

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**Date:** June 14, 2023

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**From:** Keith Grellner, Board Chair

**Subject:** Rules Update – Chapter 246-260 WAC, Water Recreation Facilities, and Chapter 246-262 WAC, Recreational Water Contact Facilities

## **Background and Summary:**

Chapters 246-260 and 246-262 WAC outline requirements for water recreation facilities and recreational water contact facilities to protect the health, safety, and welfare of users. Water recreation facilities are generally bodies of water like a swimming pool, spa pool, or a natural body of water designated for swimming (i.e., a lake). Recreational water contact facilities consist of facilities that differ from swimming pools or lakes, due to features such as water slides, wave pools, and water lagoons.

In December 2016, the State Board of Health (Board) filed a CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, to explore possible revisions to chapters 246-260 and 246-262 WAC. These include consideration of the most recent version of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC), 2017 legislation on inflatable water slides, current water recreation technologies, and consolidation of the rules into a single chapter.

The COVID-19 pandemic response and other factors impacted the rulemaking timeline. Department of Health (Department) staff are currently analyzing differences between the MAHC and the water recreation rules to identify preferred language, standards and requirements. Following completion of this initial phase, staff will begin working through the issues and revisions with a technical advisory committee (TAC) comprised of subject matter experts and interested parties outlined in WAC 246-260-191.

Dave DeLong, Program Lead for the Water Recreation Program at the Department, will offer a brief presentation and discussion of the Water Recreation rulemaking process and timeline. The presentation will provide background information and highlight key issues to inform the Board on the subject matter.

This is an informational update not requiring any Board action. The work is still ongoing, and staff plan to return with additional updates and a final project briefing prior to filing the CR-102, Proposed Rulemaking, for public review and comment.

## **Staff**

Andrew Kamali

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Washington State Board of Health  
June 14, 2023, Meeting Memo

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