

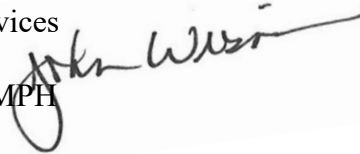


STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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August 29, 2019

TO: Trauma Designated Services

FROM: John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health 

SUBJECT: Moratorium on New Level Trauma Designation Applications

The Department of Health is issuing a moratorium on all new level trauma designations across the state effective today. Trauma Designated Services in the east and southcentral EMS and trauma regions may apply for renewal of designation at their current level per the current 2017-2019 designation schedule, but not for a change in their currently-designated level.

This year the department contracted with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) for a comprehensive assessment of the Washington State EMS and Trauma System, and their report was recently released. The ACS Assessment Report recommends that the criteria for trauma designation by level, methodologies for calculation of minimum and maximum numbers, and process for implementation be reviewed and revised. This moratorium will give us time to carefully vet and thoughtfully consider options for improving the EMS and trauma system statewide.

As part of the vetting process, I will soon send information about upcoming public forums scheduled in several communities around the state this fall/winter to consider the ACS recommendations. Using information from these public forums, the Department of Health will work with EMS and trauma stakeholders and policymakers to improve the process and determine optimal geographical distribution of trauma services statewide. Our aim is to complete this work by July 2020, and then make a decision on when ending the moratorium makes most sense.

If you have questions on this matter, please contact Anthony Bledsoe, Trauma Designation Administrator, at 360-236-2871 or anthony.bledsoe@doh.wa.gov.

cc: Anthony Bledsoe, Department of Health