

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Wildfires Continue to Create Air Quality Concerns in Kittitas County

Kittitas County continues to experience wildfire smoke during the summer months, regardless of whether we have an active fire locally. Over the years, residents have experienced hazardous air quality and this year was no exception.

The question of what to do around outdoor events was raised this year after our Health Officer, Dr. Mark Larson, witnessed youth participating in an outdoor event during a time when the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) air monitor was showing hazardous conditions.

“No one should be outdoors during hazardous air quality conditions, and there is no way to mitigate the negative health effects,” states Dr. Larson.

As a result, Dr. Larson and the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) worked with partner agencies around necessary actions to take should air quality reach hazardous levels during outdoor, permitted events.

“We were absolutely pleased that air quality improved and did not affect an event like the Kittitas County Fair and Rodeo,” asserts Dr. Larson. “However, we know that this issue will continue with air quality, so we will continue to prepare for these incidents.”

KCPHD provides messaging around air quality conditions, coordinates with the State Department of Health (DOH) and Ecology, provides recommendations based on air quality levels, provides indoor air monitoring to public places,

distributes N95 masks, and will work with future outdoor events if the need arises during hazardous air quality conditions to ensure people are not exposed.



## The Value of Donations: Volunteers, Interns, and Vaccine Supplies

Sixty-two percent of KCPHD’s annual budget covers personnel cost. Like many agencies, KCPHD operates on a lean budget. So, volunteers, interns, and assistance from partners is invaluable in providing public health services to the community.

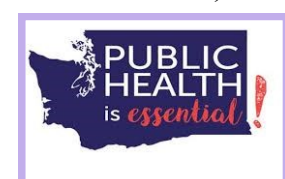
For example, during the first two quarters of 2018, Central Washington University interns provided \$34,800 in volunteer hours.

“KCPHD has many unfunded mandates, like zoonotic disease specimen sampling, and understands there is important prevention work that

might not have dedicated and stable funding such as STD investigations and partner notifications” says Interim Administrator Tristen Lamb.

“Volunteer hours are used for vaccine clinics, programs like Safe Kids, outreach events, and more.”

KCPHD is also the recipient of free vaccine for this year’s annual drive thru flu clinic. Molina, Amerigroup, and



United Healthcare, donated funds to KCPHD for the

purchase of adult flu vaccine. With the funds, 200 doses of free flu vaccine will be available. “Vaccines for children are always free at the drive thru flu clinic, but without these funds there would not be free adult flu vaccine available,” says Community Health Supervisor Liz Whitaker. “Partner agencies are integral to pooling and providing resources for this community.”

### Department Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	0
Volunteer Hours	895.25
Health Data Requests	1
Quality Improvement Projects	0
Health Provider Releases	0
Media Contacts	25
Code/Policy Updates	0
Total Number of Clinic Appointments Provided	63

### Vital Records

Hospital Births Registered	89
Birth Certificates Issued	331
Deaths Registered	66
Death Certificates Issued	309

### Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	180
Referrals to Dentists	11

### Communicable Disease (CD)

CD Investigations	79
Confirmed CD Cases	17
STD's Reported	44
TB Tests	15
HIV Tests	2
Hepatitis C Tests	2
Syphilis Tests	1
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Tests	1

### Harm Reduction Activities

Syringe Exchange Participants	128
Syringes Distributed	8140
Naloxone Kits Distributed	10
HIV Education Participants	6

## KCPHD Operates Cle Elum Outreach Unit

The Outreach Unit is officially providing services in Cle Elum on every Wednesday from 2 to 4pm. The new outreach location is a mobile unit (provided by Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue) and operates on 505 Power Street behind Medic One.

On the first Wednesday there is HIV, STD, hepatitis C testing as well as a nurse on site.

The second and fourth Wednesday provide assistance with health insurance enrollment.

The third Wednesday has a variety of additional programs under Health Promotion such as Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) et cetera.

Every Wednesday provides services around syringe exchange and overdose education and prevention (Naloxone training).



## Two School Based Clinics Provide Free Vaccine

KCPHD held two mass vaccination clinics during the month of August. One clinic on the 22nd at Morgan Middle School and the second on the 29th at Cle Elum Roslyn School District.

KCPHD staff and volunteer nurses from the Medical Reserve Corp assisted with providing vaccines, free of charge, to children. On the

22nd, 22 kids were vaccinated and on the 29th 31 kids were vaccinated.

Free vaccines available included Tdap, HPV, meningococcal, and hepatitis B. "Schools require vaccinations and this is a service we try to provide for families with school-aged children to ensure kids are ready to go when school

begins," says Community Health Supervisor Liz Whitaker.

According to DOH, "just over 3/4 of Washington kids are fully protected. When immunization coverage isn't high enough, deadly disease such as whooping cough and measles can make a comeback."

## Front Desk Staff Sees Increase in Numbers

Some increases at KCPHD are predictable and the front desk staff has seen the typical increase of birth certificate requests for September and October.

"We see an increase in requests because students typically require them for employment and also to play sports," says Candi Blackford. "Customers also request this time of year,

because of insurance enrollment."

Anyone born in the state of Washington can request a birth certificate, either online and in person, in order to receive a certified copy.

Tracking vital records is a part of health surveillance that is coordinated locally along with the State Department of Health.

"Oftentimes people will ask if they can use the hospital supplied document, but unfortunately that is not a certified state document," says Ms. Blackford.

