



# ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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## AGENDA REGULAR SESSION

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 1:00 p.m.  
Commissioners Hearing Room B102  
Coupeville Annex Building

Meetings are available remotely. Those interested in attending by computer, tablet, or smartphone may use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/IslandCountyBoardOfHealth> or by telephone: 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID 968 8560 0147 Pass code: 485847

***Call to Order:*** January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Regular Session of the Island County Board of Health

***Additions or Changes to the Agenda:***

***Approval of the Minutes:***

- December 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 a public hearing should be reserved for that portion of the meeting.

***Proclamation:***

- Proclamation recognizing January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, as Maternal Health Awareness Day, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – 10 minutes

A review of Resolution HD-01-26, a proclamation to recognize January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, as Maternal Health Awareness Day in Island County. – *Attachment.*

*Action: Review and approve the resolution*

***Presentation:***

- 2026 Legislative Report, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – 10 minutes

Review the 2026 Legislative Report, authorize the ratification of early session testimony, and delegate staff authority to sign in on priority bills for the remainder of the legislative session. – *Attachment.*

*Action: Review and approve authorization*

***Nomination:***

- Community Health Advisory Board Member Nomination, presented by Taylor Lawson, Public Health Deputy Director. – 5 minutes

A discussion on Melissa Frasch-Brown's membership renewal to the Community Health Advisory Board. – *Attachments*

*MOTION: Motion to approve renewing a 3-year membership term for CHAB member Melissa Frasch-Brown*

***Presentation:***

- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding changes, presented by Emily Wildeman, Housing Program Manager, and Lynda Austin, Human Services Director. – *15 minutes*

A discussion on how new federal guidelines from HUD will impact the future development of Permanent Supportive Housing. – *Attachments*

***Presentation:***

- Child Fatality Review, presented by Jen Krenz, Prevention Services Supervisor, and Megan Works, Community Health Manager. – *15 minutes*

A presentation and discussion on Child Fatality Review planning and partner agencies, with the goal of preventive interventions. – *Attachment*

***Presentation:***

- Childhood Vaccine Planning, presented by Jen Krenz, Prevention Services Supervisor, and Megan Works, Community Health Manager. – *15 minutes*

A discussion on planning an approach to launch mobile vaccination clinics and apply for the Childhood Vaccine Program (CVP). – *Attachment*

***Presentation:***

- Community Health Improvement Plan, presented by Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Public Health. – *10 minutes*

An update on the Community Health Improvement Plan

***Presentation:***

- Policy Docket Input, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – *15 minutes*

A review of the draft policy docket for Board of Health member ranking. – *Attachment*

***Public Health Update***

- Public Health Director's Executive Report, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – *5 minutes – Attachment*
- Community Health Advisory Board update, presented by Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Public Health. – *5 minutes*

***Board Announcements:***

***Adjourn:*** The next regular session of the Island County Board of Health will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.



# **ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR SESSION**

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Island County Board of Health met in Regular Session on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room #102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Coupeville, Washington.

#### **Members present:**

Commissioner Melanie Bacon (Acting Chair)  
Commissioner Ron Wallin  
Capt. Lund

#### **Member present by video:**

Commissioner St. Clair, (Chair), Mayor Ron Wright, Dr. Howard Leibrand

#### **Members Excused:**

Commissioner Jill Johnson

#### **Others present:**

Dr. Shawn Morris	Taylor Lawson
Michelle McKee (online)	Jen Schmitz (online)
Melissa Overbury-Howland	Heather Kortuem (online)
Jamie Hamilton (online)	Jen Krenz (online)

#### **Call to order:**

Commissioner Bacon called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

A motion to approve the agenda was approved unanimously.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Regular Session Minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Public Input or Comment:**

None

#### **Board member comment:**

Commissioner Ron Wallin informed the Board that he will be retiring from the Board of Health and Hospital Board; a new representative from WhidbeyHealth will be voted on and presented to the Board of Health in the new year.

#### **Resolution**

Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, presented Resolution HD-03-2025, amending the late fee structure of the Food Fee Schedule to reflect a flat 15%.

ACTION TAKEN: The board unanimously approved Resolution HD-03-2025, providing a small amendment in phrasing in Section 2.

#### **Community Health Advisory Board**

Dr. Shawn Morris, Director, and Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Island County Public Health, discussed Bob Ulrich's membership renewal to the Community Health Advisory Board.



# **ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

## **REGULAR SESSION**

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: The board unanimously approved a motion to renew a 3-year membership term for CHAB member Bob Ulrich.

