

2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We support the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) and the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) legislative priorities and advocacy that align with our mission and advance health equity.

As a public health agency, we:

- Are concerned with protecting the health of all people in Kitsap County;
- Center collaboration and community engagement;
- Use data and evidence to identify and implement solutions and evaluate success;
- Recognize and define health issues;
- Prioritize prevention and equity;
- Promote resilience to climate change and emergencies; and
- Ensure safe and healthy natural and built environments.

Vital to public health programs, we support:

Preservation of Public Health Funding

WA State Operating Budget

Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) investments keep our community informed to make healthy choices, safe from threats and disease. Statewide, FPHS faces reductions in FY26 and FY27. These reductions will have a negative impact on Kitsap Public Health's budget and FPHS-supported services. We also support vapor tax formula changes as an FPHS revenue source.

Department of Health's Recommendations for Preventive Services

Senate Bill 5967 & House Bill 2242

Preventive services and protections lower the risk of negative health outcomes. Our community has the right to access robust information and be protected from the spread of disease and other health risk factors. Vaccine laws in WA define and limit how we make recommendations for preventive services. Currently, those laws require us to follow guidance from federal agencies and advisory groups such as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This legislation would codify Washington's recommendations for preventive services into state law so that current access to vaccines and other important preventive services continue.

Vital to Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP), we support:

Strengthening Access to Physical and Mental Health Care Services

All people in Kitsap County deserve access to affordable, high quality healthcare services. To ensure coverage and access to affordable quality care, our state will need to advance efforts to reduce the impacts of federal health policy changes. Significant support for healthcare providers, patient navigator programs, local coordination, data systems, and workforce initiatives will be needed.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

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