

# Skagit County Public Health 2023 Proposed Schedule of Charges

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Skagit County Public Health



# General Overview

Public Health is funded by grants, fees and general fund dollars.

Last revision across all EH programs 2013

Last revision of retail food categories and fees – June 2019

Drinking Water- Quality & Quantity. Moved from PDS to EH - Sept. 2021



# Proposal Overview

- EH permit fees - designed to support program costs.
- Propose moderate increases across most programs.
- Clarify some permit categories.
- Secure Medicine Return charges - eliminated



# Included Programs - Fee Revisions

- Retail Food Safety
- Living Environment (pools, spas, camps)
- Liquid Waste. On-Site Septic Systems
- Drinking Water – Quality & Quantity



# Program Responsibilities & Duties

- Require & review facility plans and applications
- Require operating permits
- Provide education & enforcement through technical assistance, routine and follow up inspections
- Investigate complaints and potential food and water borne illness cases and outbreaks



# Program Numbers

	Inspections	Permits
Food Establishments	1660	820
Temporary food events	160	250
Pools & Spas	90	50
Youth camps	9	9

	Permits
Drinking Water Reviews (Q & Q)	660
OSS - Site Evaluations	60
OSS - New or Repair	75



# What resources do we need to accomplish this work?

People! Our most valuable resource:

- Approximately 4 EHS in Food Safety & Living Environment
- Approximately 4 EHS in Liquid Waste and Drinking Water- quality & quantity programs
- 1.5 FTE dedicated administrative support
  
- Staff training to assure competency
- Equipment, computers, mobile devices,
- vehicles
- Inspection kits and inspection supplies



## How do we cover the cost of these resources?

We assess fees to the regulated community based on the cost to run an effective program.

2023 fee schedule proposal based on:

- Actual costs of the program
- Complexity and risk posed to the public
- Time required to assess and inspect for these risks
- Administrative and overhead costs that apply to every establishment or permit approval in order to review, permit, and inspect

Fees based on Risk and Time spent to permit and inspect





# Food Program – fees increase to cover program costs

## Risk Level 1 Establishments:

2019 \$235.00

2023 \$285.00

Whatcom, Island, Snohomish county similar for permit:

\$395.00 - \$798.00

## Risk Level 2 Establishments:

2019 \$315.00

2023 \$400.00

Whatcom, Island, Snohomish county similar permit:

\$593.00- \$901.00

## Risk Level 3 Establishments:

2019 \$400.00

2023 \$480.00

Whatcom, Island, Snohomish county similar permit:

\$713.00- \$1,068.00



## Food Fees - continued

- Food establishment plan review fees
  - Change operator: ~~\$200.00~~ to \$250.00
  - Remodel: ~~\$300.00~~ to \$375.00
  - New Construction ~~\$500.00~~ to \$600.00
- Temporary permit fees
  - Permit fees increase \$10.00 to \$40.00
  - Multiple events/ multiple locations option increases between \$35.00 - \$75.00 depending on risk and covers additional inspections.

### Temporary Application - late fee update:

Submit 10 – 6 business days before event	\$50.00 (unchanged)
Submit 5 days or less before event	\$100.00



# Liquid Waste: On- Site Septic Systems

Certifications for Installers, O&M Specialist and Pumpers:

2019: \$200.00

2023: \$225.00

OSS Permits	2019	2023
New design	\$500.00	\$550.00
Repair	\$300.00	\$375.00
Redesign	\$200.00	\$375.00
Renewal	\$200.00	\$225.00



# Drinking Water– Quality and Quantity

Group A water evaluation:

2019      \$100.00

2023      \$200.00

Whatcom, Island, Snohomish county similar for permit:

\$135.00 - \$200.00 plus hourly

Individual well water evaluation:

2019      \$240.00

2023      \$300.00

Whatcom, Island, Snohomish county similar permit:

\$287.00- \$375.00

Alternative Drinking Water evaluation:

2019      \$475.00

2023      \$550.00

Whatcom, Island, Snohomish county similar permit:

\$550.00- \$700.00 plus hourly



# Drinking Water Quality & Quantity

Water supply review - land divisions with individual wells:

- Propose increase in the fee to cover the first 5 hours instead of 3 hours.

Water supply review - land divisions with Group B well:

- Propose increase in the fee to cover 6 hours instead of 5 hours



# Other EH Programs

Moderate changes to:

- Pools & spas
  - Youth camps
- 
- Clarification in descriptions

All fees based on Risk and Time spent to permit and inspect



# Other EH Programs

Proposed deletion of the local fees associated with the secure medicine return program (SCC 12.20)

Washington State Department of Health now regulates the State-wide Medication Return Program so the local Skagit County fees are no longer necessary.



# Implementation

- Notify all establishments with annual permits of proposed changes & public hearing via mail, email and website.
- If Schedule of Charges is approved, new fees will take effect April 1, 2023
- Establishments will be invoiced for their revised permit fee at their next renewal **AFTER** April 1, 2023





## REVIEW AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

- Fee schedule documents are available at [www.skagitcounty.net/health](http://www.skagitcounty.net/health)
- Written comments through February 22, 2023.
- Submit electronically to: [EH@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:EH@co.skagit.wa.us)
- In writing to: Fee Schedule Comments  
Skagit County Public Health  
700 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, #301  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
- Public Hearing will be held in Commissioners Hearing Room on **February 23, 2023 1:00 pm**

