

DATE: March 13, 2013

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. Diana Yu

SUBJECT: BRIEFING – CONTAGIOUS DISEASE – SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND DAY CARE CENTERS, CHAPTER 246-100 WAC

Background and Summary:

According to RCW 43.20.050 section (2)(f), the Board has the authority to adopt rules for the prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious diseases, including food- and vector-borne illness, and rules governing the receipt and conveyance of remains of deceased persons, and such other sanitary matters as may best be controlled by universal rule. This is further reinforced in RCW 28A.210.010 which states that the state board of health, after consultation with the superintendent of public instruction, shall adopt reasonable rules regarding the presence of persons on or about any school premises who have, or who have been exposed to, contagious diseases deemed by the state board of health as dangerous to the public health.

Chapter 246-100 WAC lists contagious diseases that may affect children in schools and/or day care centers, and the steps Health Officers can take to control or eliminate the spread of those diseases. This rule has not been updated for over 20 years. It is necessary to update the rule to reflect current best public health practice, improve clarity, and to assure that local health officers have up to date rules that will help prevent transmission of communicable disease to children and staff in daycare and school settings.

A Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry, CR-101 was filed on February 6, 2013 as WSR 13-05-001. Today, Tara Wolff, Board Staff, will brief you on the rule, the rationale for the proposed update, and next steps.

Recommended Board Action:

No action recommended.

Staff Contact: Tara Wolff