

School Safety Program Advisory Meeting



Attendees	Schools: Stephen Roddy (<i>Lighthouse Christian School, Gig Harbor</i>), Cheryl Collins (<i>Sumner-Bonney Lake SD</i>), Jeff Rogers (<i>Tacoma SD</i>), Shallae Hobbs (<i>Tacoma SD</i>), Diane Colclough (<i>Tacoma SD</i>) Washington Federation of Independent Schools (<i>WFIS</i>): Sharon Ricci, Suzie Hanson Holly Preble (<i>Parent</i>) Pierce County Emergency Management (<i>PC-EM</i>): Wyatt Godfrey - School/K-12 Liaison Washington State Department of Health (<i>DOH</i>): Ali Boris, Nancy Bernard, Scott Reynolds Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (<i>TPCHD</i>): Amber Gibbar, Christina Sherman, Crystal Newton, Lori Karnes, Paula Read, Stephanie Chou, Elese Mosier, Ken Howes Sara Graber - MPH Student Intern, Cannabis, Tobacco, and Vaping Prevention Program (<i>PH-SKC, Public Health – Seattle & King County</i>)
Date, Time	May 2, 2024, 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Location	Microsoft Teams Meeting

Notes

	Introductions and ground rules
	General introductions.

	November 2023 meeting notes - finalized
	Crystal (<i>TPCHD</i>) asked for any changes to the Nov. 16, 2023 draft notes.
Discussion	- No changes. - Send any changes to communitysafety@tpchd.org.

	Department updates
	Christina Sherman (<i>TPCHD</i>)
	Environmental health code updates.
	Links:

	Environmental Health Code - TPCHD (tpchd.org) https://tpchd.org/i-want-to/view/environmental-health-code/ Regulated Activities (tpchd.org) https://tpchd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/EHC-Chapter-10-Environmental-Health-and-Safety-Regulations-for-Primary-and-Secondary-Schools.pdf Announcing the New Director and Health Officer for the Health Department. These roles will be separate. • Chantell Harmon Reed, Director of Public Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. • Dr. Jay Miller, Health Officer, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Links: Chantell Harmon Reed will lead Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department as next director of public health - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (tpchd.org) https://tpchd.org/news/chantell-harmon-reed-to-be-new-director-of-public-health/ Chantell Harmon Reed starts new role as Director of Public Health - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (tpchd.org) https://tpchd.org/news/chantell-harmon-reed-starts-new-role-as-director-of-public-health/ Dr. Jay Miller will serve as Health Officer for Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and our community - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (tpchd.org) https://tpchd.org/news/dr-jay-miller-will-serve-as-health-officer-for-tacoma-pierce-county-health-department-and-our-community/
Discussion	

	Pollution prevention assistance Ken Howes and Elese Mosier (TPCHD)
	Pollution Prevention Assistance – <i>only rain down the drain</i>. Accomplish this through <u>non-regulatory assistance visits</u> looking at: I. Washing practices (exterior washing e.g. pressure washing parking lots, washing mats, etc.). <i>Unless water is collected and disposed of properly.</i> II. Spill response (resulting from a vehicle crash, fryers in school kitchens or culinary rooms, and science-labs). III. Chemical storage (science and maintenance areas – grounds/landscaping chemicals). IV. Dangerous wastes (used oil and chemicals). <u>Lab chemical storage</u>: Want to have clear/accurate content labeling. Good seals and no open containers. Faded labels also mean the chemical hasn't been used recently so school should

dispose of them. For quantity, should be able to use up through the school year, reducing on-site storage of chemicals.

Have school staff use these chemicals this year, will they? **IF not** – helping them to clear those chemicals out of storage.

Are cabinets being used properly (flammable/acid/corrosives/etc.)?

Fume hoods should not be used for excess storage. Guidance to school staff on the idea that *nothing should be in the fume hood at the end of the day*.

Lab legacy chemicals: Legacy chemicals are chemicals left over from a previous teacher, something that is no longer in use (i.e. within the past school year), and degraded containers that need to be disposed of.

