WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

# SBOH Rules Impacted by Climate Change

| Washington Administrative Code Number | Rule Title | How Climate Change impacts the topic |
|---|---|---|
| 246-100 & 101 | Communicable And Certain Other Diseases & Notifiable Conditions | [1] As the climate changes, the risk also increases for health threats, such as:<br>► Anaplasmosis<br>► Anthrax<br>► Antibiotic-resistant infections<br>► Cryptosporidiosis<br>► Dengue<br>► Ehrlichiosis<br>► Fungal diseases like valley fever and histoplasmosis<br>► Giardiasis<br>► Hantavirus<br>► Harmful algal bloom-associated illness<br>► Lyme disease<br>► Plague<br>► Rabies<br>► Spotted fever rickettsiosis<br>► Salmonellosis<br>► Vibriosis<br>► West Nile virus disease<br><br>[1] Milder winters, warmer summers, and fewer days of frost make it easier for infectious diseases to expand into new geographic areas and infect more people. To understand climate change's impact, it's important to look at some of the common ways these diseases spread — through mosquito and tick bites, contact with animals, fungi, and water. |

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, August 2). Climate change and infectious diseases. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/what-we-do/climate-change-and-infectious-diseases/index.html

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| Washington Administrative Code Number | Rule Title | How Climate Change impacts the topic |
|---|---|---|
| 246-260 & 262 | Water Recreation Facilities & Recreational Water Contact Facilities | [2] Harmful algal blooms (HABs) involving blue-green algae in freshwater are increasing in frequency and severity across the globe.<br><br>Warming, heavy rainfall, and nutrient pollution are driving factors behind HABs — and climate change is amplifying the risks.<br><br>Toxic blooms pose both short- and long-term risks to human health and well-being. They can also be deadly for pets, livestock, and wildlife. |
| 246-280 & 282 | Recreational Shellfish Beaches & Sanitary Control of Shellfish | [3] The chart below shows why shellfish beaches in Puget Sound were classified as prohibited for harvesting in 2018:<br>• 61% were near wastewater treatment plant outfalls.<br>• 29% were impacted or potentially impacted by nonpoint pollution sources such as poorly functioning on-site sewage systems (septic), farms, wildlife, and other potential sources.<br>• 8% were near marinas.<br>• 2% were prohibited based on other sources.<br><br>[4] To grow healthy shellfish, farmers need clean water, robust ecosystems, and a stable climate. It is important to prioritize environmental conservation and climate mitigation, both on and off the water. |

[2] *Toxic algae blooms in a changing climate.* Toxic Algae Blooms in a Changing Climate | Climate Central. (n.d.). https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/harmful-algal-blooms
[3] https://www.epa.gov/salish-sea/shellfish-harvesting
[4] https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/shellfish-growers-climate-coalition/

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|---|---|---|
| 246-290 & 291 | Group A Public Water Supplies & Group B Public Water Systems | [5] Climate change is likely to increase people's demand for water while also shrinking water supplies. In mountainous and cold-weather regions, many people depend on snowpack for drinking water, agriculture, and other uses.<br><br>[6] Warmer temperatures and changes in precipitation are reducing snowpack. In some areas, less snow is falling, as more precipitation is falling as rain rather than snow. Higher temperatures are also causing snowpack to melt earlier.<br><br>[7] Climate change is expected to harm water quality. For example, increased rainfall can lead to more runoff of sediments, nutrients, pathogens, and other substances into water bodies. Increases in nutrient runoff, along with warming water temperatures, can also lead to harmful algal blooms. These algal blooms can kill fish, shellfish, and other animals. They can also make drinking and recreational water sources unsafe for people and pets.<br><br>Climate change threatens to increase the salinity of water bodies and groundwater through saltwater intrusion. Rising sea level and increased drought can enable saline water to advance farther upstream and inland in estuaries, wetlands, and aquifers. Higher salinity can contaminate freshwater supplies and harm aquatic plants and animals. |

[5] Lall, U., et al. (2018). Ch. 3: Water. In: Impacts, risks, and adaptation in the United States: Fourth national climate assessment, volume II. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, p. 150.
[6] EPA. (2021). Climate change indicators: Snowpack.
[7] Lall, U., et al. (2018). Ch. 3: Water. In: Impacts, risks, and adaptation in the United States: Fourth national climate assessment, volume II. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, p. 154

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| Washington Administrative Code Number | Rule Title | How Climate Change impacts the topic |
|---|---|---|
| 246-366 & 366A | Primary And Secondary Schools & Environmental Health and Safety Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools | Climate change has led to an increase in ambient temperatures. This has led to warmer indoor air temperatures. Some schools in the state have classrooms that reach over 90 degrees in late spring and early fall days.<br><br>These temperatures impact the health, safety, and learning outcomes of students.<br><br>These types of situations disproportionately impact communities that are overburdened. High indoor air temperatures are also perceived as poorer air quality. |
| 246-374 | Outdoor Music Festival | Insect, rodent, and dust control become more difficult due to climate change, warmer and dryer seasons increase the amount of dust in an area designated for an outdoor music festival.<br><br>Due to more mild winters, insects, particularly mosquitos and ticks can reproduce for longer periods of time and can increase vector borne illnesses. |