### **Presentation:**

Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, presented a Year in Review report, outlining the accomplishments of the Board of Health in 2025.

### **Presentation:**

Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, presented the Board of Health Policy Process to coordinate Board policy action by creating a foundational policy framework.

ACTION TAKEN: The board unanimously approved a motion to adopt the Policy Process Framework and Standing Agenda Framework.

### **Public Health and Human Services Updates:**

Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, presented an Executive Director's Report.

### **Board Member Comments and Announcements:**

- Commissioner Bacon nominated Commissioner St. Clair as Chair to the Board of Health for 2026. The board accepted the nomination.

The Regular Session adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

The next *Regular Session* of the Island County Board of Health will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.

SUBMITTED BY:

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Shawn Morris, Director of Public Health

Approved this \_20<sup>th</sup>\_ day of \_January\_, 2026.

BOARD OF HEALTH  
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Janet St. Clair, Chair

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

**PROCLAMATION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF )  
HEALTH, WASHINGTON, RECOGNIZING JANUARY ) BOH RESOLUTION: HD-01-26  
23, 2026, AS MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY )**

**WHEREAS**, Island County recognizes that the health and well-being of our children and families are the highest priority of our local government, serving as the foundational bedrock of a thriving, resilient community; and

**WHEREAS**, maternal health represents a critical continuum of care that begins before pregnancy and extends through the postpartum period, impacting the long-term physical and emotional health of both the parent and the child; and

**WHEREAS**, Island County is committed to investing in the health of our families to support the vitality of our shared future, ensuring every child can reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, our dedicated County staff provide essential support through nursing care for new families, parent and family support, behavioral health outreach, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, ensuring no family walks their journey alone; and

**WHEREAS**, we are fortunate to have a strong network of local providers, including our local hospital and pediatricians, who provide essential medical care to safeguard the health of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the service of early childhood support organizations, school and childhood professionals, and the Help Me Grow Care Directory provides a vital safety net, connecting families with the resources they need to give their children the best possible start in life;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Island County Board of Health hereby designates **January 23, 2026**, as **Maternal Health Awareness Day** in Island County.

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that the Board:

1. **Honors** the work of our public health nurses, community health workers, WIC team, human services professionals, and behavioral health specialists who provide the compassionate care necessary for families to thrive.
2. **Recognizes** the critical role of our local medical community, community-based organizations, and hospital district in providing essential care and services.
3. **Encourages** all residents to support local families, acknowledging that it takes a dedicated community to raise healthy children and build a healthy future.

**APPROVED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

**BOARD OF HEALTH OF ISLAND COUNTY  
WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Jill Johnson, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Melanie Bacon, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Ronnie Wright, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital Commissioner, Member

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Shawn Morris  
Public Health Director

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Island County Board of Health Proclaims January 23 as Maternal Health Awareness Day

**COUPEVILLE, WA** — The Island County Board of Health has officially named January 23, 2026, as **Maternal Health Awareness Day**. This resolution highlights the county's commitment to making the health of children and families a top priority.

Island County believes that a healthy future starts with healthy parents. To support this, the county provides several key services:

- **Nursing Care:** Nurses visit new parents to provide support and care connections.
- **WIC:** Local WIC programs through Island County and the Navy help families get healthy food and the care they need.
- **Parent Family Services:** Human Services offers outreach to build community and help parents and families.

The county also thanks local partners, including Island County pediatricians, our hospital district, and Partners for Young Children, and all the dedicated community organizations service local families. We are also thankful for the Island County Help Me Grow Care Directory, which helps parents find the resources they need.

**Contact:** Island County Board of Health; email: [m.overbury@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:m.overbury@islandcountywa.gov)

# Social Media Post

## Facebook / Instagram

🏠 The Island County Board of Health has officially named January 23 as Maternal Health Awareness Day.

We believe that healthy families are the heart of our community. That's why we are celebrating our amazing county nurses, WIC staff, and mental health teams who support new parents every day.

A huge thank you to our local providers, hospitals, dedicated community organizations, and the **Help Me Grow Care Directory** for helping local families thrive.

👉 Need support? Check out the Help Me Grow directory today to find local resources for your family! <https://www.helpmegrowisland.org/>

#IslandCounty #MaternalHealth #HealthyFamilies



# Island County Board of Health

## Bill Status & Prioritization Report

Date: January 20, 2026

To: Island County Board of Health

From: Shawn Morris, ND - Public Health Director

### Executive Summary

The 2026 Legislative Session convened on January 12 for the short, 60-day session. The first week of session was characterized by a high volume of committee hearings focused on public health workforce expansion, environmental health planning, and foundational public health services.