Cleanout – PPA has resources on how to clean out labs safely: First always refer to the SDS before handling chemicals. Ensure staff have the proper PPE.

>> Previous thoughts were *diluting chemical waste with water and pouring it down the drain*.

** Department of Ecology advises any schools/staff still doing this practice to stop. Instead, contact hazardous waste disposal services.

IF it is an urgent disposal, the school can contact hazardous waste disposal services to come out and do a one-time pick-up.

TPCHD PPA program has a contract with the Department of Ecology to help with these one-time cleanout costs; Small Change Voucher.

- Also available to schools are several free spill kits.

Small Change Voucher: Consists of \$500 that can be used to assist with purchasing containers, chemical disposal, obtaining spill kits (if the school wants to buy their own), etc. If there is something that hasn't been included that would help the schools manage chemicals and pollution → contact PPA program and they will discuss and bring option up with the Department of Ecology.

Chemical inventory: A part of pollution prevention is having an accurate chemical inventory. Records on when chemicals were added, when they were used last, when they were removed for disposal. NOTE: If the chemical hasn't been used in the past year consider disposal.

Chemical exchanges between schools (within district/outside of district): Conduct best practice management. *Don't plan on taking anything you don't plan on using that year*.

Contacts:

TPCHD Pollution Prevention Assistance— Ken Howes, EHSI KHowes@tpchd.org

— Elese Mosier, EHSII EMosier@tpchd.org

Links:

	Laboratory Guide for Managing Dangerous Waste https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1504015.pdf Waste service providers - Washington State Department of Ecology https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/guidance-technical-assistance/dangerous-waste-guidance/dispose-recycle-or-treat/hazardous-waste-service-provider Laboratory Guide for Managing Dangerous Waste (EPA: Toolkit for Safe Chemical Management in K-12 Schools) https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1504015.pdf
	• Question—Stephen Roddy (<i>Lighthouse Christian School</i>); If interested, should reach out via email, and will walk through the process? Ken Howes (<i>TPCHD</i>) responded; Yes, we first will do the walk through (PPA visit), and then can issue the voucher. • Question—Stephen Roddy (<i>Lighthouse Christian School</i>); Is hand sanitizer included in that as well? Ken Howes (<i>TPCHD</i>) responded; We will get back to you on that, and if it is something that you would need to pay for safe disposal then it could be valid. We could make a case for it. • Question—Sharon Ricci (<i>WFIS</i>); “Could these community service Pollution Prevention visits be scheduled in the months prior to the school’s bi-annual Health and Safety Inspection? This would be helpful if scheduled in advance.” Ken Howes (<i>TPCHD</i>) responded; Yes, can be proactive and come out before. Reach out to us to schedule before the safety visit. • Question—Lori Karnes (<i>TPCHD</i>); This is for public and private schools? Ken Howes (<i>TPCHD</i>) responded; Yes. • Question—Lori Karnes (<i>TPCHD</i>); Is this available at the school level or the district level? Ken Howes (<i>TPCHD</i>) responded; School level. • Question—Lori Karnes (<i>TPCHD</i>); Are these vouchers issued annually – do they expire? Could you use two issued over a two-year period? Ken Howes (<i>TPCHD</i>) responded; No, it can’t be a combined effort, and it can’t go toward any annual cost. Only to a one-time cost. Else Mosier (<i>TPCHD</i>) responded; The voucher is mainly to get rid of legacy chemicals, and then hoping that the school can create their chemical management program where they only have chemicals for that year. • Question—Steven Roddy (<i>Lighthouse Christian School</i>); It could help on getting new storage cabinets for the workshop and two science labs they have? TPCHD responded with an affirmative assent.

	School resources reminders/updates Lori Karnes (<i>TPCHD</i>)
	Updated documents In late February to early March there were updates made to some of the school guidance documents.

Safe cleaning and disinfection guidance for schools DOH: The intent is to replace appendix 8 from the current Infectious Disease Control Guide (2014). The guide itself is going to be updated, and it's still a good resource on its own if have any illness in the school.

→ Guidance on musical instruments was added.

3D printers: Previously there was a handout (shared with school inspection reports). This handout has been recently updated to be a new webpage that goes into additional details.

