



JOINT STATEMENT ON OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on our residents' mental and behavioral health. The isolation many people have experienced has led to the onset of new conditions for some and exacerbated existing conditions for many people as well.

Over the last year and a half, we have been challenged by two pandemics, COVID-19 and substance use disorder. In 2020, fatal overdoses increased by 27%, and fatal opioid-related overdoses increased by 46%, and 805 people were saved using Naloxone in Snohomish County. As we reflect on this data, it's important to recognize this information represents the loss of 231 community members to overdose in 2020 and the family, friends, and loved ones they have left behind.

As your elected officials, we recognize the severity of this pandemic and remain committed to supporting prevention and intervention services, raising awareness, creating opportunities for dialogue in our communities, and educating community members about addiction and overdose prevention.

We offer our condolences to the families and friends that grieve the loss of their loved ones and extend our support for residents in our community that are struggling with the disease of addiction.

We also extend our gratitude to the Lee family, Warfield family, and organization Hope Soldiers for their tireless commitment to raising awareness and preventing overdoses in Snohomish County. Over the last five years, the Lee family, Warfield family, and Hope Soldiers have organized and facilitated an Overdose Awareness Day Vigil and Resource Fair. The Snohomish County Opioid Response Multi-Agency Coordination Group has been honored to partner with them in this important effort.

The Overdose Awareness Day Vigil and Resource Fair provides community members that have lost loved ones space to be in community with one another and to honor those loved ones. It also provides people in active addiction and in recovery an opportunity to connect with much needed resources and services.

We extend an invitation to all Snohomish County residents to join us in honoring Overdose Awareness Day by attending the vigil and resource fair on Tuesday, August 31st at 5:00 pm on the Snohomish County Campus in Everett.

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive

Stephanie Wright
Chair, Snohomish County Council

Megan Dunn
Vice Chair, Snohomish County Council

Jared Mead
Councilmember, Snohomish County Council

Nate Nehring
Councilmember, Snohomish County Council

Sam Low
Councilmember, Snohomish County Council

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Dale Kaemingk
Mayor, City of Brier

Mike Nelson
Mayor, City of Edmonds

Cassie Franklin
Mayor, City of Everett

Matt Hartman
Mayor, City Granite Falls

Bill Clem
Mayor, City of Gold Bar

Norm Johnson
Mayor, Town of Index

Brett Gailey
Mayor, City of Lake Stevens

Nicola Smith
Mayor, City of Lynnwood

Jon Nehring
Mayor, City of Marysville

Geoffrey Thomas
Mayor, City of Monroe

Kyoko Matsumoto Wright
Mayor, City of Mountlake Terrace

Jennifer Gregerson
Mayor, City of Mukilteo

Russell Wiita
Mayor, City of Sultan

Teri Gobin
Chairwoman, Tulalip Tribes