### Action Items & Motions

To ensure staff can respond agilely to the rapid pace of legislative hearings (often scheduled with less than 24 hours' notice), we request the Board consider the following motion. This provides blanket authority for staff to testify in alignment with the "Position" column detailed in this report.

- **Motion to Ratify & Delegate:**

*"I move to ratify the testimony and positions communicated by staff and Board members during the week of January 12, 2026, and to authorize Public Health staff to sign in 'Pro' on bills designated as 'Support' and 'Con' or 'Other' on bills designated as 'Concerns' in the Legislative Report for the duration of the 2026 Legislative Session."*

## High Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description (Island County Context)	Status	Sponsor	Position
<a href="#">SHB 1198</a> <a href="#">(ESSB 5167)</a>	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations. Context: Monitoring for foundational public health funding levels.	H Rules R	Ormsby	Monitoring
<a href="#">HB 2242</a> <a href="#">(SB 5967)</a>	Preventive health services	Preserving access to preventive services by clarifying state authority and definitions. Context: Clarifies DOH authority for immunizations, ensuring stable access/coverage for county residents.	H Prefiled	Bronoske	Support HIGH PRIORITY
<a href="#">HB 2145</a> <a href="#">(SB 5981)</a>	340B drug pricing program	Protecting patient access to discounted medications and health care services through Washington's health care safety net by preventing manufacturer limitations on the 340B drug pricing program.	H Prefiled	Thai	Support HIGH PRIORITY
<a href="#">HB 2289</a> <a href="#">(SB 5998)</a>	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. Context: High priority for potential mid-biennium adjustments to local health funding.	H Prefiled	Ormsby	Concerns High Priority
<a href="#">HB 2382</a>	Tobacco product excise taxes	Concerning excise taxes on cigarettes, vapor products, and tobacco products. Context: Supports public health	H Prefiled	Parshley	Support

		revenue and prevention goals.			
<a href="#">SB 5967</a> ( <a href="#">HB 2242</a> )	Preventive health services	Preserving access to preventive services by clarifying state authority and definitions. Context: (See HB 2242). Vital for maintaining immunization delivery standards.	S Prefiled	Cleveland	Support HIGH PRIORITY
<a href="#">SB 5990</a>	Rural local health officers	Expanding qualifications for rural Local Health Officers. Context: CRITICAL. Current draft excludes Naturopathic Physicians (NDs). We proposed this expansion; need amendment to include NDs to solve recruitment shortages.	S Prefiled	Muzzall	Support HIGH PRIORITY
<a href="#">SB 5998</a> ( <a href="#">HB 2289</a> )	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	S Prefiled	Robinson	Support HIGH PRIORITY

## Medium Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<a href="#">HB 2183</a>	Heat response plans	Requiring counties to develop and implement heat response plans. Context: Would create a new mandate for Island County Emergency Management/Public Health to codify heat responses.	H Prefiled	Parshley	Concerns
<a href="#">HB 2238</a>	Statewide food security	Concerning statewide food security. Context: Supports local food resilience networks and food bank systems.	H Prefiled	Reeves	Support

<a href="#">HB 2360</a> <a href="#">(SB 5951)</a>	Albuterol access in schools	Expanding access to albuterol in public and private schools. Context: Impacts school nurse coordination; tracking for resource burden.	H Prefiled	Donaghy	Concerns
<a href="#">HB 2385</a>	Medicaid access program	Concerning the Medicaid access program. Context: Strengthens safety net access for county Medicaid population.	H Prefiled	Macri	Support



## Island County Public Health

Shawn Morris, ND - Director

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Ph: Whidbey 360-679-7350 | Camano 360-678-8261 | N Whidbey 360-240-5554

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

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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:

Member Name	Sector	Term Start Date	Term Expiration Date
Melissa Frasch-Brown	Community Stakeholder	2/17/2022	2/17/2025

Per RCW 70.46.140 Community health advisory boards —Membership—Meetings: (5) *Advisory board members shall serve for staggered three-year terms. This does not preclude any member from being reappointed.*

As such, I recommend the following membership terms for the members seeking reappointment.