→ The most significant change was the allowance to capture and 'clean' exhaust before discharging back into the building is no longer an option. All exhaust, and all potential pollutants should be discharged outside of the school.

(School code requires mechanical exhaust for potential contaminated air.)

Upcoming updates

The K-12 Health and Safety Guide is for when a school is being built *and* operated. The goal is to have it updated before Nancy leaves (end of June 2024). Send an email to Lori or Nancy with any feedback (wording changes, more information needed, etc.).

Resources for schools

Smart Building Center – Tool Library: They have about 1,000 different tools available for rent/lending. This is an option for schools/school districts to try equipment before purchasing. This website also has other resources linked including K-12 ventilation resources, and additional links from the EPA, etc.

You must create an account. There will be a replacement cost associated with each tool to be aware of. You can reserve a specific tool for a specified time, and after you submit your reservation, then it goes in your cart. The tool can either be picked up or shipped to you. You can fine-tune your search for what you are looking for.

Send any feedback or questions on using this resource/service to Lori Karnes (TPCHD).

Contacts:

TPCHD Community Safety—Lori Karnes, EHS supervisor LKarnes@tpchd.org

Links:

[infectiousdiseasecontrolguide.pdf \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](#) | <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2023-08/infectiousdiseasecontrolguide.pdf>

[Safe Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Schools \(wa.gov\)](#) | <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/333-344.pdf>

[3D Printers | Washington State Department of Health](#) | <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/schools/3d-printers>

	Browse Tool Library Inventory - Smart Buildings Center https://smartbuildingscenter.org/tool-library/browse-tool-library-inventory/ School Environmental Health and Safety Workshop Washington State Department of Health https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/schools/workshop Indoor Air Quality IAQ Monitoring and Assessment Tools 20231207 100358 Meeting Recording (youtube.com) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvB1rXCAw6Y Elizabeth Jakob hosted a webinar on the Tool Lending Library and IAQ assessment.
Discussion	Nancy Bernard (DOH) – Musical instruments have always been in the guide, appendix 8 in 2014. There was an issue with web access, so appendix 8 is pulled out as a new way to keep it updated. It will be the go-to place for school cleaning and disinfecting. It will also be getting updated soon, as there are some things from the general guidance cleaning-disinfecting that aren't included. Nancy Bernard (DOH); Moving to webpages is a goal of DOH vs having pdf(s). Have been assured that they are/will be all quite printable for making a handout. Eventually other pdf(s) will become webpages. • Question—Stephen Roddy (<i>Lighthouse Christian School</i>); Does it cost to rent? Lori Karnes (TPCHD) responded; It should be free, you might only have to pay for return shipping. There are a lot of good things available, e.g. air quality monitoring, etc. Nancy Bernard (DOH) responded; Elizabeth Jakob held a training – Puget Sound Educational District. Can learn more about using the equipment. • Question—Sharon Ricci (WFIS); “Is the Tool Library specific to a certain region?” Lori Karnes (TPCHD) responded; Don't believe it is a certain region; it is a smart building center resource for all facilities on energy efficiency etc. Nancy Bernard (DOH) and Ali Boris (DOH) responded; At least all of Washington state; Washington state and Oregon.

	Cannabis, tobacco, and vaping prevention program Sara Graber (PH-SKC)
	<u>School vaping – a waste issue</u>: There are lot of questions around waste management for schools/school staff. The barriers in the waste stream and potential solutions. <u>School vape waste--A complex and unresolved issue</u>: Schools now have this hazardous waste from discarded or confiscated vapes that have complex guidance to legally dispose of them. Vape use at schools is increasing, and an increase in the use of single use disposable vapes (in 2020 one in five were using e-cigarettes; disposable vape use increased 1000% from 2019 to 2020).

