

# The BCCHP Connection

Issue 19

August 2021

Greetings!

It was early spring since I communicated via this newsletter, and while it's a very sunny summer, it's also an unprecedented hot, dry summer. For those long time Puget Sound residents, not always welcome.

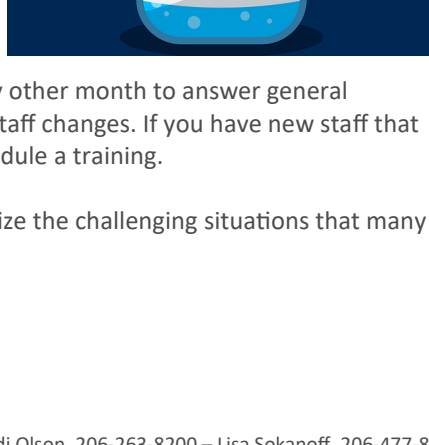
While the vaccine and continued safety precautions have helped us "get closer to normal" - the last few weeks of variant news has garnered new urgency for vaccination and vigilance in staying safe.

We continue to work at home with staff going to the office on a regular basis. While we have no meetings planned in person—we want to make sure you all get the updates and training that you need. We've recently started doing drop in meetings planned every other month to answer general questions. We also recognize that many clinics have staff changes. If you have new staff that need BCCHP training please contact us so we can schedule a training.

We appreciate your support of the BCCHP and recognize the challenging situations that many of you are working through. Take good care.

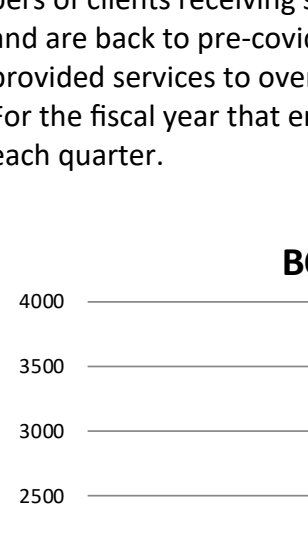
Stay well!

Amy, Heather, Jodi and Lisa



Amy Duarte, 206-263-8309 – Heather Fluegel, 206-263-8176 - Jodi Olson, 206-263-8200 – Lisa Sokanoff, 206-477-8216

## Important Dates and Reminders!



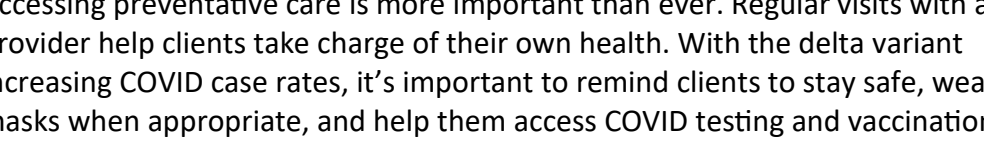
- Subscribe to Public Health blog [www.publichealthinsider.com](http://www.publichealthinsider.com)
- BCCHP drop in meeting—August 26th, 8 a.m. [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

## Cancer Screening Rates and the Pandemic

Last spring and early summer, 2020 the program saw a significant dip in numbers of clients receiving services. The good news is that services have increased and are back to pre-covid numbers. In fact, during the spring quarter, clinics provided services to over 1000 women.

For the fiscal year that ended June 29, 2021, this graph shows numbers served each quarter.

BCCHP - Women screened



With your support the program was able to provide screening services to 3062 women. We appreciate all the extra efforts during this challenging and unpredictable time!

Accessing preventative care is more important than ever. Regular visits with a provider help clients take charge of their own health. With the delta variant increasing COVID case rates, it's important to remind clients to stay safe, wear masks when appropriate, and help them access COVID testing and vaccination options. Pandemic-related disruptions in health care services, including cancer screening, can cause a short-term decline in cancer diagnoses and a corresponding increase in late-stage cancer diagnoses and deaths. Ongoing pandemic-related disruptions may exacerbate obstacles that disproportionately affect disadvantaged and underrepresented populations, thus furthering disparities in cancer outcomes.

I've included some great resources King County makes available as we continue to actively curb and reduce the overall effects of COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Related Resources

Public Health Seattle & King County is committed to providing up to date resources related to COVID. Here a few of those resources:

Public Health Insider: [New King County data: Inequitable health impacts of COVID-19 reflect the intersections of social and economic factors](#)

Public Health has developed a social and economic risk index (SERI) to examine social and economic disparities in COVID-19 outcomes. The data is available to the public through [a new data dashboard](#) and [a report with analysis and key takeaways](#).

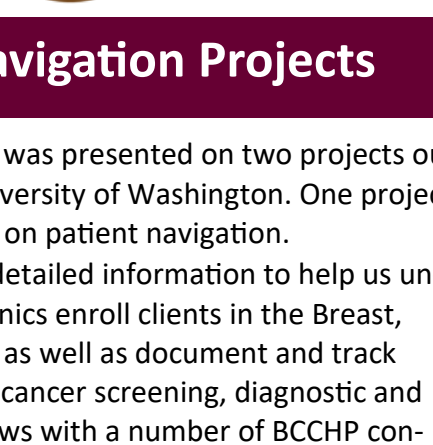
Public Health Insider: [Recent surge in COVID-19 cases increases need for testing: Know when to get tested and where to go](#)

With the rapid spread of the Delta variant and cases rising steadily in the last month, it is essential that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or exposure get tested as early as possible regardless of vaccination status.

