they think marijuana is easy to get.
- “Hidden in Plain Sight” is a campaign at powertotheparent.org to help learn clues that might indicate drug or alcohol use.



www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/

Board of Health Approves 2018 Health Fee and Code Change

On May 17, the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Health approved the 2018 Public Health Fee Schedule and changes made to Kittitas County Code, Chapter 13, Water and Sewers.

Changes included policy clarifications in regard to fees and removing fees that were

related to services that are no longer provided.

Additionally, changes were approved to Chapter 13 in order to align with the new program that KCPHD will implement for water metering. For example, language was changed to include all new uses of groundwater for

domestic purposes within the Yakima River Basin will be required to meter through Kittitas County and not just customers utilizing the Kittitas County Water Bank.

KCPHD Workforce Evaluation at National Public Health Forum

Ms. Amy Fuller received a scholarship from the National Network of Public Health Institutes to attend and present a poster at the Public Health Workforce Development Forum in New Orleans in May.

Ms. Fuller’s poster presentation was on the Public Health Foundation’s three step

workforce evaluation method. Ms. Fuller measured the KCPHD workforce’s core competencies and used prioritization exercises to determine the most important areas of improvement based on these competency scores.

From her project, Ms. Fuller determined that the approach



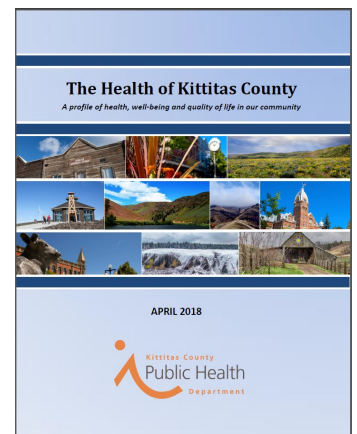
was a reliable tool and can be used to create an effective workforce development plan for KCPHD staff.

Community Health Assessment (CHA) is Available Online

The 2018 Community Health Assessment is now finalized and available via KCPHD’s website.

The CHA is a result of an almost year-long process with various partner agencies coming together to use the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process.

The information from the CHA is used to inform the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in order to bring change to Kittitas County by using collaboration across different parts of the community including government, private business, and volunteers, to address issues identified.



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