



**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
COVID EMPLOYER SUPPORT TASK FORCE
UPDATE: MAY 22nd, 2020**

Reported by: DR. CHI-NA STOANE

BOARD ACTION: Action Item Discussion FYI - Only

BACKGROUND

In May of 2020, Whatcom County Health Board approved Resolution 2020-105, to form the “COVID Employer Support Task Force” as recommended by PHAB. The Task Force has now been successfully launched, with all 140 applicants from the community approved as Task Force Members. A Subcommittee of the PHAB, including Dr. Chi-Na Stoane, Steve Bennett, Sterling Chick, Dr. Les Seelye, along with WCHD Director Erika Lautenbach, John Wolpers, and Steve Hollenhorst, have been meeting regularly to provide guidance for this effort. Holly O’Neil, Mardi Solomon, and Laura Todd have been contracted to provide public engagement consulting and professional facilitation support.

UPDATE

On May 14th and 15th a “Kick-Off” webinar was hosted, to orient Task Force Members. This session was open to the public and posted on the County webpage which was established for the Task Force. <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/3398/COVID-Employer-Support-Task-Force>.

On May 19th and 20th, a training session was held for 40 of the Task Force Members who were asked to serve as “Liaisons.” The role of the Liaisons is to help gather input from other constituents working in their sector, and then convene the Peer-to-Peer session with Members of the Task force to develop the Guidance Sheets. It is important to clarify that this is not a regulatory process. Our intended outcomes are:

- To clarify and build confidence in the guidelines needed to protect employees and customers from COVID-19.
- To enable businesses and organizations to more easily share best practices and learn from each other.
- To develop Guidance Sheets that summarize best practices for each sector, build common understanding of State and Federal requirements, and work together to interpret that guidance in our implementation here at home.
- To help people be safe - and feel safe - doing business in Whatcom County.

The Liaisons will work over the coming weeks with each Sector having an assigned Subject Matter Expert from the Health Department, a Facilitator, and a Representative from the PHAB Subcommittee.

