

Additional Meeting

Materials

BOARD OF HEALTH

February 19, 2026





**King County**  
**King County Board of Health**  
**Director's Report**

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Date: February 19, 2026

Prepared by: Dr. Sandra J. Valenciano, Health Officer and Interim Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County

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**Stay current on Public Health trends and news:**

I invite King County Board of Health Members and Alternates to stay updated on important news, local health trends and funding opportunities through Public Health – Seattle & King County's blog and online dashboards:

The Public Health Insider blog:

[PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER – Official insights from Public Health - Seattle & King County staff](#)

Data dashboards:

- [Public Health data - King County, Washington](#) – Explore population-level health outcomes, communicable disease data and more
- [Data dashboard: The impact of firearms in King County - King County, Washington](#)
- [Overdose data dashboards - King County, Washington](#)
- [Medical Examiner's Office data](#)
- [Climate Impacts on Health - King County, Washington](#)

Funding opportunities – RFPs, RFQs, RFAs and others:

[Funding opportunities - King County, Washington](#)

**Public Health's Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention Responds to Rainier Beach Shooting: Week One Summary**



*Photo credit: South Seattle Emerald*



Between January 30 and February 6, following the fatal shooting of two young men in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood, the King County Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention ([ROGVP](#)) helped to facilitate a coordinated response in the Rainier Beach area. ROGVP's Community Engagement Specialist (CES) and Director rapidly mobilized, conducting information gathering, site assessments, and facilitating immediate support for victims' families, including mental health resources and lodging assistance. The team engaged community partners, responded to public concerns, and arranged decompression sessions for frontline staff. Public Health's [Community Navigators](#) and the King County Executive's Office also supported the response effort.

Continuous overnight monitoring addressed urgent needs, while outreach extended to Henderson Tiny Home Village residents and preschool-aged witnesses. The ROGVP supported vigils, facilitated parent-focused safety forums, collaborated with schools to enhance student safety, recruited additional safe passage volunteers, and deployed additional outreach workers from Regional Peacekeepers Collective to provide expanded safe passage services where outreach workers were stationed near school campuses and transit areas to ensure young people and community members' safety as students arrived at and departed from school. Family follow-up included resource referrals for basic needs, legal support, headstone assistance and funeral coordination support. Throughout, ROGVP ensured ongoing communication with each victim's family, city and county officials, maintained food distribution for youth, and expanded mental health access, helping to rapidly mobilize a more connected multi-agency approach to crisis response, neighborhood stabilization and community recovery and healing.

Note: While above reflects one week of rapid response, ROGVP continues to work with key partners to support neighborhood stabilization and community recovery in the Rainier Beach neighborhood.

### **Public Health Honors Black Health, History and Culture in February and Year-Round**

This full-page advertisement will run this week in the Seattle Medium (**see next page**):



# HONORING 100 YEARS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History month isn't just a date we mark on the calendar, but an intentional opportunity to honor a century of remembrance, resilience, and remarkable achievement. One hundred years ago, what began as Negro History Week, was a bold declaration that the stories, struggles, and triumphs of Black people in America – and their history must be told, celebrated, and preserved.

This is also a time to confront the truths of our past, to acknowledge the pain and injustice, and to recognize the courage and brilliance that have shaped our shared history. We are reminded that health disparities and health inequities still exist today right here in King County. The Public Health | Community Health Services invites the Black Community to help us eliminate health disparities and health inequities, so that our brothers and sisters have the opportunity to thrive.



The King County Black Providers Network is a convening of Black professionals supporting Black community health, hosted by the Black Community Equity Team (BCET). The BCET was created to confront the systemic health inequities experienced by the Black community in King County.

Please plan to join us for our 2026 Quarterly meetings!

11:00am to 2:00pm

1st Quarter: Friday, February 27, 2026

2nd Quarter: Friday, May 22, 2026

3rd Quarter: Friday, July 24

4th Quarter: Friday, October 23

Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd  
Avenue South, Tukwila, WA  
Zoom link is available

For questions and to RSVP, contact Devon Love at [devon.love@kingcounty.gov](mailto:devon.love@kingcounty.gov)



Public Health hosted “The Fight for Black Lives” film and discussion on Feb. 13. The documentary explores how racial stress and the healthcare system in the United States disadvantages Black Americans. Learn more about the film online: [Home | TFFBL](#)

A poster for February's Black History and Culture Month in King County. The left side features a vertical strip of colorful geometric patterns in teal, yellow, and orange. The main text is on a dark blue background. The title "February is Black History and Culture Month in King County" is in large, bold, yellow and teal letters. Below it, "We Know Who We Are" 2026 Four Fridays Film Festival is in white. The dates "SAVE THE DATES: Friday February 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th" and time "3:00pm to 5:30pm Via ZOOM! Stay tuned for details" are in yellow. A paragraph in white describes the festival's purpose. A table lists the films and departments. A paragraph at the bottom describes the post-film discussion. Contact information and the King County logo are at the bottom right.

