



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Health requests funding to continue the 5-year leased hotel which will continue to serve the state’s Isolation and Quarantine facility. The allocations will pay operational costs which are required for the facility and include staff, food, medical care, security, and other services. With the assistance of the state, DOH can continue accommodating people needing to be isolated or quarantined from Viral Respiratory Diseases like SARS CoV2 (COVID), Tuberculosis, Monkeypox, Ebola, and other emerging infectious diseases. Without this funding, DOH would not be able to fund the lease, nor provide adequate food, shelter, medication and competent medical care.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Staffing						
FTEs	1.7	4.1	2.9	4.1	4.1	4.1
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$4,202	\$4,495	\$8,697	\$4,495	\$4,495	\$8,990
Total Expenditures	\$4,202	\$4,495	\$8,697	\$4,495	\$4,495	\$8,990

Decision Package Description

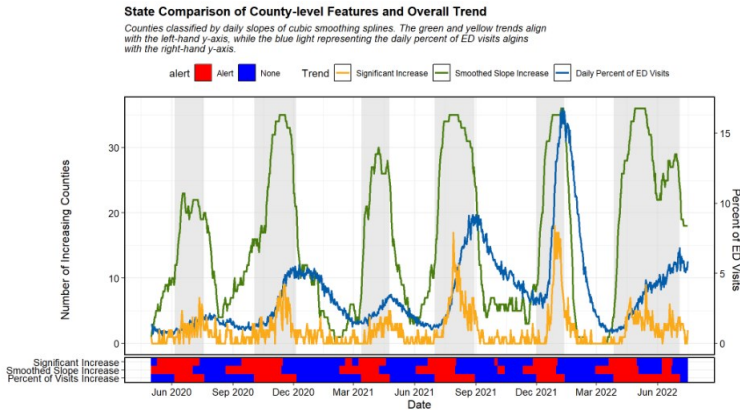
Problem:

Under RCW 43.70.130(7) the Secretary of Health has “the same authority as local health officers” in limited circumstances; “local health officer fails or is unable to [act], or when in an emergency the safety of the public health demands it, or by agreement with the local health officer or local board of health.” The Secretary of Health has used this authority numerous times throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including to issue statewide face covering orders and provide isolation and quarantine facilities and services. Accommodating for the needs of a person isolated or quarantined from Viral Respiratory Diseases like SARS CoV2 (COVID), TB, Monkeypox, Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases and other special pathogens in a systematic and competent fashion is an ongoing need. Provision of adequate food, clothing, shelter, means of communication, medical care, for those in isolation and quarantine in accordance with WAC 246-100-040 to -070, require the premises used for isolation or quarantine must be maintained in a safe and hygienic manner to minimize the likelihood of further transmission of infection or other harm to persons isolated and quarantined (WAC 246-100-045).

In May 2022, DOH entered a five-year lease of the Comfort Inn Tumwater (CIT), which has and will continue to serve as the state’s Isolation and Quarantine facility. This budget request is to pay for the operational costs required for the already-leased facility. DOH requires funding for staff, food, medical care, security, and other operational and wrap-around requirements for this facility.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state’s isolation and quarantine facility has moved to various locations and served a total of 556 guests as of 6/30/2022, with a peak of 110 total guests in January of 2022. The facility has served non-resident guests requesting assistance, Department of Corrections needs for service, and the Northwest Detention Facility.

Census numbers for the state’s isolation and quarantine facility have risen and fallen along with the waves of the pandemic. Based on the graph below from the DOH’s Rapid Health Information Network (RHINO) program, the start and end dates of each “wave” of the COVID-19 pandemic were determined to better assess the census numbers in isolation and quarantine.



Summary of Start Dates and Leads for Substantial Waves

Wave	Start Date - Significant Increase	Start Date - Smoothed Slope Increase	Start Date - Statewide Trend	Lead - Significant Increase ¹	Lead - Smoothed Slope Increase ²
Wave 1	2020-05-10	2020-05-01	2020-06-05	26 days	35 days
Wave 2	2020-09-14	2020-08-21	2020-10-03	19 days	43 days
Wave 3	2021-03-09	2021-02-08	2021-03-13	4 days	33 days
Wave 4	2021-06-21	2021-06-03	2021-07-01	10 days	28 days
Wave 5	2021-11-26	2021-11-11	2021-12-01	5 days	20 days
Wave 6	2022-03-20	2022-02-28	2022-03-27	7 days	27 days

¹Median of 8.5 days and mean of 11.83 days relative to statewide trend.
²Median of 30.5 days and mean of 31 days relative to statewide trend.

