

West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) CHARTER

As of 11/24/25

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West Coast Health Alliance



Purpose: Goals/Objectives

California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii have formed the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) to uphold integrity of effective public health strategies to protect the health of our communities. Through this partnership, WCHA will collaborate on the review of the best available science and evidence to make unified recommendations that support safety, efficacy, transparency, access, and trust. WCHA will also focus on the coordination of aligned messaging. WCHA will:

- Work together to ensure the public has access to credible information
- Coordinate to reduce confusion and increase trust in public health
- Provide evidence-based position statements, policy recommendations and guidance
- Seek alignment with respected national professional organizations
- Share tools and best practices

Shared Principles: [West Coast Health Alliance Shared Principles](#)

To protect the health of our communities, the West Coast Health Alliance will work to ensure that our public health strategies are based on the best available science. We will independently pursue strategies shaped by our unique laws, geographies, histories, and peoples, using these shared principles as the foundations of our Alliance:

- 1. Health as a Right**
We affirm that all members of our communities should have access to quality health care and information.
- 2. Science and Integrity**
We are committed to leading with science and to grounding our policies and recommendations in rigorous research, clinical expertise, and decades of proven public health practice. We commit to reevaluating our recommendations as new data becomes available.
- 3. Transparency and Trust**
Our communities deserve clear, transparent communication about health, rooted in science. We will safeguard public trust through honesty, clarity, and accountability.
- 4. Public Health Responsibility**
We recognize the responsibility entrusted to us to protect and promote the health of the public. We will serve in a manner worthy of that trust, prioritizing prevention and evidence-based care to save lives.
- 5. Equity at Our Core**
We are committed to giving everyone in our communities the opportunity to attain their highest level of health, and to eliminating barriers to evidence-based care especially for disproportionately impacted or marginalized communities.

6. Tribal Sovereignty

We affirm and respect Tribal sovereignty, recognizing Tribes' authority over their health services. We also acknowledge health disparities impacting Indigenous peoples.

7. Coverage and Access

We advocate for full coverage by payors of preventive services.

Scope

The scope of the WCHA will focus on the following:

- Evaluating and responding to threats to national public health policy and recommendations
 - Reviewing data, information, and reports from credible clinical and scientific professional organizations that use evidence-based methodologies and source materials to assess changes in public health policy
 - Develop unified public health position statements, policy recommendations and guidance
 - Addressing communications needs and countering mis- and dis-information
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Talking Points re WCHA:

- Initial areas of focus may include:
 - Immunization Recommendations & Position Statements
 - Healthcare Infection Control Prevention & Practices Guidance
 - FDA authorization changes
 - Preventive services guidelines
- The WCHA may develop recommendations to safeguard the use of science and evidence for public health recommendations that have high impact in all of our states, in response to termination or scientific compromise of federal taskforces, advisory committees, or agencies.
- Membership:
 - The West Coast Health Alliance currently includes public health leaders and subject matter experts from the state health departments of California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington, with oversight and direction from the four Governors.
- Primary national professional organizations WHCA recognizes as maintaining credible, scientific, evidence-based recommendations include, but may not be limited to:
 - American Academy of Pediatrics
 - American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
 - American Academy of Family Practice
 - American College of Physicians
 - Infectious Disease Society of America
 - National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine

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