Member Name	Sector	Proposed Term Start Date	Proposed Term Expiration Date	Proposed Board of Health Approval Date*
Melissa Frasch-Brown	Community Stakeholder	1/1/2026	1/1/2029	1/20/2026

\* *Following this year's adjustment, only one reappointment request will be brought forward to the Board of Health in any given month, if required.*

The CHAB is seeking approval from the BOH to move forward with the proposed reappointment terms for member Bob Uhrich. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director

Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB)						
Sector/Group	# of per Group	# of Vac	CHAB Member	City	Appointment Date	Term Expires
Health Care Access/Quality	4	2	Heidi Beck	Clinton	2/28/2023	2/28/2026
			Nic Wildeman	Greenbank	5/20/2025	5/20/2028
Physical Environment	2	1	Bob Uhrich	Camano Island	12/1/2025	12/1/2028
Social and Economic Sectors	2	1	Nicole Rice	Oak Harbor	6/20/2023	6/20/2026
Government	2	1	Chris Geiger	Coupeville	9/17/2024	9/17/2027
Business Philanthropy	2	0	Michele Aguilar Kahrs, Co Chair	Freeland	10/1/2025	10/1/2028
			Marian Myszkowski	Langley	10/17/2023	10/1/2026
Tribal Communities	1	1				
Consumer of Public Health Services	3	1				
			Alma Johnser	Oak Harbor	2/28/2023	2/28/2026
Community Stakeholder	3	1	Lauri Johnson-Grimm	Langley	4/15/2025	4/15/2028
			Melissa Frasc-Brown	Oak Harbor	2/17/2022	2/17/2025
Community Members with Lived Experiences	2	2				
Total VS Vacancies	21	10	Steering Committee is known as the Leadership Committee per Bylaws.			

# ISLAND COUNTY HOMELESS HOUSING UPDATES



ISLAND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

PRESENTATION JANUARY 20, 2026 | ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

# HOUSING IN 2025

ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS RELEASED IN 2025:

- LACK OF STABLE HOUSING HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OVERALL HEALTH AND LIFE EXPECTANCY
- PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS DIE NEARLY 30 YEARS EARLIER THAN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN





# REASONS FOR CRISIS

- HOUSING SUPPLY
- RISING RENT WITH INCREASING INCOME GAP
- LACK OF ACCESS TO SERVICES
- LIMITED SHELTER RESOURCES
- NEED FOR PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
- HISTORY OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION



# CURRENT POLICY CHANGES

- 30% CAP TO PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
- WORK REQUIREMENTS
- ANTI HARM-REDUCTION MODELS
- ANTI-DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICIES



# WHAT IS IMPACT

- CUTS IN PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
- PEOPLE LOSING THEIR HOUSING BECAUSE THEY CANNOT FIND OR MAINTAIN WORK
- THOSE HOUSEHOLDS WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES WILL REMAIN HOMELESS OR IF THEY RELAPSE, WILL LOSE HOUSING
- COMMUNITIES WILL LOSE GAINS MADE IN EQUITABLE HOUSING OUTCOMES FOR BIPOC AND LGBTQ+ HOUSEHOLDS



# HOUSING FOR SENIORS

**WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEING AN INCREASE IN  
SENIORS IN OUR HOMELESS POPULATION**

- IN 2019 THERE WERE 6 PEOPLE WHO ARE 62 AND OVER SERVED AT THE HAVEN
- IN 2025 THERE WERE 25 PEOPLE SERVED WHO ARE 62 AND OVER



# WHAT IS POLICY IMPACT FOR SENIORS

- SENIOR HOUSEHOLDS WILL WAIT LONGER FOR HOUSING
- SENIORS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE EMERGENCY SHELTERS DUE TO INCREASE IN MEDICAL NEEDS
- SENIORS WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES WILL REMAIN HOMELESS OR IF THEY RELAPSE, WILL LOSE HOUSING
- SENIORS WILL HAVE WORK REQUIREMENTS INTO THEIR LATE 60'S



# ISLANDCOUNTYWA.GOV



## QUESTIONS?

January 20, 2026



# Child Fatality Review in Island County

## SUMMARY

Island County Public Health is formalizing a child fatality review program, with the goal of launching in 2026. Child fatality review (CFR) is a formal, comprehensive, multidisciplinary review of a child's death to:

- Understand how and why children die
- Identify risk factors leading to fatalities
- Recommend strategies to prevent children's deaths

CFR programs have far-reaching impacts. In WA State, CFR programs have informed policies on safe sleep, drowning prevention, and teen driving. Local health departments in WA State are authorized and encouraged to conduct child fatality reviews to identify and address preventable causes of child mortality (RCW 70.05.170). There are currently 11 local health jurisdictions with active CFR programs.

