



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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March 10, 2025

**Re: Informative – WA-DOH | Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center Data Sharing Agreement Amendment**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we write to inform you that the Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH) plans to amend current data sharing agreements (DSAs) with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board's (NPAIHB) Northwest Tribal EpiCenter (NWTEC) to allow for redisclosure of data and sharing of small numbers to Washington State Tribes through the NW Tribal Data Hub and responses to data requests from Tribes.

The NW Tribal Data Hub will provide Washington State Tribes with secure access to public health data within their Tribal area. Tribes gain access to the NW Tribal Data Hub through first signing a DSA with NPAIHB. In this DSA, Tribes will designate an authorizing official at the Tribe who will approve Tribal staff to have access to the NW Tribal Data Hub and approve the Tribe's requests for data through NWTEC's Data Request and Technical Assistance (DRTA) process.

Authorized NW Tribal Data Hub users must agree to the Data Hub's terms and conditions, which include a provision to only use the data for community-level assessments and to not use the data to identify individuals for any purpose. Authorized users will receive a secure login to be able to view, interact with, and download data through visual and interactive dashboards. Each Tribe will be able to view aggregated data within their Tribal service area, state, and the Northwest region.

Currently, the DSAs we have with NPAIHB/NWTEC include the Center for Health Statistics (births, deaths, fetal deaths, hospital discharge), COVID/General Communicable Diseases, Office of Infectious Disease, the Rapid Health Information Network (RHINO), Cancer Registry, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), and the Healthy Youth Survey. These DSAs include limitations on sharing of small numbers per DOH's [Guidelines for Working with Small Numbers](#) and restrict redisclosure.

We intend to initiate the process for DSA amendments to allow for redisclosure of data and sharing of small numbers for the NW Tribal Data Hub and NWTEC's DRTA process. This proposal was presented to the Governor's Indian Health Advisory Committee's Data Sovereignty workgroup in January. We intend to initiate these DSA amendments this April.

To share any concerns on this process or request more information please contact Amanda Tjemsland, Senior Tribal Epidemiologist, at [amanda.tjemsland@doh.wa.gov](mailto:amanda.tjemsland@doh.wa.gov), or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov), or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,



Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer  
Washington State Department of Health

cc: Jessica Todorovich, Interim Secretary of Health, WA-DOH  
Wendy Endress, Acting Chief of Staff, WA-DOH  
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH  
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