

West Coast Health Alliance: A New Approach to Regional Health Leadership

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As national healthcare policies continue to be modified, a program has been designed to protect public health on the west coast. The West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) is comprised of four states; California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii.¹ The collaboration was formed to ensure that public health recommendations remain grounded in science, transparency, and trust. The goal of the Alliance is to deliver consistent, evidence-based health guidance to millions of residents across the western United States.¹

The West Coast Health Alliance was created in 2025 in response to growing concerns about the reliability, consistency, and scientific integrity of national public health guidance. State leaders recognized the need for stable, science-driven recommendations, protection against politicization of health policy, and continued access to vaccines and preventive care.

Changes at the federal level, especially around vaccine policy and advisory leadership, raised concerns about the consistency of national guidance. The Alliance was formed to ensure that public health decisions would continue to be guided by evidence, clinical expertise, and trusted medical organizations (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Practice, American College of Physicians, Infectious Disease Society of America, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine and American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists).¹

West Coast Health Alliance Members

The alliance is overseen and given direction by the governors of each the participating states.² Additional members include public health leaders and subject matter experts from the alliance states.

Role of the West Coast Alliance

The Alliance functions as a multi-state public health collaboration, aligning efforts across member states to improve clarity, consistency, and trust in healthcare recommendations.

Goals of the Alliance²:

- Work together to ensure the public has access to credible information
- Coordinate to reduce confusion and increase trust in public health
- Provide evidence-based position statements, policy recommendations and guidance

- Seek alignment with respected national professional organizations
- Share tools and best practices

Shared principles that are at the foundation of the Alliance are provided in **Table 1**. The Alliance believes that public health strategies should be based on the highest quality of scientific evidence currently available.

Table 1. West Coast Health Alliance Shared Principles²

<p>Health as a Right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of our communities should have access to quality health care and information.
<p>Science and Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to lead with science and to ground policies and recommendations in rigorous research, clinical expertise, and decades of proven public health practice. To reevaluate recommendations as new data becomes available.
<p>Transparency and Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our communities deserve clear, transparent communication about health, rooted in science. We will safeguard public trust through honesty, clarity, and accountability.
<p>Public Health Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the responsibility entrusted to us to protect and promote the health of the public. Serve in manner worthy of that trust, prioritizing prevention and evidence-based care to save lives.
<p>Equity at our Core</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to providing communities the opportunity to attain their highest level of health, and to eliminate barriers to evidence-based care especially for disproportionately impacted or marginalized communities.
<p>Tribal Sovereignty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirm and respect Tribal sovereignty, recognizing Tribes' authority over their health services. Acknowledge health disparities impacting Indigenous peoples.
<p>Coverage and Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for full coverage by payors of preventative services.

The West Coast Health Alliance represents a shift toward regional public health leadership in the United States.

Key impacts include:

- Consistency for patients and providers
- Improved public confidence
- Faster, coordinated responses
- A potential model for the future

Current Recommendations

One of the main focuses of the Alliance is on immunization guidance, including recommendations for COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and childhood vaccines. Since inception the Alliance have published five recommendations (**Figure 1**).¹

Figure 1. WCHA Recommendations

- Endorsement of American Academy of Pediatrics recommended child, adolescent immunization schedules
- Hepatitis B vaccination for newborns
- Vaccines and lack of link to Autism
- Response to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting
- Recommendation showing vaccines are safe and effective

Conclusion

The West Coast Health Alliance is a partnership and collaboration, aiming to ensure that individuals and communities across the West Coast receive reliable, evidence-based public health guidance. As healthcare continues to evolve, initiatives like the WCHA may play an increasingly important role in shaping the future of public health in the United States.

Additional Information is available on the Oregon Health Authority Website:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/pages/west-coast-health-alliance.aspx>

References:

1. The Oregon Health Authority. West Coast Health Alliance. Available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/pages/west-coast-health-alliance.aspx>. Accessed April 7, 2026.
2. West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) Charter. November 24, 2025. Available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/Documents/WCHA-Charter.pdf>. Accessed April 7, 2026.