Review criteria for the Island County CFR program will be:

- Age 0-18, including infants
- Island County residents who died in Island County
- Review accidents, suicides, homicides, and undetermined. (Do not review natural causes.)

## NEXT STEPS

**March 2026: Form a review committee to include the Coroner and representatives from entities such as local public health, social and human services, healthcare, and law enforcement.**

**April 2026: Initial meeting to set expectations, including confidentiality requirements, and review historical data.**

**Summer 2026: Convene committee to discuss first set of cases.**

**Annually: Meeting cadence to review cases.**



## Positive Impacts of Child Fatality Review



Informs policies that prevent child fatalities



Builds strong partnerships across different sectors



Translates data insights into actions and positive impacts



Contributes to a broader understanding of risk factors leading to Child fatalities



**Island County Public Health**

1 NE 6th Street Coupeville, WA 98239  
[publichealth@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:publichealth@islandcountywa.gov)





# Childhood Immunizations

## IN ISLAND COUNTY

### Childhood Immunization Coverage

#### Childhood immunization rates in Island County are declining.

For children in the 19-35 month and 4-6 year age categories, the percent with completed, on-time, vaccinations **decreased by 10%** from 2020 to 2025. In 2024, 45% in the 19-35 month and 18% in the 4-6 year age categories completed their vaccine series as recommended by the CDC immunization schedule. **These percents are much lower than WA State**, which is 58% and 40%, for 19-35 months and 4-6 years, respectively.

There is a higher level of compliance for required school immunizations when compared to childhood immunization rates, with **83% of Island County students from K-12 having complete immunization status in the 2024-25 school year**. Rates have remained steady over the past 5 years, although there was a notable decline from the 2023-24 to 2024-25 school year largely driven by one school district. Trends in the percent of students with exemptions has varied by school district, but county rates have not changed substantially.

### Childhood Vaccine Availability

The WA DOH Childhood Vaccine Program (CVP) supplies certain vaccines to providers free of cost for insured and uninsured patients.

The following locations are CVP providers in Island County:

- ✓ **Pediatric Associates of Whidbey Island (PAWI) – Freeland, Oak Harbor**
- ✓ **WhidbeyHealth Primary Care – Freeland, Oak Harbor**
- ✓ **Skagit Regional Health – Camano Island**

Lead time, acceptance of new patients, and vaccine availability vary by provider and location. For some, it is taking as long as **3 months for an appointment**. This directly impacts families' ability to receive vaccinations on time. The Naval Health Clinic in Oak Harbor also has childhood vaccines available for dependents of service members who have a primary care provider at the clinic. **There are currently five pharmacies on Whidbey Island and zero on Camano Island**. The closest pharmacies for Camano Island residents are in the city of Stanwood. Pharmacies carry some childhood vaccines but need to be contacted in advance for availability and to verify insurance coverage. Pharmacy closures are another concern in Island County.



### Key Takeaways



**10%** Decline in Childhood immunizations

IN ISLAND COUNTY SINCE 2020

**83%** of students have all their required school immunizations



LOWER THAN THE STATE AVERAGE OF 87%

FEW CHILDHOOD VACCINE PROVIDERS IN ISLAND COUNTY

**Resulting in long wait times and limited access for new patients**



**Pharmacies aren't always reliable for childhood vaccines**

DUE TO LIMITED SUPPLY, INSURANCE GAPS, & RECENT CLOSURES

### LEARN MORE

[WA DOH School Immunization Dashboard](#)

[WA DOH Immunization Measures by County Dashboard](#)

[CDC Recommended Vaccine Schedule by age](#)



# 2026 Policy Docket: Board Prioritization Table

**Instructions for BOH Members:** Please review the following proposals. For each item, indicate whether you believe it should be a 1-3 (1=Low, 2=Medium, or 3=High) priority for the Board's 2026 policy docket.

