



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

AGENDA

REGULAR SESSION

September 16th, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Commissioners Hearing Room B102
Coupeville Annex Building

Meetings are available remotely. Those interested in attending the meetings by computer, tablet, or smartphone may use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/IslandCountyBOH> or by telephone: 1-323-433-2396 Meeting ID 971 2319 5885 Pass code: 626749

Call to Order: September 16th, 2025, Regular Session of the Island County Board of Health

Additions or Changes to the Agenda:

Approval of the Minutes:

- July 15th, 2025, Minutes

Public Input/Comments: The Board values the public's input. This time is set aside to hear from the public on subjects of a health-related nature, not on the scheduled agenda. All information given is taken under advisement. Unless emergent in nature, no action is taken. To ensure proper recording of comments, state your name and address clearly into the microphone. Limit your comment to two minutes. Public comment related to the public hearing should be reserved for that portion of the meeting.

Public Hearing:

- Resolution HD-02-2025, adopting the updated 2026 Food Program fee schedule. Presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director.
Public Hearing to review and adopt the 2026 fee schedule to improve efficiency and equity in Island County's Food Safety program— *Attachments*

ACTION ITEM: Motion to adopt Resolution HD-02-25, updating the 2026 Food Program Fee Schedule.

Presentation:

- Wastewater Proviso – Septic Solutions, presented by Heather Kortuem, Environmental Health Manager, and Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – 20 Minutes.

A presentation on the Wastewater Proviso report and a discussion relating to the septic solutions presented in the study. – *Attachment*

Presentation:

- Public Health Director's Report, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – *15 minutes*
A presentation on the uptick in COVID, recommendations from Island County's Health Officer, and a look at wastewater data. – *Attachment*

Public Health and Human Services Updates:

- Community Health Advisory Board Update, presented by Taylor Lawson, Public Health Deputy Director. – *10 minutes*
A discussion on membership renewals to the Community Health Advisory Board. – *Attachment*
ACTION: Motion to approve renewing a 3-year membership term for the following CHAB members: Erin Lavery-Mullins, Michele Aguilar-Kahrs, Charlotte McRill, Bob Uhrich, Melissa Frasch-Brown.

- Human Services Update, presented by Betsy Griffith, Outreach Behavioral Health Counselor. – *15 minutes*
An update on Youth Mental Health services available in Island County, with a focus on back-to-school wellness and resource connections – *Attachment*

Board Announcements:

Adjourn: The next regular session of the Island County Board of Health will be held on October 21st, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
July 15th, 2025

The Island County Board of Health met in Regular Session on July 15th, 2025, in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room #102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington.

Members present: Commissioner Melanie Bacon, Acting Chair

Commissioner Jill Johnson
Commissioner James Golder
Capt. Lund

Member present by video: Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair

Members Excused: Commissioner Ron Wallin
Mayor Ronnie Wright
(Dr. Howard Leibrand)

Others present: Dr. Shawn Morris
Mason Parizo
Melissa Overbury-Howland
Kathryn Clancy (Online)
Heather Kortuem (Online)
Jamie Hamilton

Taylor Lawson
Michelle McKee
Todd Appel
Lynda Austin
Shannon Fitzmaurice
Erin Lavery-Mullins

Call to order:

Commissioner Bacon called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Commissioner Golder was welcomed as an alternate to Commissioner Wallin to the board.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

The June 17th, 2025, Regular Session Minutes were approved unanimously.

Board member comment:

Public Input or Comment:

Presentation

Cheryn Weiser and Nic Wildeman, Interim Co-Executive Directors for Island Senior Resources, presented on Island Senior Resources: its funding, services, leadership, and projects, and the collaboration between the non-profit and a variety of other community entities, services, and programs.



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
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REGULAR SESSION
July 15th, 2025

Update:

Mason Parizo, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director, discussed community-based strategies for extreme heat and wildfire smoke preparedness.

Resolution:

Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, Todd Appel, Environmental Health Food Safety Specialist, and Michelle McKee, Environmental Health Specialist, presented on the Food Program Fee Schedule and requested the board to review a resolution updating the fee schedule to improve efficiency and equity in Island County's Food Safety program.

MOTION: The board unanimously approved to schedule a public hearing on the Food Program Fee Schedule Resolution at the Board of Health on September 16th, 2025.

Public Health Updates:

- Erin Lavery-Mullins, Community Health Advisory Board Chair, gave community health recommendations from the Community Health Advisory Board.
- Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, gave an update on the Public Health department.

Board Member Comments and Announcements:

The August 19th Board of Health Regular Session is cancelled.

The Regular Session adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

The next *Regular Session* of the Island County Board of Health will be held on September 16th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.

SUBMITTED BY:

Shawn Morris, Director of Public Health

Approved this 16th day of September, 2025.

