



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: 360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay

December 2, 2024

Re: Informative - Draft Language for Proposed Data Sharing for 2026 Legislation Session

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

We are writing today to provide information about Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) intent to collaborate with Tribal partners to prepare legislation aimed at reforming data sharing practices, with the goal of proposing potential changes during the 2026 Washington State Legislative Session.

This communication follows the guidelines of [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#). We are informing you of potential legislation that DOH aims to propose for the 2026 Legislative Session, which seeks to address long-standing barriers to sharing critical public health data with Tribal governments and Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) in a timely and effective manner. We acknowledge that current practices have created challenges in making data accessible to our tribal partners and are committed to working collaboratively to improve these processes. We are sharing some preliminary draft bill language as a starting point for your review. Please note that this draft is intended as a starting point to guide discussions and will be modified as we continue our review and outreach. You will receive a Collaborative DTLL in January for future listening sessions. We value your partnership and expertise to ensure our efforts successfully advance public health and address the unique needs of Tribal and TEC public health authorities advancing the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

For additional information, please contact our Data Democratization Manager, Francoise Pickart at francoise.pickart@doh.wa.gov or (360) 995-3066, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy
Executive Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation

cc: Les Becker, Chief of Innovation and Technology, WA-DOH
Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
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