- **In-Person Attendees:** Please hand this form to staff at the end of the meeting.
- **Remote Attendees:** Please email your selections to [s.morris@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:s.morris@islandcountywa.gov)

## Group A: Governance & Strategy

Proposal Item	Description	Tier	Program Area	Priority (1-3)
<b>BOH Bylaws</b>	Formalize governance standards, roles, and meeting procedures.	Tier 3: Adopt	Health Admin	
<b>2025-2030 Strategic Framework</b>	Update department vision, priorities, and operational strategy.	Tier 2: Endorse	Health Admin	
<b>Regulatory Transparency Standards</b>	Mandate standard public review periods and stakeholder processes.	Tier 1: Review	Health Admin	
<b>Annual Performance Reporting Approach</b>	Set a formal approach to the publication of impact metrics.	Tier 1: Review	Health Admin	
<b>Support for SB 5967 (Preventive Health Access)</b>	Support state legislation to protect access to evidence-based preventive care (like immunizations and screenings) without co-pays.	Tier 2: Endorse	Health Admin	

## Group A: Code Updates & Planning

Proposal Item	Description	Tier	Program Area	Priority (1-3)
<b>Adopt ICC Ch. 8 Sanitary Code Revisions (BOCC Priority)</b>	Update local code to align with state law and community needs.	Tier 3: Adopt	Env Health	
<b>Review CWSP Update Strategy (BOCC Priority)</b>	Review the strategy for updating the Coordinated Water System Plan.	Tier 1: Review	Env Health	
<b>Health Review for Housing Plan</b>	Direct health impact reviews for the Homeless Housing Plan.	Tier 2: Endorse	Human Services	

## Group C: Programs & Services

Proposal Item	Description	Tier	Program Area	Priority (1-3)

<b>Authorize Mobile Immunization Services (BOCC Priority)</b>	Direct the prioritization of low-barrier access via mobile units.	Tier 2: Endorse	Community Health	
<b>Establish Child Fatality Review (CFR)</b>	Formalize a child fatality review program. WA State, CFR programs have informed policies on safe sleep, drowning prevention, and teen driving.	Tier 1: Review	Community Health	
<b>Establish Enforcement Approach</b>	Coordinate health enforcement with human and social services.	Tier 1: Review	Env Health	
<b>Support Thrive Resource Hub (BOCC Priority)</b>	Support the Thrive platform as a central community access point.	Tier 1: Review	Community Health	
<b>Strengthen Food Safety Program</b>	Support regulatory modernization to improve the community viability and sustainability of the food safety program.	Tier 1: Review	Env Health	

### Group D: Legislative Advocacy

<b>Proposal Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Tier</b>	<b>Program Area</b>	<b>Priority (1-3)</b>
<b>FPHS Legislative Advocacy</b>	Draft a resolution supporting continued Foundational Public Health funding.	Tier 2: Endorse	Community Health	
<b>Outpatient Behavioral Health Advocacy</b>	Draft a letter advocating for continued behavioral health services from MCOs, specifically addressing access language.	Tier 2: Endorse	Human Services	
<b>Rural Hospital/Provider Advocacy</b>	Draft a letter advocating for use of RHTP funding to support WhidbeyHealth and Skagit Regional Health, as well as rural provider access.	Tier 2: Endorse	Community Health	
<b>Health Review for Comp Plan (BOCC Priority)</b>	Review Public Health recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan elements.	Tier 1: Review	Planning	

### Group E: Proclamations

<b>Proposal Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Tier</b>	<b>Program Area</b>	<b>Priority (1-3)</b>
<b>Mental Health Awareness (May)</b>	Formal Board recognition of mental health access needs.	Tier 2: Endorse	Human Services	
<b>World TB Day (Mar 24)</b>	Recognition and commitment to communicable disease prevention.	Tier 2: Endorse	Comm Disease	
<b>One Health Day (Nov 3)</b>	Recognition of the link between human and environmental health.	Tier 2: Endorse	Env Health	

<b>Maternal Health Day (Jan 23)</b>	Formal commitment to maternal health outcomes. Link with Thrive/HMG, New Baby, New Family, Parent Family Support	Tier 2: Endorse	Community Health	
<b>American Diabetes Month (Nov)</b>	Recognition of chronic disease prevention priorities.	Tier 2: Endorse	Community Health	
<b>Suicide Awareness Month (Sept 2026)</b>	Recognition of suicide awareness month and local prevention programs.	Tier 2: Endorse	Human Services	
<b>World Env. Health Day (Sept 26)</b>	Recognition of the role of environmental health services.	Tier 2: Endorse	Env Health	