BOARD OF HEALTH
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Janet St. Clair, Chair

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Health

FROM: Shawn Morris, Public Health Director

DATE: July 15, 2025

RE: Summary of Proposed 2026 Food Program Fee Schedule Updates

Overview of 2026 Fee Schedule Changes

The proposed 2026 food program fee updates are designed to align better with actual staff time and permitting complexity, create consistency with neighboring jurisdictions, and support fair, sustainable program funding. These updates reduce annual fees for permanent food establishments in all risk categories while introducing more specific and equitable plan review, special process, and temporary event fee categories.

Key Changes

- **Fee Reductions:** Annual fees for **permanent food establishments in Risk Categories 1–3** will decrease.
- **Fee Expansions:** **Plan Reviews** and **Temporary food event** fees will reflect permitting effort, with updated tiers based on risk, frequency, and event type.
- **New Fee Categories:**
 - **Special Process Permits** (e.g., sushi, vacuum packaging, fermentation)
 - **Endorsements for catering, commissary use, and lounges**
 - **Temporary Event**
 - **Plan Reviews**

Rationale

These changes reflect staff time involved in planning, inspection, and education for different categories of food establishments. Our team has completed outreach to food industry professionals and reviewed and integrated community feedback into the update process. Overall, reducing fees for permanent establishments supports our local food economy, while updating costs for time intensive plan reviews and temporary event permitting consistent with regional counties. This balanced, tiered approach supports fairness and sustainability in our permitting process.

Summary of Major Proposed Changes (green = decrease; blue = increase/new)

Category	2025 Fee	2026 Proposal	Comparable Fees (Snohomish / Skagit / Whatcom)
Risk 1 Annual Fee (restaurants and mobile units)	\$856-1040	\$412-\$567	\$420-\$635
Risk 2 Annual Fee (restaurants and mobile units)	\$978-1162	\$747-\$1,004	\$535-\$915
Risk 3 Annual Fee (restaurants and mobile units)	\$1,040-1467	\$1,030-\$1,313	\$615-\$1220
Temp Event – Risk 1 (1–21 days)	\$51: 1 day *6 2-21 days	\$41: 1 day \$52: 2-21	\$30–\$90 (tiered)
Temp Event – Risk 3 (1–21 days)	\$94: 1 day \$131/255/306 2-21 days	\$155: 1 day \$206: 2-21 days	\$189–\$327
Temp Event – Recurring (Risk 3)	Not Offered	\$309 (one location)	Similar structure; range \$255–\$620
Special Process	Not Offered	\$206	\$135–\$420
Change of Ownership	119/91 hr *12	\$155	\$195–\$430
Change of Menu	119/91 hr *12	\$361	\$375–\$430
New Establishment	119/91 hr *12	\$670	\$395–\$855

Attachments

1. Full proposed fee schedule update

* = Notes, Fees decrease- Green, Fee increase- Red, New fees- Blue	Current 2024	Proposed 2026 Fee	Snohomish County *1	Whatcom County	Skagit County
Food Establishments					
Risk Category 1 - *4					
Seating Capacity 0-30	856	412	635	462.47	285
Seating Capacity 31-100	918	515	635	462.47	420
Seating Capacity over 100	1040	567	635	462.47	420
Risk Category 2 -					
Seating Capacity 0-30	978	747	845	640.66	400
Seating Capacity 31-100	1040	901	845	640.66	535
Seating Capacity over 100	1162	1,004	915	640.66	535
Risk Category 3 -					
Seating Capacity 0-30	1040	1,030	1085	651.99	480
Seating Capacity 31-100	1345	1,210	1220	889.92	615
Seating Capacity over 100	1467	1,313	1220	889.92	615
Special Process Permit (HACCP- Sushi, Unattended Cooking, sous vide, Vacuum Package, Fermentation), Extra inspection per year (in addition to Risk Category) *8, 17		206			
Catering endorsement (in addition to risk category) *8, 17		129	215		135
Commissary Endorsement (in addition to risk category) *8, 17		129			
Lounge endorsement *8, 17		52	420	230.72	
Grocery Stores					
1-2 checkout stands	793	407	635	239.99	480
3 - 4 checkout stands	793	773	635	956.87	480
5 or more checkout stands	844	876	635	956.87	480
Meat/fish market (in addition to checkout stand) (Risk 2 or 3)	350	304	630/870 *2	230.72	135
Delicatessen (in addition to checkout stands)(Risk 3)	350	304	870	230.72	135
Bakery (in addition to checkout stands) (Risk 1 or 2)	350	304	420/630 *2	230.72	135

