

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

MOTION NO. 22-248

MOTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE
COUNTY'S INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2022

WHEREAS, the Snohomish Health District was incorporated in 1959 as an independent special purpose district for public health in Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, since its formation, Snohomish County and Snohomish Health District have worked together in a collaborative manner to address public health issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Snohomish County and Snohomish Health District, working in collaboration with other partners, responded to hundreds of H1N1 cases and ultimately vaccinated over 26,000 people; and

WHEREAS, during the State Route 530 landslide event in 2014, Snohomish County and Snohomish Health District staff worked to provide support to the medical examiner's office, assess environmental health concerns such as water contamination, and ensure responder safety, hygiene, and decontamination; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Snohomish Health District participated in a collaborative effort with representatives of the County Executive's Office, County Council, and Sheriff's Office to address the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2020, the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and Snohomish Health District quickly activated unified incident command upon notification of the first confirmed COVID-19 case in the United States; and

WHEREAS, through unified command, Snohomish County DEM and Snohomish Health District established protocols for isolation and quarantine, coordinated advanced planning for personal protective equipment distribution, medical-surge operations, and community-care coordination; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County Vaccine Task Force, working in close and continuous collaboration with Snohomish Health District, planned, executed, and maintained no less than seven mass vaccination sites and coordinated dozens of mobile vaccination clinics focused on residents adversely impacted by COVID-19 due to racial, ethnic, transportation, economic, mobility, and technology disparities. This effort ultimately resulted in more than 1,000,000 doses being administered; and

WHEREAS, by working together as one, the County and public health professionals have increased opportunities to:

- (a) Secure resources to address the effects of climate change, water quality, and the built environment on public health-related outcomes in Snohomish County and the surrounding region,
- (b) Commit to modernizing all applicable regulatory codes and policies governing environmental health practices,
- (c) Restore needed clinical and non-clinical services, improving access to care for the residents of Snohomish County,
- (d) Obtain resources for local public health and have unity of purpose to improve health related outcomes in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Executive memorandum dated May 24, 2022, commits to moving the Health District in whole, retaining its independence, and strengthening the health of all Snohomish County residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 70.46.090, Snohomish County may withdraw from membership in Snohomish Health District and immediately establish a health department to provide health service standards promulgated by the state board of health for administration of public health programs in Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 70.05.130, Snohomish County is responsible for expenses required for local public health services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Snohomish Health District Board of Health Resolution 22-16, dated May 31, 2022, the Board of Health voted unanimously to support Snohomish County's withdrawal from Snohomish Health District and committed to partnering over the remainder of the year to transition all public health services, assets, employment contracts, and related matters to Snohomish County government; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 70.46.090, the County must provide at least six months' notice of its intention to withdraw at the end of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the County intends to withdraw from the Snohomish Health District on December 31, 2022, and immediately thereupon establish a county health department;

NOW, THEREFORE, ON MOTION, the Snohomish County Council authorizes the Snohomish County Executive to issue notice of the County's intent to withdraw from Snohomish Health District, effective December 31, 2022, such notice to be issued no later than June 30, 2022.

PASSED this 8th day of June, 2022.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington



Council Chair

ATTEST:



Asst. Clerk of the Council