# Island County Board of Health

## DRAFT 2026 Policy Docket

ID	Policy Topic & Relevant Laws	Policy Tier	Policy Focus Area	Aligned Priority from 10 Essential Public Health Services	Alignment with Strategic Priorities	Alignment with Work Plan	Staff Prioritization (1-5)	CHAB Prioritization (Low, Med, High)	BOH Prioritization (Low, Med, High)
BOH-001	<b>Adopt 2025-2030 Strategic Framework</b> Establish department vision, priorities, and operational strategy. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Health Administration	Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health	Priority 1: A Resilient, Responsive Organization	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	5		
BOH-002	<b>Adopt Board of Health Bylaws</b> Formalize governance standards, governance roles, and meeting procedures. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 3: Adopt</b>	Health Administration	Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health	Priority 1: A Resilient, Responsive Organization	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	4		
HIAP-001	<b>Comprehensive Plan Draft Element Review</b> <b>Direct staff to formally review all draft elements and outline summary to Board.</b> <b>Relevant Laws: RCW 70.05.060 (Health Duties)</b>	<b>Tier 1: Review</b>	Human Services	Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Sanitary Code Revisions	5		
HIAP-001	<b>Health in All Policies' Review for Housing Plan</b> Formally review the Homeless Housing Plan and endorse its health-related priorities and goals. Relevant Laws: RCW 70.05.060 (Health Duties)	<b>Tier 1: Review</b>	Human Services	Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Sanitary Code Revisions	4		
REG-001	<b>Adopt ICC Ch. 8 Sanitary Code Revisions &amp; Local Management Plan</b> Update local code to align with state law and community needs. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.07D; WAC 246-272A; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 3: Adopt</b>	Environmental Health	Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health	Priority 2: Healthy Natural & Built Environments	Sanitary Code Revisions	5		

REG-002	<b>Review CWSP Update Strategy</b> Direct the review and modernization of the Coordinated Water System Plan. Lead Authority: Support (BOCC lead for action) Relevant Laws: CWSP (1990); ICC 8.09	Tier 1: Review	Environmental Health	Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health	Priority 2: Healthy Natural & Built Environments	Coordinated Water System Plan	4		
REG-005	<b>Establish Regulatory Transparency Standards</b> Mandate standard public review period, internal coordination, and stakeholder process. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	Tier 1: Review	Health Administration	Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health	Priority 1: A Resilient, Responsive Organization	Sanitary Code Revisions	4		
REG-006	<b>Establish 'Health-in-All-Policies' Enforcement Approach</b> Coordinate enforcement with human & social services. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	Tier 1: Review	Environmental Health	Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health	Priority 2: Healthy Natural & Built Environments	Sanitary Code Revisions	4		
REG-007	<b>Food Safety Program SOPs</b> Update Standard Operating Procedures to improve community business viability while upholding WAC 246-215 and local code (ICC) to protect food safety.	Tier 1: Review	Environmental Health	Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health	Priority 1: A Resilient, Responsive Organization	Child Fatality Review Planning	5		
CHIP-001	<b>Support 'Thrive' as Health Resource Hub</b> Support Thrive platform as central access point. Relevant Laws: RCW 70.05.060	Tier 1: Review	Community Health	Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	5		
CHIP-002	<b>Authorize Equity-Focused Mobile Immunization Services</b> Direct prioritization of low-barrier access. Relevant Laws: RCW 70.05.060	Tier 1: Review	Community Health	Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	5		

COM-001	<b>Establish Annual Performance &amp; Impact Reporting Policy</b> Review approach to publication of impact metrics. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 1: Review</b>	Health Administration	Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it	Priority 1: A Resilient, Responsive Organization	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	5		
ADV-001	<b>RHTP Advocacy to HCA</b> Support effective use of Rural Health Transformation Plan to strengthen rural health systems. Relevant Laws: RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Community Health	Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	3		
ADV-002	<b>Behavioral Health Advocacy</b> Advocacy to MCOs and WA-HCA to support outpatient behavioral health service adequacy.	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Human Services	Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	4		
ADV-003	<b>FPHS Legislative Advocacy</b> Draft resolution supporting continued FPHS funding for local public health services.	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Community Health	Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health	Priority 1: A Resilient, Responsive Organization	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	5		
ADV-004	<b>Support for SB 5967 (Preventive Health Access)</b> Support state legislation to protect access to evidence-based preventive care (like immunizations and screenings) without co-pays.	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Community Health	Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	5		
RES-001	<b>Proclamation: Mental Health Awareness Month (May)</b> Formal Board recognition and commitment. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Human Services	Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	4		
RES-002	<b>Proclamation: World TB Day (Mar 24)</b> Formal Board recognition and commitment. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Communicable Disease	Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	3		
RES-003	<b>Proclamation: One Health Day (Nov 3)</b> Formal Board recognition and commitment. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Environmental Health	Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health	Priority 2: Healthy Natural & Built Environments	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	4		