**February is Black History and Culture Month in King County**

**“We Know Who We Are” 2026 Four Fridays Film Festival**

**SAVE THE DATES:** Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>  
3:00pm to 5:30pm Via ZOOM! Stay tuned for details

Join us for four very special Friday Afternoons as we celebrate the legacy, the resilience and the promise of Black History, Arts and Culture in King County with a Festival Series of Screenings designed to engage, educate and celebrate Black contributions to the American Cultural Mosaic. **WE ARE:**

HEROIC	Black Panther – Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dept. Executive Services
PROACTIVE	The Fight for Black Lives – Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dept. Public Health
STRATEGIC	Rustin – Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Dept. Adult and Juvenile Detention
LEGACY BUILDERS	Hidden Figures – Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	King County Information Technology

Each department screening will feature a post-film “Talk-back” with perspectives and take-aways on relevance to our shared work and vision for greater inclusion and belonging. Each week we’ll welcome special guests from the Host Department. Come Hang with us! **ALL KING COUNTY EMPLOYEES ARE WELCOME** to attend any or all sessions with supervisor approval.

For more information contact [Four.Fridays@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Four.Fridays@kingcounty.gov)

 King County

Additionally, Public Health’s Black Community Equity Team participated in the Blackpast.org event on February 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black History Month and a commemoration for the founder Dr. Quintard Taylor who created the online Black History encyclopedia, available online: [BlackPast.org | The Largest Online Encyclopedia of Black History](#)

Lastly, Public Health’s Community Health Service’s (CHS) Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EIB) Cultural Appreciation Newsletters honor the cultural observances recognized on King County’s MLK Jr. Calendar – Black History Month in February, Women’s History Month in March, Celebrate Diversity Month in April, Asian American, Native Hawaiian Pasifika Heritage Month in May, LGBTQIA+ Pride Month & Immigrant Heritage Month in June, Disability Pride Month in July, Hispanic, Latino/a/e/x Heritage Month in September, and Native American and Indigenous Heritage Month in November. Each edition shares community events, learning resources, and staff voices that help us connect, reflect, and transform our learning as a division in Public Health.

This Black History Month, our newsletter aims to uplift the history, contributions, and lived experiences of Black communities. It highlights local engagement opportunities, educational materials, and efforts from CHS staff, supporting deeper understanding of ongoing equity work.

All newsletters are available year-round to employees in CHS’s SharePoint site, creating a growing resource library for continued learning for CHS staff.



## Three Buckets: A comic about barriers to people on Medicaid

Public Health's Access and Outreach Team are skilled and dedicated professionals who help connect people to the health services they need. And in the course of their work, they hear a lot of stories about the difficulties in the healthcare system that stand in the way of people getting care.

Daphne Pie, a longtime leader of the Access and Outreach Team, shared her insights for a comics project in 2025 that marked ten years of Seattle/King County Clinic. As Daphne explains, when some of the barriers prove too high, [Seattle/King County Clinic](#) is one of the few options available for people to get medical, dental, and vision services.


View online: [Three Buckets: A comic about barriers to people on Medicaid – PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER](#)

## Seattle/King County Clinic – April 23-26 at Seattle Center

A project of Seattle Center and Seattle Center Foundation, Seattle/King County Clinic brings together healthcare organizations, civic agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and thousands of volunteers to produce the largest community-driven free health clinic of its kind in the United States. Funded by grants and donations, this four-day clinic transforms facilities on Seattle Center's campus normally used for performances and events into a fully functioning healthcare operation offering dental, vision, and medical care to anyone who struggles to access or afford services.

As a low-barrier clinic, patients do not need any form of documentation or proof of income, insurance, or immigration status to receive care. Each year, 3,000+ people in need are seen on a first-come, first-served basis.


Learn more online and download a flyer and social media graphics in multiple languages: [seattlecenter.org/patients](https://seattlecenter.org/patients)

 SEATTLE/KING COUNTY CLINIC

FREE Dental, Vision & Medical Services!

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

- For people in need
- All services are **FREE**
- **No ID required**
- Interpreters available
- Limited number of admission tickets
  - Distribution starts at 5:30 AM in Fisher Pavilion at Seattle Center
- First come, first served



 **April 23 – 26, 2026** |  **at Seattle Center**

**MORE INFORMATION:** SEATTLECENTER.ORG/PATIENTS



## **Invisible Victories: How Vaccines Transformed Childhood**

1,129,000. That's the estimated number of children's lives saved by childhood vaccinations in the U.S. over the past three decades. But the full story isn't just in what did happen; it's in what *didn't*. Measles outbreaks that never swept through kindergarten classrooms. Respirators never turned on for infants with whooping cough. Wheelchairs never needed for children paralyzed by polio. Just life, uninterrupted.