Produce Processing (in addition to checkout stands)(Risk 2) *17		304	630	230.72	135
Misc. Food Establishments					
Bed & Breakfast (Risk 1,2 or 3)	350	361	635	640.66	
Commissary Kitchen (Risk 1, 2 or 3)	468	618	1085	651.99	100
School Kitchen (Risk 2)	468	482	675	640.66	
Vending Machine / MicroMarket (Risk 1)	91	94	215		
Alcohol Beverage Service *10	350	304	420	413.03	
Plan Reviews *17					
Change of ownership	119/91 hr *12	155	430	194.67	250
Remodel / change of menu (3 hours & pre-opening inspection)	119/91 hr *12	361	430	394.49	375
New Establishment (includes 5 hours & pre-opening inspection)	119/91 hr *12	670	855	394.49	600
Change of ownership interim license fee		155			
Variance request - 1 hour then hourly rate		180	215		200
HACCP Plan Review- 5 hours then hourly rate		515	2100		500
Misc. Fees					
Annual Septic Review *13		103	215		
Late Fee 0-14 days late *14	122	15% of annual fee	355	10% of fee	
Late Fee 15-30 days late *14	122	35% of annual fee	355	Additional 10% of fee	
Reprinting of lost license	31	32			
Preapplication Conference	128	132	215		
Reinspection	133	206	215	382.13	
Administrative Conference (include re-opening inspection) *17		361	360	375.95	

Non-Profit Discount (must provide proof of tax exempt status) *11		75% of fee			
Operating without a license	Double	309	Double		
Hourly rate	91	170	215	142.14	
Temporary Events *5					
Temp Event/Farmers Market Organizer Permit *7		0	0	-	
Risk 1 Temporary Event (baked goods, popcorn, or similar products, hot dogs, Ice Cream)					
1 day	51	41	90	30.90	70
2-21 day Single event	91/204/26	52	90	61.80	70
Recurring event, one location		93	180	248.23	175
Recurring event, additional location		52	90	331.66	
Compliance Inspection		77			
Risk 2 Temporary Event					
1 Day		103	130	189.52	
2-21 day, single event		129	130	327.54	
Recurring Event, one location		258	270		
Recurring Event, additional location		103	140		
Risk 3 Temporary Events					
1 Day	94	155	235	189.52	155
	131/255/3				
2-21 day, single event	06	206	235	327.54	155
Recurring Event, one location		309	620	495.43	255
Recurring Event, additional location		155	310	663.32	
Umbrella Permit for single event, up to 10 participants (first 3 hours)- Judged cooking event				135.96/22.6	
		309	590	6 each *3	300
Samples only, Single event	34	35	65	94.76	60
Samples only, Recurring Event		81	130	94.76	

Temporary Event Late Fee (if submitted 7- 14 days prior to event)	34	25% of fee	65		
Temporary Event Late Fee (if submitted 2-7 days prior to event)	34	50% of fee	65		
Education					
Food Handlers Card	12	10			
Re-Issue Food Handlers Card	7	7			
Educational Class- (up to 10 people for 2 hour class)					
Waived by grant funding if available		103			
Educational Class extra people		12/pp			
CFPM Class (minimum 10 people), includes book and exam *15		151 per person			
CFPM Retest Fee/Test Proctor *16		52			

Definitions:

Risk Category 1-Operations may include:

- Establishments that serve, sell, repackage, or store only non-TCS foods as required by Code OR
- Establishments that serve coffee drinks with TCS ingredients OR
- Establishments serving non-TCS beverages with ice and/or are ware washing

Risk Category 2-Operations may include:

- Establishments that serve, sell, prepare, or stores TCS foods (no cooling) OR
- Establishments that are preparing blender drinks w/TCS ingredients OR
- Establishments that are serving ice cream (soft serve or scooped).

Risk Category 3-Operations may include:

- Food establishments with complex preparation including cooking, cooling, and/or reheating of prepared foods OR
- Food establishments that prepare foods using a specialized process OR
- Food establishments that prepare TCS foods >24 hours in advance.

Alcohol Beverage Service- Establishment that serves alcohol in reusable serving containers requiring ware washing.

Bed & Breakfast- 3-8 rooms in an owner occupied home serving only breakfast to overnight guests (Risk 1, 2 or 3)

Caterer-Establishment contracts with a client to prepare a specific menu and amount of food in an approved commissary kitchen for service to the client's guests or customers at a different location. Billed as appropriate FSE with no seating (Caterer with their own event center will be billed as appropriate FSE with seating)

Catering Endorsement A FSE that offers off-site catering services

Commissary endorsement-Any FSE rented by another licensed food establishment that provides any of the following services: food storage, food preparation, ware washing, disposal of wastewater or access to fresh water.

Commissary kitchen-Any licensed kitchen rented by a licensed food establishment that provides any of the following services: food storage, food preparation, ware washing, disposal of wastewater or access to fresh water.

FSE- Food Service Establishment

Grocery -A retail location that sells only prepackaged foods (Non-TCS & TCS) from an approved source

Lounge Endorsement Separate area where alcohol beverage is served at a bar instead of table service.

Mobile Food Unit-a readily moveable, plumbed, self-contained food service establishment. This includes mobile food trucks, trailers, and carts. All mobile units must have a commissary kitchen (unless they meet the exemption criteria in RCW 43.20.148), and commissary agreements need to be submitted. Billed as appropriate FSE *9.

