

## Quarterly Community Update

### RECENT HAPPENINGS

The Board met in August.

In August, ([watch the recording](#)) the Board met in Seattle. Among other things, the Board:

- Heard from [Public Health - Seattle & King County](#) about their Overdose Prevention and response work ([presentation](#)).
- The Board's Health Impact Review team shared a Fiscal Year 2024 update ([presentation](#)).
- Heard updates on rulemaking, including [Newborn Screening](#) and [School Environmental Health and Safety](#).
- Board Member Paj Nandi and Board staff Ashley Bell shared an update on Pro-Equity Anti-Racism planning ([presentation](#)).
- Board staff briefed the Board on [Yakima](#) and [Cheney](#) Water Recreation Variance Requests. The Board will review the requests at the October 8 Board meeting.
- The Board considered and declined a [petition on On-site Sewage Systems Holding Tanks](#).

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The Board's [Health Promotion Subcommittee](#) met in September and received updates on rulemaking and various projects. They also previewed upcoming Board meetings and heard an informational briefing on the Washington State Health Assessment and the State Health Improvement Plan.

### PARTICIPATION IN OUR WORK

The Board takes public comments at every meeting. We welcome your comments on any of our agenda items or other public health issues of importance to your community. Send written comments to the Board anytime at [wsboh@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:wsboh@sboh.wa.gov). If you would like to attend online or in-person, you can sign up to provide verbal public comment. The number of commenters determines the amount of time for each public comment (usually 1-3 minutes). Find out more about giving public comment on our [website](#).

Our [meetings](#) are open to the public and anyone may attend. Please invite others from your community who may want to attend in person or online.



### Health Impact Reviews

Get ready for the 2025 Legislative Session, and [sign up](#) to have Health Impact Reviews delivered directly to your inbox!

The Board conducts [Health Impact Reviews](#) (HIRs) in collaboration with the [Council](#). An HIR is an objective, non-partisan, evidence-based report. It provides the Governor and state Legislators with information about how policy or budgetary proposals may impact health and equity. State agencies and community organizations have used information from HIRs in their own work. [Email](#) the HIR Team to be added to the distribution list. All HIRs are available on the [Board's website](#).

UPCOMING  
MEETINGS:

State Board of Health:  
November 13

Health Disparities Council:  
December 12

## PEAR Plan-Request for Feedback

The Board is working on our internal practices and creating a Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) strategic action plan for the Board moving forward. This action plan infuses equity into our work. It will increase access to our meetings, promote equitable rulemaking, and provide staff with the tools and guidance to center communities in our work.

Right now the plan is in a draft stage, and we are inviting community feedback on it. Feedback can include comments on the plan's feasibility, if the plan is meaningful to communities, or how we can measure success, or any other feedback you have.

We're hoping to have individual conversations with various communities around the state who can provide us focused feedback on how community access to the work of the Board might (or might not!) be impacted by this plan, in positive and negative ways.

These conversations may qualify for compensation. We will note and use the feedback we receive as much as possible. Whether we can incorporate it or not, we'll still loop back with you to confirm what we heard and what we're doing with what we heard.

We're hoping to schedule a conversation with you in October or early November, if possible. Please contact our Community Engagement Coordinator, [Hannah](#), if you or someone from your team is interested.

## November Board Meeting:

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at the Department of Labor and Industries in Tumwater, WA.

Physical address:  
Auditorium (First Floor)  
7273 Linderson Way SW,  
Tumwater, WA 98501

Zoom and physical information is posted on our [website](#) two weeks before the meeting.

The meeting will have virtual and in-person options. It will also include American Sign Language and Spanish interpretation services.

If you would like to learn more about the Board or get involved in our work, contact [Hannah Haag](#), Board Community Outreach Coordinator.



## SCHOOL RULE PROJECT

In 2024, the Legislature [directed the Board](#) (page 492) to review and propose new rules to set minimum health and safety standards for K-12 schools. These rules will also formalize school environmental health and safety inspection procedures. The current school environmental health and safety rules ([chapter 246-366 WAC](#)) are over 50 years old.

Over one million students attend school in Washington State. These students attend public, charter, and private schools. These rules also impact school staff, parents, and other school visitors. The Board recognizes the importance of the built environment and wants to ensure that children learn, grow, and play in a safe space.

The Board is working closely with approximately 25 technical advisory committee (TAC) members to draft proposed rule language. The TAC members range from local health officers, Department of Health staff, small and large school districts, and parents. The Board and the TAC plan to meet at least eight times from August to December 2024 to develop language.

The Board will work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to draft cost estimates to implement the rule. The Board will conduct listening sessions and focus groups to encourage feedback. The Board will also complete an environmental justice assessment of the proposed rules. The Board will submit a report with recommendations to the governor by June 30, 2025.

The Board values your input on these topics!

All TAC meetings and listening sessions are open to the public. [Sign up](#) for updates. For more information, please [visit our website](#).



## Upcoming Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

- **School Rule TAC:** Friday, October 4, Leavenworth
- **School Rule Listening Session:** Thursday, October 10, Union Gap School - Multipurpose Room
- **School Rule TAC:** Thursday, October 17, Evergreen State College's Lord Mansion, Olympia
- **School Rule TAC:** Thursday, October 31, Capitol Campus - Cherberg Building, Olympia
- **Newborn Screening TAC:** Monday, October 28, Shoreline
- **School Rule TAC:** Wednesday, November 20, Spokane
- **School Rule TAC:** Wednesday, December 4, Tumwater Campus