



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
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December 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Informative – *Workgroup Formation regarding opioid and methamphetamine contamination*

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners:

I am writing on behalf of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to invite you to a workgroup DOH is convening to develop safety levels and cleanup response guidance for opioid (often fentanyl) and methamphetamine contamination of properties. We invite you or a representative to participate in this group as these same contamination issues may also impact your community.

Property contamination and appropriate public health response is an emerging issue for several local jurisdictions in Washington. The statutory ambiguity around manufacture vs. use has created challenges in the local response. The workgroup will be tasked with developing safety levels and cleanup guidance for mitigation and remediation of the affected properties.

DOH will facilitate the group, which will consist of local and tribal health officers and administrators, applicable state agencies members, subject matter, technical experts and other interested parties to draft guidance to help in decision making. It is our goal to have draft documents ready for review and input from the larger public health system by April of 2024. The current plan is to meet twice monthly beginning in December to accomplish this task.

We appreciate your time and consideration. For additional information or to provide comments please contact Todd Phillips, Office Director OEHS, at todd.phillips@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3302. For tribal related matters, please contact Candice Wilson, Tribal Policy Director, at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Jenks".

Lauren Jenks
Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health

cc: Umair Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, Department of Health

Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Partnerships, Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, Department of Health