Produce Processor separate area where produce is washed, cut, and/or packaged.

Temporary, Single Event- Operating at a fixed location, with a fixed menu, for not more than twenty-one consecutive days in conjunction with a single, approved event or celebration, such as a fair or festival

Temporary, Recurring event, one location-Operating not more than three days a week at a fixed location, with a fixed menu, in conjunction with an approved, recurring, organized event, such as a farmers market

Vending Machine/ Micro MarketAn unmanned retail space where individuals can purchase TCS food & beverages from an approved source.

Notes-*

Note 1- Snohomish County imposes a \$215 annual fee for each establishment that is on septic. This fee is included in each category.

Note 2- Additions to grocery stores are billed according to Risk so a risk 1 would be \$420, risk 2 would be \$630, and a risk 3 would be \$870

Note 3- Whatcom County imposes a fee on the organizer and on each cook off participant

Note 4- Low risk establishments- we took all the categories that were for low risk establishments (bakery, espresso stand, Candy Kitchen) and consolidated it into a Risk 1 category. We averaged that fee and then looked at how that compared to surrounding counties.

Note 5-Temporary events- Currently we permit temporary events very differently from any other county so we would like to change to something closer to what other counties do and to allow us to permit according to risk. Most of our 1 day permits are for small events, and then we have larger events that go multiple days. Reoccurring events would be the farmers markets or the music in the park. If a vendor is at the multiple farmers markets, they would get a break at the additional locations.

Note 6- Current Temporary Event fees are charged at 2 day, 3 day and 4-8 day, limiting us for permitting of events that occur over 8 days long (i.e.- farmers markets, festivals and other reoccurring events)

Note 7- Temporary Event Coordinator- The Coordinator is responsible to provide a list of approved vendors for the event at least 30 day prior to the event. Requiring this application (with no fee assigned) would allow this department time and resources to ensure that all vendors are appropriately licensed. It would ensure that the vendors are approved by the organizer and that the organizer has the required permits and infrastructure. Most surrounding counties have this.

Note 8- Establishments with these additional services would require additional inspection time with the review of either additional space or additional documentation requirements. We do not know how much revenue that this fee will generate until the 2025 renewal period.

Note 9- Currently, mobile units pay the same fee, no matter what they serve/prepare. So, a mobile unit that is only making doughnuts or scooping ice cream is paying the same amount as the food truck that is making complex, high risk foods. On the other side, a mobile unit that is serving/Preparing high risk food is paying substantially less than the brick and mortar establishment serving the same items.

Note 10- Our current fee schedule lists this item, but previous Public Health Director advised staff to not license these facilities even though Washington State Food Code requires Local Health Jurisdictions to license and Department of Health liaison questioned our practice of not performing these duties. The Food Code defines beverage as a food, therefore businesses that are beverage related, such as wine tasting rooms, tap rooms, and distillery tasting rooms are required by the Food Code to get a permit. We propose to move these establishments to Risk 1 Food Establishment.

Note 11- Current fee schedule has a nonprofit annual license fee regardless of the risk category or size of establishment. We propose to move the establishments to their proper risk category with 0-30 seats and provide a nonprofit discount of 50% or 75%. That discount would allow us to provide that to nonprofits that are doing temporary events as well and annually licensed establishments.

Note 12- Current plan review process is that any plan review pays an initial fee of \$119 and then is billed at the end of the review for the hours used and the inspection. All other jurisdictions charge a flat fee for a certain number of hours. We have received feedback that our current process is difficult for establishments because they don't know what the cost is going to be. The proposed fee would allow most of the establishments to just pay the initial fee and only those establishments that are difficult or complex would pay an additional fee.

Note 13- Approximately 32% of our establishments are on an onsite wastewater disposal systems. Each year, the onsite department must review the annual inspection and work with the owner to correct any deficiencies in the system. At this point, all establishments are paying for this review in their annual fee. We propose to impose that cost on just the establishments that require that extra review.

Note 14- In the past, the late fee was 50% of the annual fee. At the last fee schedule update (I believe it was 2019), the late fee was changed to \$103. The plan (by the then Environmental Health Director) is that we would not be "chasing" establishments for their renewal fees. They would be assessed the late fee and then they would be closed if they don't pay. That is not what ended up happening. We usually contact the establishments twice before they are late and 2-3 more time after they are late before their licenses expire. We then contact them at least once before we notify them that they must closed as they are not licensed. This change also resulted in a large increase in the number of establishments that were late (the last 2 years, over 50% of the establishments were late). We propose to go back to the higher late fee but have a lower amount if they are only 2 weeks late vs 2-4 weeks late.

Note 15- CFPM- Certified Food Protection Manager class was required by the state as of March 2023. Most counties rely on the online classes & testing that are available through multiple vendors. We have an instructor/proctor that is certified to administer this class. This allows the people that wish to attend an in-person class to attend our training.