Wave	Wave Start Date	Wave Estimated End Date	Isolation Census	Quarantine Census	Total Census
1	June 5, 2020	July 17, 2020	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	N/A ¹
2	October 3, 2020	December 1, 2020	36 ²	10 ²	46 ²
3	March 13, 2021	April 25, 2021	36	16	52
4	July 1, 2021	September 1, 2021	99	10	108
5	December 1, 2021	January 10, 2022	63	1	64
6	March 27, 2022	Present	51	6	57

¹ I&Q data unavailable prior to November 3, 2020.

² Data from November 3, 2020 through December 1, 2020.

Census data was ascertained from the Isolation and Quarantine facility records, noting that none is available prior to November 3, 2020. The state has operated Isolation and Quarantine facilities with varying capacity since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The facilities started with small travel trailers parked at the DOH Shoreline Labs. When demand for isolation and quarantine increase beyond the travel trailer capacity, DOH explored many other options as described later in the decision package. It was not until November 2020 that DOH began maintaining detailed census records.

Many of the guests staying at the state’s Isolation and Quarantine facility are out-of-state travelers and do not have accommodations to isolate or quarantine on their own or do not have the financial means to purchase a hotel room. DOH anticipates a need to continue to provide accommodations for isolation and quarantine with COVID-19 endemic to our population and for other Viral Respiratory Diseases. However, FEMA reimbursement funds are anticipated to end and the burden of cost to operate this facility will shift to the state.

For events other than COVID-19, the state continues to have a legal obligation to maintain the capability of providing isolation and quarantine for people with emerging infectious diseases and other special pathogens. This request is to provide the funding to continue operating the isolation and quarantine facility.

Proposal:

The proposed solution is an annual operating budget of \$4,495,000, which is based on operational costs incurred during the highest peaks of the COVID pandemic to house isolation and quarantine guests. Operational costs used for this estimate were based on full capacity (40 guests) for 12 months.

This budget includes:

- Three DOH FTEs who provide leadership, planning, and transportation support for the facility.
- One contracted nurse who is the medical lead for the facility and oversees the medical monitoring of any guests.
- A contract for the operations of the facility, which includes providing food, laundry services, guest coordination, and other wrap-around services.
- A contract for medical monitoring while guests are at the facility.
- A contract for room cleaning and sanitization upon guests' departures. These funds will allow for the continued operations and utilization of a sustainable isolation and quarantine facility to provide health, safety, and welfare to those in need in a timely manner as well as provide the ability to serve the needs of the Department of Corrections and non-resident travelers.

Alternative:

FEMA reimbursements have been the sole funding source for the operational costs of the I&Q facility. However, FEMA reimbursements will end, and the burden of the cost will shift to the state. No other funding source has been identified to continue these critical operations.

DOH has maintained I&Q capability since the beginning of the first outbreak of COVID-19. Over time it has evolved in type, quality, operational capacity, and what has been considered the most cost effective and reasonable over time. DOH has explored multiple options for its I&Q site, including the following:

- Shoreline and Maple Lane RVs. The use of Shoreline's location for I&Q ended in December 2020 due to a spike in COVID-19 cases, which started November 20, 2020. As a result, DOH suddenly faced the need to secure a larger-scale I&Q facility.
- Retrofit Maple Lane Renovations. Maple Lane Retrofit was an empty facility that included three buildings located at 20311 Old Hwy 9 SW Centralia, WA 98531. Renovations begun on three buildings in August 2020 and continued through December 2020. To prepare the Maple Lane building for use as I&Q, DOH secured the services of a contractor to perform renovation work in 2020. During the renovations, DOH contracted for eight RVs to be placed at Maple Lane. Four RVs were dedicated to isolation and four were dedicated for quarantine. DOH suddenly faced the need to secure larger-scale I&Q facility due to a rise in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant. Renovations were put on hold in March 2021 as DOH prepared to secure Camp Solomon Schechter in place of the RVs to accommodate the surge in COVID-19 cases and help assist the targeted population.
- Camp Solomon Schechter. Camp Solomon Schechter consisted of three large apartment buildings and cabins. WA DOH started operations in August of 2020 when DOH entered an agreement with the church that owned the summer Camp Solomon Schechter (CSS) located at 1627A 73rd Ave SE, Olympia, WA. CSS served as the state's I&Q facility from December 2020 to May 2021. CSS was large enough to house all COVID-19 positive patients even at our highest census rate. In May 2021, DOH changed their I&Q facility to Lakeview Inn due to the fact the church needed to start their summer programs at Camp Solomon Schechter and more assistance was needed to accommodate the targeted population due to another high rise in COVID-19 cases.