	<u>There is a lack of product and policy guidance on disposal of vapes:</u> There is nothing on the packaging, and producers don't have any responsibility or regulation to manage the associated waste. <u>There are environmental impacts from vapes:</u> Vapes are made up of a lot of different products that all have a lot of different waste streams. Example—plastics (endocrine disruptors), nicotine (biohazard, banned by EPA as pesticides), flavorings (aldehydes), LED lights and electronic circuitry (heavy metal leachate), and batteries (lithium battery storage fire hazards). <u>Scale of impact:</u> From 2020 to 2022 the monthly sales of vapes increased 46%, and about half of that were disposable vapes. (Extrapolated national = 11.8 million disposable vapes). <u>Schools are an unexpected generator of vape waste:</u> Most school policies are collect/confiscate. Other states such as Colorado developed a program for schools to help them collect/dispose of vape waste. <u>Single use/disposable vape waste:</u> Disposable vapes are popular among the student users. The ban on JUUL and mod based flavor ban (2020) has led to an increase of single use. The battery and nicotine can't be separated in single use/disposable vapes. <u>Schools are held to stricter standards/policies than household waste:</u> Schools are held to the same level as health care facilities – they have school nurse(s) and can dispense or store medication (WAC 173-303-555). Vapes are considered dangerous waste due to nicotine. Schools must comply with No Tobacco Policy and WA-Dangerous Waste Policy. <u>Safe disposal is challenging:</u> Different types of waste in vapes. Many waste facilities don't accept cannabis – to do so, they must have a very specific distributor license. <u>Complexity of the waste stream means challenges for schools:</u> Schools designate themselves as a waste generator depending on the <i>weight</i> of what they accumulate. Most of the time schools would fall in the small quantity generator category, but because schools could have been accumulating this waste for this long time – would they still be small quantity or above? <u>Schools as small quantity generators (SQG):</u> As a SQG schools could self-transport wastes. Moderate Risk Waste management facilities in King County can't accept unseparated vape devices. The other option for schools under WAC 173-303-555 requires using a licensed hazardous waste transporter to a permitted treatment and storage disposal facility. Many of these treatment storage and disposal facilities don't have reverse distributor license to be able to accept the cannabis products. *Unknown cost for schools.
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Options on paper for schools don't match the realities: Ideally want to be able to separate components of vape devices so batteries can be managed as universal waste, and the vape cartridges as dangerous waste. Often, they can't be separated and as such won't be accepted.

Disposable vapes not designed to be separated: There is risk to try and separate vape components. Need specialized tools, nicotine can absorb through the skin, they are a fire hazard.

Existing resources and campaigns from other states: Highlighted the importance of collaboration, that educational materials need to be readable and usable to schools, should leverage the current youth's concern about the environment.

– Boulder, CO: Created a toolkit and guidelines, as well as providing/collecting estimated weight fill-line disposal bins.

**Collaboration between public health (ecology), waste management, and the schools (school districts).

**Youth engagement on the environment – vape waste disposal.

– Utah: Made guidance document(s)/educational materials for schools on vape disposal.

**Guidance/educational materials provided a clear checklist for knowing what kind of generator they were and how to safely handle vapes/vape components.

*Didn't provide guidance or help with finding and hiring vendors for hazardous waste.

– Minnesota: Developed guidance for business and schools that generate vape waste.

**Good information on vape waste disposal.

**Guidelines were not targeted to schools, and the information was dense and wordy.

Solutions - upstream vs downstream:

1. Increase producer responsibility.
2. Regulate single use/disposable vapes.
3. Work toward routine waste collection.
4. Focus on youth prevention and support to stop vapes from showing up at schools. Youth push for policy changes.
5. Providing educational materials to school staff.

Survey of schools to define extent of vape waste issue and what schools need:

- How vape waste is currently being managed?
- What barriers are they facing?
- How much and what types of vape waste are they are accumulating.

From this information can then work on:

1. Educational materials (King County hazardous waste and environmental health teams).
2. Policy recommendations on short-term and long-term solutions (Department of Ecology).