Note 16- CFPM Retest/Proctoring- The Certified Food Protection Manager retest/proctoring would allow us to administer a retest (if someone failed their previous exam) or to proctor a test for someone that attended an online class but does not want or cannot meet the requirements of an online test.

Note 17-We don't anticipate Special Process Permit, Produce Processing, and Administrative conferences to raise a significant amount of revenue but we do expect an increase in revenue from Plan Reviews.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH
OF
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF ISLAND COUNTY BOARD)
OF HEALTH ADOPTING THE UPDATED)
2026 FOOD PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE)**

BOH RESOLUTION: HD-02-25

WHEREAS, the Island County Board of Health is empowered pursuant to RCW70.05.060 to establish fee schedules for health services, and

WHEREAS, the Island County Board of Health is vested with the authority to establish and approve fee schedules for public health programs within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Director, on July 15, 2025, presented to the Board a summary of proposed updates to the food program fee schedule for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2026 fee updates are intended to more accurately align program fees with the actual staff time and complexity required for permitting and oversight; and

WHEREAS, a primary goal of these changes is to support a fair and sustainable funding model for the essential services provided by the food program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed schedule includes a reduction in annual fees for permanent food establishments across all risk categories, offering relief to local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health department has completed outreach to food industry professionals and has integrated community feedback into the proposed fee structure; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health finds that adopting this balanced, tiered approach supports fairness, sustainability, and the local food economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

1. The Board of Health hereby adopts the 2026 Food Program Fee Schedule as presented by the Public Health Director.
2. This new fee schedule shall supersede all prior food program fee schedules.
3. The fees shall become effective on January 1, 2026.

Resolution HD-02-25 is ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025, following public hearing.

**BOARD OF HEALTH OF ISLAND COUNTY
WASHINGTON**

Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair

Commissioner Jill Johnson, Member

Commissioner Melanie Bacon, Member

Commissioner Ron Wallin, Member

Mayor Ronnie Wright, Member

ATTEST:

Dr. Shawn Morris
Public Health Director

BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH
OF ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF ISLAND COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH ADOPTING THE
UPDATED 2026 FOOD PROGRAM FEE
SCHEDULE

BOH RESOLUTION HD-02-25

The Island County Board of Health has reviewed the proposed document and sets it for a public hearing on Sept 16th, 2025. The Hearing will begin no earlier than 1 p.m. and will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 1 NE 6th St., Rm 102 (B), Coupeville, WA.

APPROVED this 18th day of July, 2025.

BOARD OF HEALTH
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON


Janet St. Clair, Chair



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Board of Health

On September 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., the Island County Board of Health will hold a public hearing at the Island County Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room #102B), located in the Island County Annex Building, 1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington, to discuss and pass Resolution HD-02-25 regarding the Food Program Fee Schedule.

The full text of the proposed Resolution may be obtained by calling 360-679-7350 during normal office hours, or visiting <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/1068/Island-County-Food-Safety-Program-Update>. The public hearing will be available to attend virtually at: <https://tinyurl.com/IslandCountyBOH> or by telephone: 1-323-433-2396 Meeting ID 971 2319 5885 Pass code: 626749.

You may also submit written comments via U.S. mail at the address below or email public comment to foodsafety@islandcountywa.gov.

Melissa Overbury
Clerk to the Island County Board of Health
1 N.E. 7th St.
Coupeville, WA 98239
360-678-7860

Onsite Wastewater Management

Island Region Innovative Solutions Report

Island County, Washington



Interweaving issues

- Water quality
- Need for affordable housing
- Groundwater legacy and protection
- Climate resilience
- Sea level rise
- Development pressure
- Local, regional, state regulation
- Industry capacity / maturity
- Financial barriers

Key Stakeholders

- Regulators: County & State
- Wastewater Professionals: designers, installers, service providers
- Design / Development Community: architects, housing developers, contractors

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

- **Harold Leverenz, PhD, PE** – UC Davis Researcher and Biohabitats Senior Engineer
- **Sara Heger, PhD** – Researcher and Professor at University of Minnesota
- **Tristian Bounds, PE** – Director of Innovation at Orenco Systems / Principal at Regen AEC
- **Dendra Best** – Executive Director of WasteWater Education 501(c)3
- **Pat Lando** – Executive Director of Recode & US Green Building Council Technical Specialist
- **Ben Kele** – Director at Arris
- **Michael Brett, PhD** – Civil Engineering Professor at University of Washington
- **Victor d'Amato, PE** – Supervisor, Viable Utilities Unit at North Carolina Dept. of Environ. Quality
- **Barton Kirk, PE** – Principal at Ethos Collaborative
- **Erica Duncan** – Manager, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- **Tim Pasakarnis** – Water Resource Analyst at Cape Cod Commission
- **Lynn Schneider** – Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Program Supervisor, King County Washington
- **Jamie Heisig-Mitchell** – Chief of Technical Services at HRSD