- Lakeview Inn. DOH searched for a new location and evaluated 13 motels in the region and chose the Lakeview Inn in Centralia, WA located at 1325 Lakeshore Dr, Centralia, WA. The motel had 37 useable rooms that served as the state's new I&Q facility. The facility started accepting targeted populations May 2021 and continued through December 2021. However, due to security concern, maintenance issues, and lack of response from the facility's owners regarding issues, DOH decided to search for a new location.
- Camp Solomon Schechter. In December 2021, DOH again entered a lease with CSS. CSS served as the state's I&Q facility until March 2022. The state stopped using CSS as its I&Q facility when the owners of CSS needed the facility to begin hosting summer camps.
- Comfort Inn Tumwater. DOH entered a 5-year lease with and began using the Comfort Inn Tumwater as its I&Q facility starting on April 1, 2022. This facility, located at 1620 74th Avenue SW, Tumwater, WA 98501, has 40 individual rooms. Alternatively, each room can support a family of four. The first of three floors are dedicated for I&Q operations and support and has dedicated rooms for guests who require Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements. The second of the three floors are dedicated for guests who are quarantining. The third of the three floors of the facility are dedicated for guests who are isolating.

To date, utilizing the Comfort Inn Tacoma throughout the duration of the 5-year lease agreement is the most stable option explored. DOH can maintain the necessary isolation and quarantine capability without the threat of having to change locations another time.

Local health jurisdictions are not an option for providing these services. While they are required to provide isolation and quarantine services for their own residents, they will not provide these services to non-residents. If the state does not provide this service, there will be the continued spreading of this disease and an increased use of critically low quantity of available hospital beds in the state's healthcare systems.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

These assumptions are based on a continuation of the current (FY23) funding level for FY24 as COVID funding was previously used and will no longer be available.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

The calculations for the continued operations of the state’s isolation and quarantine facility are based on the median census numbers of each wave throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The waves are based on the dates and information provided above. The median value for the census data of the six waves is 57 guests. The facility has 40 available rooms for isolation and quarantine guests. Therefore, the calculations are based on providing services to 40 guests.

The calculations include:

Three DOH FTEs for a total annual cost of \$343,000.

One contracted medical nurse lead at \$107.79 per hour for an annual cost of \$224,203.

One contracted company for 24-hour daily facility operations at \$141,712 per month for an annual cost of \$1,700,544.

One contracted company for 24-hour medical monitoring and nursing support at an annual cost of \$963,600.

One contracted company to provide cleaning and sanitization services for each guest room. Each room is cleaned on average of four times per month based on the average length of stay for each guest. The cost to clean and sanitize each room is \$207. The annual cost is \$397,440.

One contracted company to provide 24-hour on-site security at a cost of \$33.00 per hour. The total annual cost is \$289,080.

Food for the guests averages \$30 per day for each guest. With the maximum capacity of 40 guests, the annual cost for food is \$438,000.

This project includes two FTEs: Emergency Management Program Specialist 2 positions (Job Code 397B), each with an annual salary and benefits totaling \$104,499.

This project includes one FTE: Emergency Management Program Specialist 4 position (Job Code 397D) with an annual salary and benefits totaling \$133,054

Workforce Assumptions:

FTE	Job Classification	Salary	Benefits	Startup Costs	FTE Related Costs
1.0	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SPECIALIST 2	\$68,000.00	\$29,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
0.7	FISCAL ANALYST 2	\$36,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.7		\$104,000.00	\$46,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00

Estimated expenditures include salary, benefit, and related costs to assist with administrative workload activities. These activities include policy and legislative relations; information technology; budget and accounting services; human resources; contracts; procurement; risk management, and facilities management.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This package supports the Governor’s strategic goal area **4: Health and safe communities: Fostering the health of Washingtonians from a healthy start to safe and supported future.**

This proposal supports the Dept. of Health’s **Transformational Plan Priority I. Health and Wellness**, in that All Washingtonians have the opportunity to attain their full potential of physical, mental, and social health and well-being. This proposal achieves this priority by diversifying and securing funding. This proposal intends to strategically deploy resources for maximum impact. In addition to Integrating the voices of underrepresented communities into all policy, program, and resource decisions, this proposals intent is to ensure equitable access to services, programs, opportunities, and information is available.

