

April 6, 2026

**Subject: Informative- DOH-SBOH Information on Agency Rulemaking March 16-30, 2026**

Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals,

**We thank you for your partnership and guidance on the Washington State Department of Health rulemaking process.** As an agency, we are committed to honoring the Tribal sovereignty of Washington's first Nations. As part of this commitment, and in appreciation of the governance structures of Tribal Nations, we welcome your expertise and collaboration in these current and upcoming rulemaking activities. We prioritize Tribal involvement early in the process to better ensure we are incorporating Tribal expertise, perspectives, and transparency in agency rulemaking.

In accordance with [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [Department of Health's \(WA-DOH\) Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), WA-DOH invites you to review the list of rulemaking activities below and actively collaborate with staff on all topics that may be of interest.

We appreciate your feedback, if you have any suggestions or questions about how to best honor Tribal sovereignty and strengthen agency processes, please let us know.

To provide comments or requests for additional information, please contact:

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Sincerely,



Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi)  
Executive Director OTPHR

CC: Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH  
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH  
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH  
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety & Health, WA-DOH  
Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH, Chief Science Officer, WA-DOH  
Michelle Davis, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health

**Department of Health/State Board of Health****Agency Rulemaking****March 16-30, 2026**

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**Department of Health & State Board of Health Rulemaking**

The following Department of Health (WA DOH) and State Board of Health (SBOH) rules and documents were filed with the Washington State's Code Reviser Office March 16-31, 2026. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact the person listed on the filing forms.

**Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101)**

**Physical Therapy TOEFL Scoring Requirements.** The Board of Physical Therapy filed a CR-101 to consider rulemaking to update English-language proficiency scoring requirements for applicants seeking licensure as physical therapists or physical therapist assistants under WAC 246-915-120. Filed as [WSR 26-07-052](#).

**Veterinarian, Veterinary Technician, Veterinary Medication Clerk, and Humane Society Licensure Fees.** WA DOH, in consultation with the Veterinary Board of Governors, is considering amendments to WAC 246-933-590, 246-933-990, 246-935-990, and 246-937-990. To remove jurisprudence exam fees for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, add a surcharge to initial licensure for veterinarians, and update fees. Filed as [WSR 26-08-008](#).

**Proposed Rules (CR-102)**

**Birth Center Accreditation Inspection Requirements.** WA DOH proposed amendments to chapter 246-329 WAC to update inspection and accreditation requirements for licensed birthing centers and clarify compliance expectations for accredited inspection programs. Filed as [WSR 26-08-039](#).

**Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Courses Expanding Enrollment to Students Aged 16.** WA DOH is proposing amendments to WAC 246-976-022 and 246-976-041 to implement HB 1722 (2025), which allows 16-year-old students to enroll in initial EMR or EMT training programs administered by approved skills centers or by vocational programs approved by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The proposal also clarifies program approval requirements and training program organization types. Filed as [WSR 26-08-081](#).

**Hospital Emergency Department Patient Care Information Reporting (RHINO).** WA DOH proposed a new chapter of WAC to implement RCW 43.70.057 by establishing requirements for hospital emergency departments and urgent care facilities to report patient care information through the Rapid Health Information Network (RHINO) syndromic surveillance system. Filed as [WSR 26-07-069](#).

**Midwives Removal of Certain Examination Requirements.** WA DOH proposed amendments to chapter 246-834 WAC to remove jurisprudence examination requirements for midwives. Filed as [WSR 26-08-020](#).

**Nursing Assistant Integrating Skills Testing in Training Programs.** The Washington State Board of Nursing is proposing amendments to WAC 246-841A-390 through 246-841A-405, 246-841A-410 through 246-841A-425, 246-841A-430 through 246-841A-530, 246-841A-545 through 246-841A-586, 246-841A-590, 246-841A-595, 246-841A-720, and 246-841A-980 and establishing new sections to WAC 246-841A-740, 246-841A-750, 246-841A-760, 246-841A-770, 246-841A-800, 246-841A-810, 246-841A-820, and 246-841A-830 to remove the specialty curricula requirements, and implement Senate Bill (SB) 5051 (chapter 5, Laws of 2025). These amendments clarify and update language on the common curriculum and competency evaluations, including new rules on early remediation, sexual misconduct, and the board-approved substance use disorder monitoring program for nursing assistants. Filed as [WSR 26-08-087](#).