Comprehensive Analysis

- Compounding Challenges / Barriers
- Regulatory Framework
- Effluent Limits
- Nitrogen Reduction
- Resource Recovery / Source Separation
- Onsite Wastewater Best Practices
- County Management
- Financial Assistance

Findings / Recommendations

- County Code
- Technical
- Management
- Funding

County Code

- Remove WAC 246-272B requirement for systems between 1,000 and 3,500 GPD
- Adopt WAC-272A-0320
- Remove the design flow of 150 gpd per bedroom requirement and use 120 gpd per bedroom guidance in WAC-272A-0320
- Do not require a public entity to manage, operate and maintain Community OSS
- Create an OSS requirement matrix
- Remove bedroom affidavit allowance from 8.07D.140(5)(v)(4) to reduce number of nitrogen overloading parcels

Technical

- Collaborate to evaluate public domain add on denitrification technologies, such as woodchip reactors and subsurface flow constructed wetlands
- Advocate for the WA DOH to recognize commonly used nitrogen reduction components / strategies to enhance registered Treatment Level N Systems
- Advocate for the WA DOH to maintain additional nitrogen reduction credit based on soil type for certain types of shallow dispersal systems
- Advocate for the WA DOH to consider registering more public domain technology to the Treatment Level N technology list

Technical

- Advocate for the WA DOH to consider registering public domain technology, such as phytoremediation as a nitrogen reduction enhancing technology
- Incorporate source separation technology into the comprehensive toolbox of solutions provided to stakeholders in Island County
- Actively collaborate with WA DOH as they begin to roll out the up-and-coming risk-based water quality standards and non-potable water supply rules
- Advocate for the WA DOH to consider registering more public domain technology to the Treatment Level N technology list

Technical

- Work with dense communities in shoreline communities and/or in areas with higher nitrates in groundwater to organize and develop cluster approaches to legacy OSS issues
- Partner with San Juan County, the only other Sole-Source Aquifer community in the Puget Sound, to work together on piloting new advanced treatment, source separation and/or resource recovery approaches for OSS and COSS
- Look for potential ways to collaborate with other unique communities around the country working through complex onsite wastewater issues

Management

- Standardize Data Management
- Expand Homeowner Self-Inspection Programs
- Grow Financial Assistance Programs
- Promote Inter/Intra-County Collaboration
- Sustain and Expand Continuous Public Education
- Regularly Review Regulatory Frameworks

Island County Board of Health

Director's Report

September 16, 2025

Overview

This briefing provides an update on priority items for Public Health. We recently presented our annual budget, incorporating FPHS reductions while navigating changes to federal funding. This report outlines key developments, including state & federal public health changes and respiratory illness guidance.

Key Updates

Budget Updates

Annual Budget Development

We presented our annual departmental budget to the BOCC on August 14. A summary of our budget is included in the table below. Overall, we developed a balanced budget that supports our current team members and priority projects, utilizing a mix of local, state, and federal revenue.

Division	Revenue	Expense
<u>Administration</u> : 7.5 positions plus health officer contract; department-wide operational costs; communications contracts	\$1,845,500	\$1,845,264
<u>Assessment & PHEPR</u> : 3 positions + supervisory capacity; CHIP contracts	\$326,771	\$326,378
<u>Natural Resources</u> : 8 positions plus manager; multiple contracts; testing costs	\$1,555,252	\$1,549,872
<u>Environmental Public Health</u> : 23 positions (incl 3 supervisors) plus manager; multiple contracts; testing costs	\$3,069,035	\$3,061,392
<u>Community Health</u> : 12.5 positions (incl 1 supervisor) plus manager; multiple contracts	\$1,765,382	\$1,760,051
Totals	\$8,561,940	\$8,542,957

Public Health Funding – State and Federal Impacts Tracking

Funding and Source	Impact	Amount
FPHS, State Funding	Reduction, confirmed	-150K annually
Public Health Emergency Prep, CDC	Receiving full allocation	No change
Nat'l Estuary Program for ILIO, EPA	Received full allocation	No change
Medicaid Administrative Claiming	Monitoring	No change
WIC, USDA Funding	Budget Reduction	-70K annually
Maternal Child Health Block Grant, CDC	Receiving full allocation	Potential reduction

Recent Consolidated Contract Amendment Summary

Consolidated Contract CLH32052, Amendment 7, with the Washington State Department of Health adds statements of work for Foundational Public Health Services and the Office of Resiliency & Health Security (PHEP). It amends Statements of Work for the Injury & Violence Prevention-Overdose Data to Action in States program, the DCHS- ELC COVID-19 Response Program, and the Maternal & Child Health Block Grant. Am#7 increases allocations by \$2,303,989, bringing the total to \$5,948,386.