Performance Outcomes:

If funding is received for these operational costs, DOH will be able to continue to use the isolation and quarantine facility at the Comfort Inn Tumwater. These funds will be used to ensure guests are served in a safe and hygienic manner to minimize the likelihood of further transmission of infection or other harm to persons isolated and quarantined. The funds will allow DOH to prepare for and accommodate guests impacted by the current pandemic and any major events or pandemics in the future.

Equity Impacts

Community outreach and engagement:

Community Outreach and Engagement:

The Department of Corrections also utilized a separate area of this facility for isolation and quarantine of its work-release inmates. The inmates are monitored by a Corrections Officer. They are unable to return these inmates to the general prison population and without this facility, they would not have a facility to place these individuals.

Public health professionals and policymakers who are implementing isolation and quarantine orders, provided they meet the requirements of due process laid out earlier, are doing the right thing for the public's health. As we implement our isolation and quarantine plans, we also need to put safeguards in place to ensure that while we are addressing the very real threat of COVID-19 we are not exacerbating long-standing health disparities.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

Disproportional Impact:

Many of the people who require isolation and quarantine are the same ones who live with chronic illnesses that put them at greatest risk for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. They may be living paycheck to paycheck, and isolation or quarantine might mean that they will be laid off. People living at or below the poverty line, especially unhoused individuals, will need support from the government to ensure that their basic needs are met during a period of isolation or quarantine.

Target Populations or Communities:

Target Populations and Communities:

Health equity means that everyone, regardless of who they are or where they live, has a fair and just opportunity to live a healthy life. Achieving health equity entails eliminating the drivers of health inequities like structural discrimination, income inequality and poverty, disparities in opportunity, and governance that limits meaningful participation. Public health policies can advance or inhibit health equity, often through unintended consequences.

Many of the people who find themselves subject to utilizing the state's isolation and quarantine facility are out-of-state travelers who do not have the financial means to seek alternative solutions, such as a hotel room, for the duration needed to be cleared from COVID-19. With ever-changing regulations associated with international travel, many travelers must provide proof that they have been medically cleared before they are allowed to travel to their international destination. The state's facility has provided accommodations to many low-ranking, low-income U.S. military servicemembers during their travel to overseas assignments. These accommodations help these servicemembers avoid financial hardships during stressful international assignments.

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

N/A

State Workforce Impacts:

N/A

Intergovernmental:

When a county can justifiably not provide isolation and quarantine accommodations for its residents, the county’s health office can officially request that the state provide these services. The funding received from this package would allow the state to continue to provide isolation and quarantine services to non-residents and, when requested, residents of Washington as a service to individual counties.

The Department of Corrections utilize the state’s isolation and quarantine facility for its work-release inmates when those inmates cannot return to the prison’s general population. If the state’s isolation and quarantine facility were to cease operations due to lack of funding, the Department of Corrections would not have a facility to isolate or quarantine its work-release inmates.

Stakeholder Response:

N/A

State Facilities Impacts:

The Office of Financial Management has secured a 5-year lease for the Comfort Inn Tumwater. This funding request is to continue operations throughout the 5-year lease.

Changes from Current Law:

N/A

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

N/A

Reference Documents

[Continued State Isolation and Quarantine Operations FNCal \(1\) \(1\).xlsm](#)

[EPRR 2023 Concept Paper IQ Operations Budget \(1\).xlsx](#)

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Obj. A	\$104	\$286	\$390	\$286	\$286	\$572
Obj. B	\$46	\$120	\$166	\$120	\$120	\$240
Obj. C	\$4,013	\$4,031	\$8,044	\$4,031	\$4,031	\$8,062
Obj. E	\$27	\$35	\$62	\$35	\$35	\$70
Obj. J	\$4	\$0	\$4	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. T	\$8	\$23	\$31	\$23	\$23	\$46

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