



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Tel: 360-236-4030 • 711 Washington State Relay

July 15, 2024

Re: Informative - New Interim State Epidemiologist for Policy and Practice

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners and Professionals:

I am writing today to provide information about the appointment of the new interim State Epidemiologist for Policy and Practice, Jessica Marcinkevage, PhD MSPH starting July 16, 2024. This position was formally held by Cathy Wasserman, MPH, PhD, who left the Department of Health last month.

Jessica brings to this role both breadth and depth of epidemiology expertise and several years of leadership experience at the Department of Health (DOH). Jessica served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she was stationed at the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center. She started at DOH in 2015, as the epidemiologist and evaluator for the Healthy Eating Active Living program in Prevention and Community Health. She was then team lead for the Chronic Disease Assessment Team, and Senior Epidemiologist and Section Manager for the Office of Immunization's Assessment Section. She joins us most recently from the Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences where she served as the Built Environment Section Manager.

This communication follows the guidelines of [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#) to ensure we engage with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations when developing policies, agreements, and programs that directly affect them.

For additional information, please contact me at taosheng.kwan-gett@doh.wa.gov, telephone: 360.522.2223, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov, telephone: 360.819.7626.

Best,

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH
Chief Science Officer
Office of Health and Science

cc: Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Elizabeth Perez, Chief, Office of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH