

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/18/2025**

TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers & First Responders

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

Mariah Deleon  
Harm Reduction Coordinator  
mdeleon@granthealth.org  
(509) 770-5432

Maria Vargas  
Healthy Communities and Families Manager  
mvargas@granthealth.org  
(509) 766-7960 EXT. 19

***Overdose Now a Reportable Condition  
in Grant County***

***Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, healthcare providers, healthcare facilities and first responders in Grant County must report all non-fatal and fatal drug overdoses to GCHD***

GRANT COUNTY, WA – The Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, is informing Grant County healthcare providers, healthcare facilities and first responders that all **suspected or confirmed drug overdoses are now required to be reported to Grant County Health District (GCHD).**

Under WAC 246-101-101, local health officers are authorized to designate additional conditions as notifiable within their jurisdiction. The ordinance declaring opioid-related overdoses as a reportable condition (Ordinance 2025-04) was approved by the Grant County Board of Health on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Suspected or confirmed drug overdoses now join the list of the other notifiable conditions required for reporting by the Washington State Department of Health. Several other counties in Washington, including Chelan-Douglas, Whatcom, and Skagit, have also established overdose as a reportable condition within their jurisdictions.

“All tools at our disposal are needed to change the opioid crisis trajectory of destruction, climbing deaths, family tragedies and escalating healthcare costs. After a year of careful study and preparation by our team working to address it, it is beyond timely that we officially designate overdose as a reportable condition,” said Alexander Brzezny, Grant County Health Officer. “This change will allow us to better identify persons suitable for addiction interventions, respond to disease trends, and identify potential hotspots in our communities. I am grateful to my colleagues and partners for supporting the collection of this critical data, which will help make Grant County a safer and healthier place.”

## What Must Be Reported

**Beginning January 1, 2026, healthcare providers in Grant County must notify GCHD within 48 hours of diagnosing or responding to an opioid overdose.**

Reports must be submitted through GCHD's [official reporting form](#), using secure means of communication. This form, as well as a [condensed version for EMS partners](#), can be found on GCHD's website on the [notifiable conditions page](#). Providers may notify GCHD through our **confidential fax line at (509) 764-2813 or by sending an encrypted email directly to [cd@granthealth.org](mailto:cd@granthealth.org)**. To contact GCHD staff after hours call (509) 398-2083. Required information includes, to the extent available:

- Date and time of overdose
- Location of incident
- Suspected substance(s) involved
- Route of administration if known
- Basic demographic information (age, gender, race/ethnicity)
- Whether naloxone was administered and the outcome
- Patient contact information (for GCHD care coordination follow-up)

## Who Must Report

For overdose reporting purposes in Grant County, the following professionals are considered healthcare providers:

- Any licensed or certified healthcare professional under Title 18 RCW
- Military personnel providing healthcare in Washington State
- Coroners and deputy coroners
- First responders including law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel

## Why Reporting Matters

Making overdose a reportable condition will give public health and community partners a more accurate understanding of drug trends and overdose activity in Grant County. Access to real-time data enables GCHD and community partners to respond with timely prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies, including follow-up with patients to facilitate connections to care, resources, and supportive services.

By receiving these reports GCHD will have the ability to report spikes and trends to appropriate stakeholders/sectors in a timely manner. A spike is currently defined as the occurrence of three (3) or more suspected opioid-related overdoses within a 24-hour period that are likely associated with a common substance, source, or exposure pathway.

## Background

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

**Washington State:** 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.

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**Grant County: From the limited available data, deaths due to opioid overdose in Grant County have also been increasing, from 10 deaths in 2020 to 26 in 2024.** In 2024, Grant County experienced 176 emergency medical service responses from suspected opioid overdose, 154 non-fatal opioid overdose emergency department visits per 100,000 residents.

Nonfatal and fatal overdoses are not currently reportable conditions in Washington State. The data available through statewide dashboards is subject to significant reporting delays. While these sources allow us to track drug and overdose trends on an annual basis, they do not provide the real-time information necessary to guide timely intervention and prevention efforts.

GCHD is committed to addressing the opioid crisis in Grant County through evidence-based solutions. Partnering with healthcare providers and first responders to collect overdose data will provide a clearer understanding of the local drug landscape and support more effective prevention and intervention efforts.

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