### FAQ about COVID-19 testing

Some of you have a unique opportunity to discuss vaccine with members of your community. The following resources help support those conversations.

The link below is specific to King County and all county health departments have similar information.



### COVID-19 Vaccination information

Here is a [link](#) to Kitsap Public Health District—COVID-19 information.

## BCCHP Enrollment and Navigation Projects

During our May BCCHP meeting information was presented on two projects our office worked on in conjunction with the University of Washington. One project focused on BCCHP enrollment and the other on patient navigation.

The purpose of the projects were to collect detailed information to help us understand more about how our contracted clinics enroll clients in the Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health Program (BCCHP) as well as document and track navigation provided to patients to complete cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment. The students conducted interviews with a number of BCCHP contracted clinics. Here's a breakdown of the information collected by the students.

### Enrollment Project

Barriers included the following:

- Inadequate training for new staff
- Need for BCCHP forms in more languages
- Need for electronic submission of forms
- Staff shortages

- Better understanding of tracking process
- Clinics Understaffed

Enrollment timing

Recommendations:

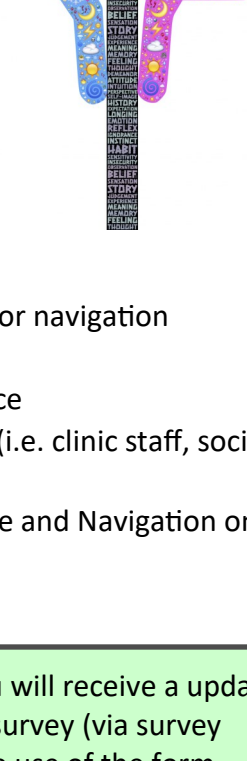
- Improved front desk communication with clients
- Use other staff to assess for insurance and financial assistance
- Create multiple opportunities for enrollment
- Allow for more flexibility on deadlines to BCCHP

Awareness:

BCCHP clients share information and word of mouth about how they receive services, this is helpful, but also can be challenging.

Recommendations:

- Improve access of BCCHP forms
  - Pilot test electronic enrollment forms
  - More languages needed
  - Link resources to internal information sharing (SharePoint)
- More training for clinic staff
  - Refresher training
  - Mini trainings
  - Billing code cheat sheet
- Dedicated BCCHP coordinator at each site
- Leverage CHW's when appropriate to help with paper work or follow-up



### Navigation Project

Challenges:

- Need training
- Navigation is done by a variety of staff, and different titles leading to confusion
- Using forms not compatible with EMR's

Strengths:

- Many contractors have skilled navigators
- CPT code available to reimburse for navigation services
- Contractors seeing the value in BCCHP and the need for navigation

Recommendations:

- Online form that doesn't require faxing to BCCHP office
- Specific training based on title and role as contractor (i.e. clinic staff, social workers)
- Improved communication and training about CPT code and Navigation only options

**Navigation Form UPDATE:** The week of August 23rd, you will receive a updated version of the BCCHP Navigation Form and a link to a survey (via survey monkey) in order to give feedback on the form and future use of the form. Stay tune!!

## NEW - Current BCCHP Flyer

Earlier this year we revised this flyer to accommodate getting out information on the program easily— This flyer is available on our webpage in several languages. Go to this [link](#).

## Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening

**The Breast, Cervical and Colon Health Program provides free cancer screening for eligible WA residents.**

This program serves people who:

- Don't have health insurance or a high deductible.
- Have low income.
- Meet the age guidelines.

**Services include:**

- Breast cancer screenings (breast exams and mammograms)
- Cervical cancer screenings (Pap and HPV tests).
- Follow-up tests as needed, based on screening results.
- Assistance with navigating resources for treatment if needed.

**Call the Breast, Cervical and Colon Health Program**  
Call 1-800-756-5437 to find out more about your local program and if you qualify.

Call the WA Dept. of Health to find out more about the Washington State Program at 1-888-438-2247.

Pub. # 349-045 January 2021

Providing breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to eligible Washington residents

**Learn about options for getting screened!**

**Cancer screening saves lives!**

- As you get older, you are at **higher risk** of getting cancer.
- If cancer is found early, it is often **easier to treat** and treatment is more successful.
- The best way to find cancer early is through **routine screening**. There are often no warning signs.

**If you aren't eligible for Washington Apple Health and don't have insurance, you may still be eligible for free cancer screenings.**

**Health Insurance Questions?**

**Visit:** [wahealthplanfinder.org](http://wahealthplanfinder.org)  
**Call:** 1-855-923-4633  
**TTY/TDD:** 1-855-627-9604

*Help is available in 175 different languages*

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [oui.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:oui.rights@doh.wa.gov).

Thought you'd be interested....

August is National Wellness Month. This [article](#) is about a cancer survivor's plan post covid, but I thought many of us could relate to the list as we manage life along side COVID-19.

For any questions, comments, or to remove yourself from this list, please call 206-263-8200 or email Jodi Olson at [Jodi.Olson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Jodi.Olson@kingcounty.gov) \*Please send any information, articles, or resources you would like to include in the next issue by replying directly to this message\*