#### [Expedited Rulemaking \(CR-105\)](#)

**Dental Examination Names.** The Dental Quality Assurance Commission filed a CR-105 to update examination names referenced in WAC 246-817-120 governing dentist licensure to reflect current national testing organization terminology. Filed as [WSR 26-08-057](#).

**Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Update.** The Board of Physical Therapy filed a CR-105 to amend WAC 246-915A-010 to update the effective date in the state rule with provisions of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. Washington state's rules must align with the compact rules to participate in the compact. Filed as [WSR 26-07-047](#).

#### [Emergency Rules \(CR-103E\)](#)

No emergency rules filed during this reporting period.

#### [Adopted Rules \(CR-103P\)](#)

**Consumer Confidence Report Drinking Water Public Notification Updates.** WA DOH adopted amendments to sections of chapter 246-290 WAC to update consumer confidence report requirements for Group A public water systems and align state rule provisions with recent federal regulatory changes. Filed as [WSR 26-08-023](#).

**Medication Assistance.** The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission adopted amendments to chapter 246-945 WAC, expanding the types of medication assistance that trained individuals in health care settings may provide and clarifying supervision requirements. Filed as [WSR 26-08-065](#).

#### [Miscellaneous Filings](#)

**Control and Disposition Over Unsafe or Unapproved Food in Retail Food Establishments** |EHS-03-2026—Interpretive Statement. WA DOH filed a notice of adoption for an interpretive statement regarding the disposition of unsafe or unapproved food under chapter 246-215 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-08-082](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 1999 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 1999 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because the guidance is now incorporated into chapter 246-296 WAC governing the loan program. Filed as [WSR 26-07-083](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2000 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 2000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because program requirements are now established in chapter 246-296 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-07-084](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2001 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 2001 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because program requirements are now established in chapter 246-296 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-07-085](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2002 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 2002 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because program requirements are now established in chapter 246-296 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-07-086](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2003 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 2003 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because program requirements are now established in chapter 246-296 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-07-087](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2004 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 2004 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because program requirements are now established in chapter 246-296 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-07-088](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2005 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 2005 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because program requirements are now established in chapter 246-296 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-07-091](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2006 Application and Guidelines**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement related to the 2006 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application cycle because program requirements are now established in chapter 246-296 WAC. Filed as [WSR 26-07-089](#).

**Expired Nursing Multistate License**—Policy Statement. The Washington Board of Nursing issued policy statement | POL-01-26 providing guidance on the status and handling of expired multistate nursing licenses issued under the Nurse Licensure Compact. Filed as [WSR 26-07-076](#).

**Guidelines for Minimizing Bare Hand Contact with Ready-to-Eat Foods**—Interpretive statement rescission. WA DOH rescinded an interpretive statement providing guidance to food service establishments and regulators regarding minimizing bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods due to updates to chapter 246-215 WAC and revisions to the FDA Food Code. Filed as [WSR 26-07-090](#).

**Hospital staffing committee**—Schedule of 2026 regular meetings. Filed as [WSR 26-08-040](#).

**Music Therapy Advisory Committee**—Revised 2026 schedule of regular meetings. Filed as [WSR 26-08-058](#).

**On-site Sewage System (OSS) Requirements**—Interpretive statement. WA DOH adopted interpretive statement EHS-02-2026, Requirements for Privately Owned OSS Serving More than One Development, clarifying the interpretation of WAC 246-272A-0200(6) regarding privately owned on-site sewage systems serving more than one development. Filed as [WSR 26-07-092](#).

**Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission**—Policy statement. The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission issued policy statement PO14.2, Commission Approved Examinations for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians WAC 246-945-165 and 246-945-205, identifying approved examinations for pharmacist and pharmacy technician licensure. Filed as [WSR 26-08-066](#).

**Veterinarian and veterinary technician licensure fees.** WA DOH filed notice withdrawing the CR-101 for veterinarian and veterinary technician licensure fees in WAC 246-933-990 and 246-935-990 (WSR 26-05-076). New CR-101 was filed under WSR 26-08-008. Filed as [WSR 26-08-007](#).