Vaccines have quietly rewritten the story of human health, allowing children to grow up healthier than any generation before them. But because these vaccine victories are largely invisible, we don't always give them the credit they deserve. Despite decades of research and real-world results, doubts about vaccines have become more common — not because the science has changed, but because the social context has. Anxieties have been stoked and collective memory of these devastating diseases has faded. In the absence of visible threats, it's easy to underestimate what we stand to lose.

To understand what's at stake when doubt and misinformation dominate, let's take a look at MMR, HPV, and hepatitis B, three childhood vaccines that have radically changed our lives.

Continue reading online: [Invisible Victories: How Vaccines Transformed Childhood – PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER](#)



# 2026 State Legislative Session Update

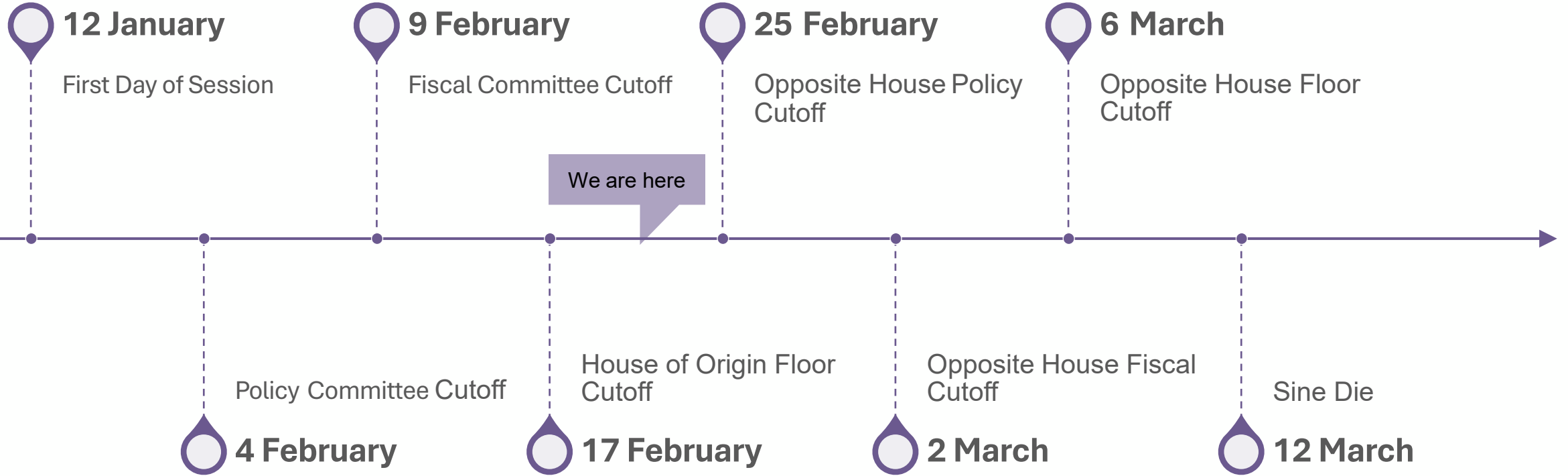
Simon Vila, Government Relations Officer

King County Board of Health

February 19th, 2026



# 2026 Session Calendar





# Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)

## Governor's Budget Proposal

- \$30 million annual system-wide reduction
- SB 5998 / HB 2289 - Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

## Loss from Vapor Product Tax Account

- \$20 million annual shortfall of vapor tax revenues.
- HB 2382 - Concerning excise taxes on cigarettes, vapor products, and tobacco products.
- SB 6129 - Concerning the taxation of cigarettes and other nicotine products.

- ❑ Environmental Health & Clean Water
- ❑ Tracking of Communicable Diseases
- ❑ Emergency Preparedness
- ❑ Disaster Mitigation
- ❑ Data Assessment and Information
- ❑ Communications & System Infrastructure



# 2026 State Session - Policy

## **Local Government Revenue**

- HB 2442 - Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility.

## **Public Health**

- HB 2242 - Preserving access to preventive services by clarifying state authority and definitions.

## **Food Access**

- HB 2238 - Concerning statewide food security.

## **Access to Care**

- SB 6210 - Concerning the health plan certification process.



# 2026 State Session – Policy Cont'd

## Environmental Health and Climate Change

- SB 6291 - Concerning on-site wastewater treatment system inspections.
- SB 5965 - Reducing environmental impacts associated with bags provided to customers at retail establishments.

## Gun Violence

- SB 5098 - Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities.

## Data Protections

- SB 5906 - Establishing data and personal safety protections within areas of public accommodation for all Washington residents.



# Questions?

Contact: [KCBOHAdmin@kingcounty.gov](mailto:KCBOHAdmin@kingcounty.gov)