



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF RESILIENCY AND HEALTH SECURITY

*PO Box 47960 ● Olympia, Washington 98504-7960  
Tel: 360-236-4032 ● TTY Relay: 800-833-6384*

June 7, 2023

**Re: Healthcare Preparedness and Response**

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\) Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), in government-to-government relations with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people, I'm writing today to invite your collaboration, in the development of a Healthcare Preparedness and Response Steering Committee.

Following the COVID-19 response and to begin implementing learning from that response, the DOH intends to re-develop a steering committee to inform the work of the Executive Office of Resiliency and Health Security. In this effort, one of the first steps that we are taking is to convene a Healthcare Preparedness and Response Steering Committee. My hope is that this group will evolve into a Public Health, Medical, and Mortuary Affairs advisory body that our agency can engage as we continue to learn from our responses to emergencies and build resilience and response capability across the state. I invite you to actively collaborate as tribes in the way that you determine and would appreciate your feedback if you have suggestions or questions about how best to work with your nation, community, and people in this area.

If you need additional information or want to provide written comments, please contact Travis Linares-Hengen, Director of the Office of Operational Readiness, 360-236-3156, [travis.linares-hengen@doh.wa.gov](mailto:travis.linares-hengen@doh.wa.gov). Please contact Candice Wilson, our agency's Tribal Policy Director, by telephone at 360-819-7626 or by email at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) if you have tribal affairs-related questions.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Weed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nate" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Weed".

Nathan "Nate" Weed, MPH  
Chief of Resiliency and Health Security

cc:

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, Department of Health

Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health

Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health

Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health

Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health

Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health, Department of Health

Andrew Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Response Operations, Department of Health

Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health