

Washington's 35 local health jurisdictions serve as the frontline responders to public health emergencies and threats, conveners that help communities implement health promotion and disease prevention strategies, and protectors that are committed to building healthy, safe, and thriving communities.

## Supplemental Budget Priorities



### Septage Capacity Risk Analysis

WSALPHO supports one-time funding to study and assess septage treatment capacity in our state.

- Current comprehensive plans do not require an assessment of septage treatment capacity, under-representing the actual capacity across the state
- Understanding existing treatment capacity and future needs is critical for infrastructure planning that supports development
- Poor treatment capacity can result in illegal disposal and improper maintenance of septic systems, leading to environmental contamination and increased homeowner costs



### School Environmental Justice

Our kids need safe and healthy school learning environments. **Please support implementing the Environmental Justice Council's recommendations:**

- Remove the budget proviso that blocks school environmental health and safety rules
- Fund localized school environmental health programs
- Dedicate state dollars for core facility upgrades in overburdened communities
- Create minimum standards for health and safety measures in schools

### Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)



Local health jurisdictions are the frontline defenders against public health threats, responding to natural disasters and emergencies, and preventing exposures to environmental hazards. Strong core programs and services assures everyone, everywhere in Washington State has a nimble and responsive public health system that works to achieve vibrant and thriving communities. **We are grateful for the ongoing support for FPHS!**

### POLICY CONTACTS

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## Policy Priorities



### Technical Change to WA Vaccine Association Definitions

The Department of Health and the Washington Vaccine Association (WVA) work together to publicly purchase vaccine, eliminating cost barriers for childhood vaccinations. The narrow definition of vaccine in statute prevents the WVA from purchasing immunizations developed by new and innovative technologies. WSALPHO supports the technical fix to address this language in order to:

- Supply all childhood vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- Eliminate healthcare provider costs to purchasing, storing, and administering vaccines
- Reduce cost barriers to receiving childhood vaccinations for overburdened and vulnerable families



### Increasing Access to Syphilis Treatment

WSALPHO supports a statutory change in RCW.18.360 to temporarily allow Medical Assistants to treat syphilis when:

- Access to care is limited and/or
- Rates of infection exceed those typically observed in an area or population by >25%

Allowing MAs to treatment syphilis during telehealth visits, as part of field outreach, community events, and syringe exchange programs will improve health outcomes among high-risk populations, including pregnant people which will reduce the number of congenital syphilis cases in Washington.



### Child Death Review Teams

WSALPHO supports modernizing Washington's child death review statute (RCW 70.05.170) to:

- Strengthen the language for LHJs to collect or access records and data from other sources to aid in the review process
- Provide clarification for participants who are mandated reporters
- Expand the age for reviews to include 18 years of age
- Enhance local and state collaboration to inform statewide prevention initiatives and recommendations

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