- **COVID-19 Response:** Provides supplemental funding to ensure adequate culturally and linguistically responsive testing, investigation and contract tracing resources.
- **Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS):** Provides our annual allocation of FPHS, including the same funding as the year prior apart from a \$150,000 reduction for Water Resources Capacity.
- **Injury & Violence Prevention-Overdose Data to Action:** Allocates funds to implement overdose prevention strategies under the CDC Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) Cooperative Agreement for Island County Human Services.
- **Maternal & Child Health Block Grant:** Supports local interventions for maternal child health improvement. We are receiving our full allocation of \$55,804 for 10/01/25-9/30/26.
- **Office of Resiliency & Health Security (PHEP):** Establishes funding to strengthen our capacity and capability around the Public Health Response Readiness Framework (CDC) to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health threats and emergencies.

Case Coordination Approach

Public health is working to coordinate escalating environmental health cases across other permitting departments, to bring joint recommendations forward to the BOCC. Our case coordination team is meeting quarterly to discuss priorities across Public Health, Planning, and Public Works, with involvement from Island County Sheriff's Office and Prosecuting Attorney's Office. This approach helps focus limited resources on the highest priority violations, prioritizing cases impacting health and safety.

Communicable Disease

Current Respiratory Virus Vaccination Recommendations

We're navigating a challenging 2025-26 vaccine rollout due to conflicting recommendations, coupled with limited FDA approval for the new vaccine. Our team is developing a flexible communications plan to keep the community informed of these challenges.

Updates for Fall COVID-19 Vaccinations

We're navigating a challenging 2025-26 vaccine rollout due to conflicting recommendations, coupled with limited FDA approval for the new vaccine. Our team is developing a flexible communications plan to keep the community informed of these challenges.

- In August, the federal [Food & Drug Administration \(FDA\) approved updated \(2025-2026\) COVID-19 vaccines](#) but placed limits on who can receive them.
- The CDC's newly appointed [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) is scheduled to meet in September to make its recommendations for updated COVID-19 vaccines.
- On Sept. 3, the governors of Washington, California, and Oregon [announced an alliance](#) to provide residents with consistent public health guidance in response to changes at the CDC.

According to Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson, the three states are “beginning the process to provide evidence-based unified recommendations to their residents regarding who should receive immunizations and to help ensure the public has access and credible information for confidence in vaccine safety and efficacy.”

- On Sept 4, the Washington Secretary of Health issued [a statewide standing order for COVID-19 vaccines](#). This authorizes qualified health care professionals to vaccinate individuals aged 6 months and older, including pregnant persons, who do not have contraindications to the vaccine. People can take the standing order to pharmacies to receive a vaccine. [DOH is also sharing guidance on COVID-19 vaccine insurance coverage](#). Sharing the current guidelines for fall immunizations below, though these will change with the upcoming 25-26 recommendations.

Covid-19 Vaccines 24-25 Recommendations

- WA-DOH recommends that everyone 6 months and older, including people who are pregnant, stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines. This recommendation is supported by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) guidelines.
- The CDC recommends a 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine for most adults ages 18 and older. The CDC states that parents of children aged 6 months to 17 years should discuss the benefits of vaccination with a healthcare provider.
- It is especially important to get your 2024–25 COVID-19 vaccine if you are aged 65 and older, are at high risk of severe COVID-19, or have never received a COVID-19 vaccine.
- If you need a vaccine, contact your regular healthcare provider or a local pharmacy. Be aware that availability of current COVID-19 vaccines is limited. Most insurance plans continue to cover COVID-19 vaccination.
- [Learn more from WA-DOH here.](#)

Influenza (flu) Vaccines

- For the 2025-2026 flu season, CDC currently recommends seasonal flu vaccination with single-dose formulations. Everyone 6 months and older, with rare exceptions, should get a flu vaccine every season.
- [Learn more from CDC here.](#)

Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV) Vaccines and Antibodies

- There are monoclonal antibodies that prevent severe RSV disease and are recommended for infants. Nirsevimab is also recommended for young children at increased risk for severe RSV.
- Pregnant women should get a single dose of the maternal RSV vaccine (Pfizer's Abrysvo) during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy to protect their baby from severe RSV disease.
- CDC recommends a single dose of any FDA-licensed RSV vaccine for all adults ages 75 and older and adults ages 50–74 at increased risk of severe RSV. Adults who have already received one dose (including last year) should not receive another dose at this time.
- [Learn more from CDC here.](#)

Island County Respiratory Virus Trends

Based on wastewater-based epidemiology (WAWBE) data, and emergency department (ED) visit data, we are currently experiencing an upswing in COVID-19. As we head into respiratory virus season, we are sharing prevention resources with our partners in school districts, long-term care facilities, and healthcare, as well as guidance with community members through social media.

Percent of ED Visits in North Sound Region

Last updated: August 17-23, 2025

COVID %	Flu %	RSV %
Moderate: 1.7 Below 2.9% Threshold	Low: 0.2 Below 1.1% Threshold	Low: 0.0 Below 0.4% Threshold

Island County Wastewater Viral Activity

Last updated: August 29, 2025

Covid-19	Flu	RSV
High - Oak Harbor	Low - Oak Harbor	Low - Oak Harbor
High - Stanwood	Low - Stanwood	Low - Stanwood
Low - Coupeville	Low - Coupeville	Low - Coupeville

- View statewide wastewater viral data and track trends from [WA-DOH here](#).

