



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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News Release

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Board to hold hearing on child immunizations

Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th St, Yakima WA 98901-2515

At its meeting Wednesday, October 10, in Yakima, the State Board of Health will consider updating its immunization rule to make it consistent with the 2007 federal Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule. The rule lists the diseases children must be immunized against to attend school or child care. The newest schedule recommends a second dose of the varicella vaccine for children between four to six years of age. Varicella is the only required vaccine that would be affected by this update. The Board will also consider a report from its technical advisory group suggesting it should consider requiring immunization against pneumococcal disease. This change would primarily have an impact on child care centers and preschools since the vaccine is only recommended for children less than two years old and those between two and five who are at high risk.

In addition, the Board will review a draft of its strategic plan. It will receive an early progress report on the implementation of its on-site septic systems rule and will consider delegating authority to the Department of Health to revise state rules governing larger drinking water systems in order to conform to federal regulations. The Board will also hear an update on West Nile virus and be briefed on efforts to develop policies that prevent mental illness and promote mental health.

The meeting is open and the public is invited to provide testimony on any public health issue at 3:30 p.m. Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the State Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at www.sboh.wa.gov. The emergency and press contact number for the Board during the meeting is 360-701-2398.

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The Board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the [Board of Health Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov) (www.sboh.wa.gov).