

JOINT STATEMENT ON OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a profound impact on our residents' mental and behavioral health. The lingering effects of the pandemic have caused new conditions for some people and exacerbated existing conditions for many others as well.

Over the last two and a half years, we have been challenged by a pandemic and an epidemic, COVID-19 and substance use disorder. In 2021, fatal overdoses increased by 9%, and fatal opioid-related overdoses increased by 5.4%, and 710 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 254 community members to overdose in 2021 and the family, friends, and loved ones they have left behind.

As your elected officials, we recognize the severity of this pandemic and epidemic 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 Hope Soldiers for their tireless commitment to raising awareness and preventing overdoses throughout Snohomish County. Over the last six 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 Wednesday, August 31st at 5:00 pm on the Snohomish County Campus in Everett.

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive

Megan Dunn
Chair, Snohomish County Council

Jared Mead
Vice Chair, Snohomish County Council

Stephanie Wright
Councilmember, Snohomish County Council

Nate Nehring
Councilmember, Snohomish County Council

Sam Low
Councilmember, Snohomish County Council

Barb Tolbert
Mayor, City of Arlington

Dan Rankin
Mayor, Town of Darrington

Cassie Franklin
Mayor, City of Everett

Steven Yarbrough
Mayor, City of Goldbar

Brett Gailey
Mayor, City of Lake Stevens

Christine Frizzell
Mayor, City of Lynnwood

Jon Nehring
Mayor, City of Marysville

Geoffrey Thomas
Mayor, City of Monroe

Joe Marine
Mayor, City of Mukilteo

Linda Redmon
Mayor, City of Snohomish

Sid Roberts
Mayor, City of Stanwood

Russell Wiita
Mayor, City of Sultan

Teri Gobin
Chairwoman, Tulalip Tribes

Mike Quinn
Mayor, Town of Woodway