Contacts:

Public Health-Seattle & King County— Sara Graber, MPH Student Intern [n- sgrab@kingcounty.gov](mailto:sgrab@kingcounty.gov)

Attachments: **School Vape Waste Presentation)5.2.2024 (SGraber).pdf**

	Links: WAC 173-303-555: https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-303-555 RCW 28A.210.310: Prohibition on use of tobacco products on school property. (wa.gov) https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.210.310 WAC 173-303-170: https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-303-170
Discussion	• Question—Sharon Ricci (<i>WFIS</i>); “Can a school legally send this waste home to the parents of the student it was confiscated from?” Sara Graber (<i>PH-SKC</i>) responded; Don’t know if that is legally allowed. Might come down to each district policy. The tobacco free school policy. Will need to follow up on that. • Cheryl Collins (<i>Sumner-Bonney Lake SD</i>); They have reached out to our District. We are working on a disposal plan. • Question—Suzie Hanson (<i>WFIS</i>); Has it been a problem for, or had contact from, private schools having this problem as well? Do appreciate the information, but haven’t heard anything? [Will ask their contacts and see what level they are having then get in touch] Sara Graber (<i>PH-SKC</i>) responded; Assume that it is also a big issue, and they will want guidance and support as well. • Question—Holly Preble (<i>Parent</i>); Never heard of this before; as the public not just school system. Maybe promote it to go viral on social media? Homes are just putting it in the trash, and probably schools too. So more viral, and more public awareness. Sara Graber (<i>PH-SKC</i>) responded; Schools are held to a different standard than household, but they should also be recycling batteries, etc. It’s a bigger issue of the public and not just the schools. Will bring up getting a blog post out again. • Question—Sara Graber (<i>PH-SKC</i>); Is anyone hearing about this from schools in Pierce County? Question—Lori Karnes (<i>TPCHD</i>); Tacoma Public Schools, as one of the largest public-school districts – do you see this as a problem in your district? Partnering with local police department or? Jeff Rogers (<i>Tacoma SD</i>) responded; Safety and security (Tacoma Public Schools) takes environmental team out of it so it goes to the police department. So, this limits what can handle or keep in possession. It gets turned over and put into evidence. Shallae Hobbs (<i>Tacoma SD</i>) responded; This is the first hearing of this issue. Never thought of or heard of it before. >> {consensus by group} Nancy Bernard (<i>DOH</i>); It is a statewide growing issue. The volumes are incredible. Nicotine or marijuana in the vape juice are toxic and poisonous.

	Other
	<u>School inspection time and response timeline?</u> Suzi Hanson (<i>WFIS</i>), on behalf of Lighthouse Christian School (private): - Were informed that the inspection for this school was six hours, and was that happening at public schools as well? - For the responses, 30 days is a short timeline; some of it isn’t possible to mitigate in 30 days. - The inspections are disruptive and difficult.

	Lori (TPCHD): - School inspections, we are in and out at a maximum of 4 hours for maybe a <u>large</u> high school. For an elementary school it would be even less. At the very most it would be about 2 hours. - The 30 days is from when we send out the report. We don't ask that issues be corrected in 30 days, some can be longer term items such as HVAC maintenance/repair. On the provided report spreadsheet there are options the school chooses from: 1) Already has been corrected. 2) In process of correcting item (ability to explain with additional comments box). 3) Will not be correcting (e.g. don't have the funds, resources etc. – explanation comment needed). 4) Not needed (i.e. the school does not see it as an issue that needs to be addressed – explanation comment required). <i>The school is given the option to put on the final report an option to explain why, showing more of the narrative.</i> <u>School inspections, is there any potential change for the period inspection timelines?</u> Suzie Hanson (WFIS): Is there any chance to go to every three years versus every two years (other health districts on 3 year cycles). Lori (TPCHD): No. And with other districts like Spokane, there is additional work from the school and reinspection by the local Health Department or school district. The fees are different amount; they charge a fee each year to spread it out vs. after the inspection. We don't charge every year.
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	Quick meeting evaluation and next steps
	• Virtual still preferred. • Please send agenda and topic requests to communitysafety@tpchd.org.

Next Meeting: **October/November 2024, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Please send any suggestions to improve this process to communitysafety@tpchd.org.

We are still looking for superintendents, principals, and custodians to participate in our meetings. Please feel free to invite anyone who might be interested in contributing to our work! Let us know about meetings where we could present our work.