
Ordinance 2025-04

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPORTING OF HEALTH CARE INCIDENTS CAUSED BY AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

WHEREAS, the Grant County Board of Health has the authority to enact local rules and regulations necessary to preserve, promote, and improve public health pursuant to RCW 70.05.060; and

WHEREAS, Department of Health regulations at WAC 246-101-101 provide reporting requirements for certain diseases and conditions affecting public health and authorize local health officers to require additional conditions to be notifiable within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, opioids, are highly addictive substances with a high risk of overdose and death, particularly with the introduction of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, of the 80,391 Americans that died from drug overdoses, 68% of those deaths were from opioids; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, preliminary findings show that 3,121 Washington residents died from drug overdoses, with 79% due to opioids, and statewide death rates have *risen* in the last 25 years from 6.2 per 100,000 in 1999 to 30.8 per 100,000 in 2024; and

WHEREAS, deaths due to opioid overdose in Grant County have also been increasing, from 19 deaths between 2016 and 2018, and 63 between 2021 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 Grant County experienced 176 emergency medical service responses from suspected opioid overdose and 154 non-fatal opioid overdose emergency department visits per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the collection of timely information on opioid overdoses, the substances involved, and the affected individuals is necessary to design effective harm reduction, treatment, and prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, opioid overdose is not currently listed as a notifiable condition in state regulations, however the Grant County Health Officer has determined it is a condition of local public health importance;



OPIOID OVERDOSE REPORTING

Section 1.0 Purpose

This chapter establishes the requirement for health care providers and other first responders to report opioid overdoses to Grant County Public Health. The data collected will be used to develop effective prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies to reduce opioid-related harm and death in Grant County.

Section 2.0 Definitions

Health Officer – The Grant County Health Officer, as defined in RCW 70.05.010 and designated public health officials authorized to carry out this ordinance.

Health Care Provider –

- a) Any licensed or certified health care professional under Title 18 RCW;
- b) Military personnel providing health care in Washington State;
- c) Coroners and deputy coroners; and
- d) First responders including law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel.

Reportable Condition – Clinical evidence of an opioid overdose as indicated by central nervous system or respiratory depression, unconsciousness, decreased respiratory rate, apnea, pinpoint pupils, or death.

Opioid – Any natural, semi-synthetic, or synthetic compound that binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system and produces analgesic or narcotic effects, including but not limited to:

- Morphine
- Heroin
- Fentanyl
- Oxycodone
- Hydrocodone
- Methadone
- Hydromorphone
- Tramadol
- Any related analogues.

Section 3.0 Reporting Requirements

- 1) Health care providers in Grant County must notify Grant County Health District within **48 hours** of diagnosing or responding to an opioid overdose.
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- 2) Reports shall be submitted on a form provided by Grant County Health District, using secure means of communication.
- 3) Required information includes, to the extent available:
 - Date and time of overdose
 - Suspected substance(s) involved
 - Route of administration if known
 - Basic demographic information (age, gender, race/ethnicity)
 - Whether naloxone was administered and the outcome

Section 4.0 Enforcement

Enforceable under Chapter 7.80 RCW.

Section 5.0 Corrections

The Board Clerk is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance number, section/subsection numbers and any thereto.

Section 6.0 Severability

If any provision of this chapter or its application is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected.

PASSED BY THE GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND SIGNED BY ITS CHAIR ON DECEMBER 10, 2025, AND TO GO INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2026.

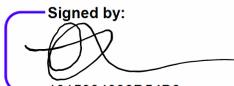
Attest:



Rita Morfin, Clerk of the Board



Tom Harris, Chair

Signed by:

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Katherine Kenison
Health District Attorney