RES-005	<b>Proclamation: Maternal Health Awareness Day (Jan 23)</b> Formal Board recognition and commitment. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Community Health	Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	4		
RES-006	<b>Proclamation: American Diabetes Month (November)</b> Formal Board recognition and commitment. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Community Health	Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it	Priority 3: Healthy People & Families	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	4		
RES-007	<b>Proclamation: World Environmental Health Day (Sept 26)</b> Formal Board recognition and commitment. Relevant Laws: ICC 8.01.040; RCW 70.05.060	<b>Tier 2: Endorse</b>	Environmental Health	Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health	Priority 2: Healthy Natural & Built Environments	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	4		

## Island County Public Health Executive Update to BOH

### Budget & Legislative Update

- **Funding Shortfall:** We are preparing for a projected **\$300-400,000 annual funding shortfall** beginning **July 1, 2026**. This deficit is driven by an estimated **\$100-200,000 loss** in annual vape tax revenue for Island County, and a proposed **\$29M statewide reduction** in FPHS funding in the Governor's budget. The legislative budget will determine the final reduction amount for FPHS.
- **WIC Program:** We continue to face a shortfall in the WIC program; we are planning to fill this gap using the Public Health Infrastructure Grant in 2026.
- **Staffing:** To mitigate impacts, we are maintaining a freeze on 1.0 FTE EH Tech, 1.0 FTE Natural Resources Specialist, 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse, and 1.0 FTE On-Site EHS positions.
- **Legislative Session: 2026 Legislative Session:** We are highlighting the importance of **SB 5967 (Preventive Health Services)**. This bill aligns with our mission by ensuring health plans continue to cover essential, evidence-based preventive care—including immunizations—without out-of-pocket costs, regardless of shifts in federal guidelines. Staff will bring a recommendation for a formal Board position on this bill and other legislative priorities to the February meeting.

### Program Updates

**Administration:** Developing process to ensure all website updates and outreach materials go through consistent review and align with County style guidelines. Additionally, drafting SOPs to ensure process changes are appropriately vetted and approved, and regulatory actions are well-coordinated.

#### Environmental Health:

- **Valley High Update:** The water system currently meets all WA-DOH requirements. Their septic inspector is thoroughly reviewing all systems to support repairs, and repair permits are actively being submitted. Significant progress is being made, meeting requirements of prior letter issued by Island County.
- **Active Health Officer Orders:** (1) North Whidbey commercial cannabis facility, (2) Camano shoreline septic failure, (3) North Whidbey mobile home park, and (4) North Whidbey RV encampment.
- **Food Program Procedures:** Currently vetting all SOPs and making updates to support regulatory consistency and flexibility, where allowed by WAC 246-215 (WA Retail Food Code).
- **SmartGov Workflows:** As we approach the January 1 deadline, the OSS team has successfully implemented new workflows. We recently reviewed workflows with the drinking water team, and the software manager is currently revising these to adapt to current needs and ensure audit compliance.

#### Communicable Disease:

- **Childhood Immunizations:** On January 5, 2026, the CDC revised the childhood immunization schedule, reducing universally recommended vaccines from 17 to 11. Vaccines for rotavirus, hepatitis A/B, meningitis, influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 shifted to "shared decision-making" for high-risk groups. Additionally, HPV doses were reduced to one, and the newborn Hepatitis B dose was delayed to two months for low-risk infants. The **West Coast Health Alliance** and **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** continue to recommend the full evidence-based schedule effective December 31, 2025. They emphasize that these federal revisions bypassed expert vetting and may increase preventable childhood diseases.



All previously recommended vaccines remain available, and insurance coverage is not expected to change for the current plan year.

- **Flu Update:** Flu and Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) levels are rising locally, with Influenza A(H3N2) subclade K emerging as the dominant global strain. While a mismatch exists between this variant and the 2025-2026 vaccine, vaccination remains the best defense against severe outcomes. Current data for this season shows effectiveness remains significant, providing approximately 30-60% protection against hospitalizations in adults and 70-78% in children and adolescents.
- **Public Message to Share:** It is **not too late to get vaccinated**; everyone should receive their annual flu shot, and specifically, adults **65 and older are strongly advised to get a high-dose or adjuvanted vaccine** for the best protection against severe illness. Remember to practice everyday preventive actions like **covering coughs and staying home when sick**. Find community vaccine locations here: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/1072/Immunizations>