



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Chapter 246-110 WAC Contagious Disease
School Districts and Day Care Centers

Washington State Board of Health
March 13, 2013

Tara Ann Wolff, MPH, Health Policy Analyst



WASHINGTON STATE
Board of Health

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Today's presentation:

- Rule description
- Need for update
- Process and next steps
- Stakeholders



Rule description:

- Rule lists contagious diseases that may affect children in schools and/or day care centers.
- The rule specifies the steps Health Officers can take to control or eliminate the spread of those diseases.



WASHINGTON STATE
Board of Health

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

In consultation with others Health Officers can:

- Close affected school(s) and/or day care center(s).
- Close other school(s) and/or day care center(s) within the jurisdiction.
- Exclude students, staff, and volunteers who are infected or susceptible to the disease.



Need for update:

- The rule is outdated and no longer reflects best public health practice.
- The rule language could be clearer in places.
- An up to date rule will help prevent transmission of communicable disease to children and staff in day care and school settings.



Process and next steps:

- Consulted with key stakeholders to find out if they recommend opening the rule.
- Filed a CR-101 with the Code Reviser.
- Formed volunteer stakeholder group to help develop criteria to determine which communicable diseases belong in the rule.
- Informed interested parties about the rulemaking.
- Anticipate a June public hearing.



Stakeholders include:

- Local Health Jurisdictions
- State agencies: Department of Health, Department of Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Social and Health Services
- Health Professional Groups: Washington Chapter of American Academy of Pediatricians, Washington Academy of Family Physicians
- Education and School affiliated groups: School Districts, Washington Association of Principals, Washington State School Directors Association, School Nurse Corps, Headstart and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, and School Nurse Organization of Washington

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Washington State Board of Health
PO Box 47990
Tumwater, Washington 98504-7990
<http://sboh.wa.gov>