About Wastewater-Based Epidemiology

Wastewater-based epidemiology describes the process of measuring a pathogen's level in wastewater at participating wastewater sites. In Island County, we have wastewater sampling setup with WA-DOH in Oak Harbor and Coupeville. Sampling is also completed in Stanwood.

How can the results be used?

It is most important to track the trends of wastewater concentrations, for example whether the concentrations are increasing, decreasing, or staying flat. We can use this data for responding to increased disease activity through public messaging, resource allocation, and other efforts. Individual community members can use results to make decisions about personal risk and behavior.

Community messaging to share:

As we enjoy the last days of summer in Island County, it's a good time to plan for staying healthy through the fall and winter. For our older community members, taking simple steps to protect your health is key. Here are easy ways to prepare for cold & flu season:

- **Stay Up to Date:** One of the best ways to protect yourself from serious illness is by staying up to date on your recommended vaccines. It is especially important to get your 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine if you are ages 65 and older. Find a convenient vaccination location near you:
<https://islandcountywa.gov/1072/Immunizations>
- **Stay Informed:** Knowing the level of respiratory illness in our community can help you make the best decisions for your health. You can follow local trends on our activity page:
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/1015/Current-Respiratory-Illness-Activity>



Island County Public Health

Shawn Morris, ND - Director

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Email: Publichealth@islandcountywa.gov | www.islandcountywa.gov

September 16th, 2025

TO: Island County Board of Health

FROM: Taylor Lawson, MPH; Deputy Director

RE: **Community Health Advisory Board Recommendation: Membership Renewal**

It is with full support from the Island County Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB), that I present to the Island County Board of Health, the formal recommendation to renew 3-year membership terms for the following CHAB members:

- Erin Lavery-Mullins, Current CHAB Chair representing the Health Care Access & Quality sector
- Michele Aguilar-Kahrs, Current CHAB Co-Chair representing the Business Philanthropy sector
- Charlotte McRill, representing the Health Care Access & Quality sector
- Bob Uhrich, representing the Physical Environment sector
- Melissa Frasch-Brown, representing the Community Stakeholder sector

These members have shown an unwavering commitment to serve our community, to protect public health, and to uphold the responsibilities of CHAB. Each member listed above is integral to the success of CHAB and the work that CHAB does to support our local Board of Health.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor J. Lawson".

Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director

Youth Mental Health Island County

Health Providers

Pediatric Associates of Whidbey Island
(360) 240-4000 (Priority to referrals through WhidbeyHealth primary care providers)

WhidbeyHealth Behavioral Health
(360) 240-4000 (Priority to referrals through WhidbeyHealth primary care providers)

SeaMar Behavioral Health
31640 SR 20 Suite 1
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
P: 360.679.7676

Compass Behavioral Health
20 NW 1st St, Coupeville, WA 98239
(360) 678-5555

Compass Wyse (wraparound programming with individual therapy, mentoring, family therapy and other supports) referral line
425 349-8337

Sunrise Behavioral Health services
530 NE Midway Blvd Oak Harbor 98277 +1 (360) 544-3800

Other Resources

Children's hospital referral services
<https://www.seattlechildrens.org/healthcare-professionals/access-services/partnership-access-line/washingtons-mental-health-referral-service-children-teens/mental-health-providers/>

www.Charliehealth.com
1 (866) 695-2714
Virtual services for youth (11+); individual, family, and IOP services. Accept Apple Health and private insurance. This resource has been expedient in starting new services.

<https://openpathcollective.org/>
Open Path Psychotherapy Collective is a nonprofit nationwide network of mental health professionals dedicated to providing in-office and online mental health care—at a steeply reduced rate—to clients in need.

Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) often have support in connecting to behavioral health services. Contact your employer to see if they have an available plan.

Crisis Text Line
Text HOME to 741741

WA TEENLINK
teenlink.org (live chat)
866.833.6546

Trevor Project Lifeline
This 24-hour hotline focuses on supporting young people in crisis who are LGBTQIA2S+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, two-spirit, and more). Teens and young adults ages 13-24 can call 988 and choose option 3 to reach the Trevor Project Lifeline. You can also chat online or text 678-678.

National Maternal Mental Health Hotline
1-833-TLC-MAMA (1-833-852-6262)
24/7, free, confidential hotline for pregnant and new moms in English and Spanish
Contacta a la Línea Nacional de Asistencia a la Salud Mental Materna 24/7

<https://starproviders.org/>
<https://mindfultherapygroup.com/>

www.askhys.net/Hys/HysInformation - Healthy Youth Survey

*2025 is Healthy Youth Survey time! Students will be offered the survey October 6th through 24th, 2025. Please encourage all involved to participate for the best understanding of needs in our community.