

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

## COMMUNICABLE AND CERTAIN OTHER DISEASES

### Rule Summary and Timeline

April 2021

#### Introduction

The State Board of Health (Board) is considering updating chapter [246-100 WAC](#), Communicable and Certain Other Diseases, to implement changes made by [Engrossed Substitute House Bill \(ESHB\) 1551](#), passed in the 2020 legislative session.

#### Purpose

The current rule outlines requirements for the prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious diseases. During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed ESHB 1551, Modernizing the control of certain communicable diseases (Chapter 76, Laws of 2020).

This bill modernizes the state's control of communicable disease laws by ending HIV/AIDS exceptionalism in law, reducing HIV-related stigma, defelonizing HIV exposure, and removing barriers to HIV testing. The new law took effect June 11, 2020. The Board is undertaking rulemaking to consider possible revisions to [chapter 246-100 WAC](#) to assure consistency with the bill's requirements and protect public health and safety.

ESHB 1551 also impacts chapter 246-101 WAC, Notifiable Conditions. The Board adopted amendments to chapter 246-101 WAC at its March 2021 public meeting. Amendments included minor editorial revisions consistent with the changes in ESHB 1551. More information on revisions to chapter 246-101 WAC is available on the [Board's Notifiable Conditions rule web page](#).

#### Next Steps

The Board is collaborating with the Department of Health to identify possible revisions to chapter 246-100 WAC. Staff will send updates to the rule's interested parties list and post updates on the Board's website. We will outline how individuals and organizations can provide feedback, submit written comments, or provide testimony on the rule. Staff anticipate an informal draft of the rule with possible revisions to discuss with interested parties in Spring 2021.

#### Contact Information

For more information about this rule, or to be added to our email distribution list to receive rule updates and opportunities for public comment, please email [Kaitlyn Donahoe](#), State Board of Health Policy Advisor, or call (360) 584-6737, or [LinhPhung Huynh](#), Department of Health Policy Advisor, at (360) 789-6860

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**Washington State Board of Health  
Communicable and Certain Other Diseases**

| <b>ESTIMATED RULEMAKING TIMELINE</b>          |                                    |                        |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Rule Activity</b>                          | <b>Anticipated Completion Date</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
| File CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry | July 2020                          | July 2020              |
| Research and drafting of possible revisions   | Fall 2020 - Spring 2021            |                        |
| Distribute informal draft for comment         | May 2021                           |                        |
| Revise draft, address comments                | June – July 2021                   |                        |
| Complete rule analysis                        | Summer 2021                        |                        |
| Briefing to the State Board of Health         | August 2021                        |                        |
| File CR-102, Proposed Rule                    | September 2021                     |                        |
| Formal public comment period                  | September – October 2021           |                        |
| Public Hearing                                | October 2021                       |                        |
| File CR-103, Permanent Rule                   | November 2021                      |                        |
| Rules effective                               | January 2022                       |                        |

To request this document in an alternate format, or another language please contact Kelie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email at [kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov) TTY users can dial 711.