There is Revised Code of Washington (70.58), which covers vital records in order to maintain uniformity within the vital statistics system.

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## KCPHD Hires New Staff for Water Metering and Septic

For the first time in memorable history, KCPHD has two staff available for the On-site Sewage program. Environmental Health (EH) Specialist, Lucy Garcia will join EH Specialist Jesse Cox in the On-site Septic program. Ms. Garcia was hired September 10 and will work in both On-site Septic as well as Food Safety.



Lucy Garcia

In addition to two staff in the On-site Sewage program, KCPHD has also seen an expansion in the Water Resources Program. Samantha Cox was hired August 6 as the new Water Resources Program Tech. Ms. Cox works part-time and has joined Erin Moore, Water Resources Program (WRP) Coordinator, and is overseeing a new pilot project that will meter all new uses of groundwater for domestic purposes within the Yakima River Basin.

The WRP has free meters and already distributed over 10 to customers. To date, all meters have been distributed to Kittitas County Water Bank

Customers. “Every new use for domestic groundwater associated with a residential building permit will receive a meter, without charge, regardless of whether they are a Kittitas County Water Bank customer,” says Ms. Moore.



Samantha Cox

## Solid Waste Funding Returns to KCPHD

Previously, KCPHD received funding formerly known as the Coordinated Prevention Grants (CPG) through Ecology. In 2016, those funds were cut significantly (almost in half). Delays in state legislative decisions, delayed funding to local health jurisdictions, which resulted in maintaining just enough funding for solid waste facility inspections, but no resources to respond to solid waste complaints.

Funding has returned to KCPHD for solid waste and is now known as Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) program, which is still overseen by Ecology. LSWFA is used to enforce solid waste rules and regulations along with developing hazardous waste

plans or implementing programs like moderate risk waste and waste reduction and recycling program.

LSWFA will continue to fund the inspections of the nine solid waste facilities in Kittitas County along with some exempt solid waste facilities. The funding will provide staff training along with the capacity to respond to solid waste complaints.

Two staff, Melissa Schumaier and Will Schwab, will be participating in a week-long Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard

(HAZWOPER) training.

“Melissa Schumaier will take the program lead and has almost thirteen years of experience with Kittitas County Public Health,” states Interim Administrator Tristen Lamb. “Ms. Schumaier is looking forward to training and learning about a new field in Environmental Health.”



<b>Environmental Health (EH)</b>	
EH Complaints	20
<b>Living Environment</b>	
School Inspections	8
Pool Facility Permits Issued	15
Pool Facility Inspections	23
Camp & Park Inspections	13
<b>Solid Waste</b>	
Permits Issued	0
Inspections	9
<b>On-Site Septic</b>	
Installation Permits Issued	83
Finalized Permits	96
Site Evaluations	56
Inspections	88
<b>Food Safety</b>	
Permanent Food Establishment Applications	105
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	42
Food Handler’s Permits	866
Establishment Inspections	118
Temporary Event Inspections	99
<b>Drinking Water</b>	
Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	5
Group B Water System Inspections	1
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	43
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	75
Well Delegation Inspections	12
Well Site Inspections	4

? Did you know ?

- Did you know the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) makes the rules about which immunizations are required for school?
- RCW 28A.210.140 provides legal authority to the state board of health.
- SBOH bases recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- Required immunizations for school include hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, polio, Measles, Mumps, Varicella, etc.
- Some vaccines are not required to enter school, like HPV, Meningococcal, and Influenza.
- RCW 28A.210.080 does require that information is provided to school aged families in 6th grade about meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus disease, even though they are not required.
- Vaccination requirements are important tools for maintaining high vaccination rates (CDC).



## Public Hearing Finalizes Fee Schedule

Per Washington State Revised Code (RCW) 70.05.060, the local board of health establishes fee schedules for issuing or renewing licensee or permits. The only restrictions are that fees for services cannot exceed the cost of providing the service.

The Kittitas County Board of

Health (BOH) approved the updated 2018 fee schedule, but an error was made, which required a second public hearing to finalize the fee schedule.

Fees are reviewed and updated, annually, using the Kittitas County adopted fee methodology in order to

achieve full cost recovery for services.

The most recent fee schedules and policy are available via the county website.

## BOHAC Assists with HPV Vaccination Program Strategies

The Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) recently assisted KCPHD in determining strategies to increase HPV vaccination rates in the county, based on assessment results from a recent survey.

Survey data shows that the majority of respondents knew

about the risks associated with an HPV vaccination, but not the risks of HPV.

Based on the information, BOHAC strongly recommended that KCPHD work directly with medical providers in order to educate patients, directly, about the health problems caused by

HPV, which includes genital warts and cancer.



## CHIP Work with Health Network

In June 2018, the Kittitas County Health Network (KCHN) published a 5 year Community Health Improvement Plan based on the findings of the 2017-18 Community Health Assessment (CHA). The plan is focused on creating solutions to three strategic questions:

**Strategic Issue 1:** How can we improve the delivery of current community resources and

health care services?

**Strategic Issue 2:** How can we address social and upstream factors to improve health outcomes in our community?

**Strategic Issue 3:** How can we adequately sustain collaborative community health improvement efforts and increase cross sector communication?

The plan was officially implemented in September of

this year and will be monitored by the KCHN Leadership Council with assistance from the KCPHD Assessment Division.

