

(Effective until January 1, 2023)

WAC 246-101-610 Handling of case reports and medical information. (1) The state health officer or designee shall establish and maintain confidentiality procedures related to employee handling of all reports of cases and suspected cases, prohibiting disclosure of report information identifying an individual case or suspected cases except:

(a) To employees of the local health department, other local health departments, or other official agencies needing to know for the purpose of administering public health laws and these regulations.

(b) To health care providers, specific designees of health care facilities, laboratory directors, and others for the purpose of collecting additional information about a case or suspected case as required for disease prevention and control.

(c) For research approved by an institutional review board as indicated under chapter 42.48 RCW. The institutional review board applies federal and state privacy laws to research requests for confidential information.

(2) All department employees, contractors, and others with access to identifying information related to a case or suspected case of a person diagnosed with a notifiable condition shall be required to sign a confidentiality agreement. The confidentiality agreements shall be renewed annually and shall include reference to criminal and civil penalties for violation of chapters 70.02 and 70.24 RCW and other administrative actions that may be taken by the department.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 11-02-065, § 246-101-610, filed 1/4/11, effective 2/4/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050, 43.70.545 and 70.104.030. WSR 00-23-120, § 246-101-610, filed 11/22/00, effective 12/23/00.]

(Effective January 1, 2023)

WAC 246-101-610 Handling of confidential information and information exempt from public disclosure—State health officer and department. (1) The state health officer and department employees shall maintain the confidentiality of health care information in accordance with chapter 70.02 RCW, RCW 42.56.360(2), and any other applicable confidentiality laws.

(2) The state health officer shall establish and implement confidentiality policies and procedures related to employee handling of health care information under this chapter.

(3) The state health officer or department shall:

(a) Require all department employees, contractors, and others with access to health information to sign confidentiality agreements;

(b) Retain current signed confidentiality agreements;

(c) Reference in confidentiality agreements the penalties for violation of chapter 70.24 RCW and administrative actions that may be taken by the department if the confidentiality agreement is violated; and

(d) Renew confidentiality agreements at least annually.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 21-11-040 and 22-01-175, § 246-101-610, filed 5/12/21 and 12/17/21, effective 1/1/23; WSR

11-02-065, § 246-101-610, filed 1/4/11, effective 2/4/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050, 43.70.545 and 70.104.030. WSR 00-23-120, § 246-101-610, filed 11/22/00, effective 12/23/00.]