

**Title 10 – Public Health and Welfare**  
**Chapter 12 –Communicable Disease**

**Sec.**

10-12.010	Authority
10-12.020	Intent
10-12.030	Definitions
10-12.031	Notifiable Conditions
10-12.040	Conditions and Principles for Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation and Quarantine
10-12.050	Voluntary Isolation or Quarantine
10-12.060	Involuntary Isolation or Quarantine
10-12.070	Penalties
10-12.080	Severability

**Legislative History**

Enacted:

- Ordinance 437 Amending STC Title 10, Chapter 12 (2/20/24).
- Ordinance 420 Amending STC Title 10, Chapter 12 (5/4/21).
- Ordinance 417 Establishing STC Title 10, Chapter 12 (4/28/21).

---

**10-12.010 Authority.**

This Chapter is enacted pursuant to authority provided by Article VI, Sections 1(i), (k), (l), and (r), and 5(c) of the Swinomish Constitution and the inherent powers of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

[History] Ord. 417 (4/28/21).

**10-12.020 Intent.**

- (A) It is the intent of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to protect and promote the health and well-being of the Swinomish Tribal community, Reservation residents, and public from the risks of communicable and certain other diseases to the greatest extent possible through the Tribe’s public health capabilities while respecting individuals’ dignity, liberty, health information privacy, right to due process and other legally-protected interests.
- (B) It is the intent of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to exercise its powers as a public health authority (as defined in section 164.501 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) for purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191; 110 Stat. 1936)

to the fullest extent, and to designate the Public Health Officer to carry out public health duties and responsibilities on behalf of the Tribe.

[History] Ord. 437 (2/20/24); Ord. 417 (4/28/21).

**10-12.030 Definitions.**

- (A) For the purposes of this Chapter, unless explicitly stated otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
- (1) **“Public Health Officer”** means a person who has public health and/or medical expertise and is designated by the Tribe to inform and advise the Tribe on matters affecting the health of the Tribe, its members and Reservation residents, and who shall carry out the legal mandates of this Chapter and directives related to medical and public health issues.
  - (2) **“Communicable disease”** means an illness caused by an infectious agent which can be transmitted from one person, animal, or object to another person by direct or indirect means, including transmission via an intermediate host or vector, food, water, or air.
  - (3) **“Contact”** means a person exposed to an infected person, animal or environment that may lead to infection.
  - (4) **“Detention”** as used in this Chapter shall mean the physical restriction of activities of an individual by confinement for the purpose of controlling or preventing a serious and imminent threat to public health.
  - (5) **“Infectious agent”** means an organism such as a virus, rickettsia, bacteria, fungus, protozoan, or helminth that is capable of producing infection or infectious disease in humans.
  - (6) **“Isolation”** means the separation, for the period of communicability, of infected persons from others in such places and under such conditions as to prevent or limit the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent from those infected to those who are susceptible or who may spread the infectious agent to others.
  - (7) **“Notifiable condition” or “reportable condition”** means a condition designated by the Public Health Officer which requires notification under this Chapter.
  - (8) **“Opioid”** means natural, synthetic, or semi-synthetic chemicals that interact with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain, and reduce the intensity of pain signals and feelings of pain. Opioids include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain medications available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, and many others.

- (9) **“Opioid overdose”** means evidence of central nervous system or respiratory system depression, lethargy or unconsciousness, decreased respiratory rate, apnea (temporary cessation of breathing), miosis (pinpoint pupils), or death, caused by the ingestion of an opioid.
  - (10) **“Quarantine”** means the limitation of freedom of movement of such persons as have been exposed to, or who are reasonably suspected based upon evidence of the type ordinarily relied upon by public health professionals, to have been exposed to, an infectious agent, for a period of time and in such manner as to prevent contact with and transmission of disease to those not yet exposed.
  - (11) **“Reservation”** means the Swinomish Indian Reservation.
  - (12) **“Tribe”** means the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
  - (13) **“Swinomish Tribal Court”** means the court of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community established in Article IX of the Swinomish Constitution.
- (B) All other terms, unless explicitly stated otherwise, shall have their ordinary and customary meanings.

[History] Ord. 437 (2/20/24); Ord. 417 (4/28/21).

**10-12.031 Notifiable Conditions.**

- (A) Notifiable Conditions List. The Public Health Officer shall establish a list of reportable diseases or other conditions of public health importance and establish timeframes for the reporting of each condition. The list may include diseases or conditions of humans or animals caused by exposure to toxic substances, microorganisms, or any other pathogens. The Public Health Officer may rely upon the Washington State Department of Health list of notifiable conditions in meeting this requirement.
- (B) Opioid Overdoses. Opioid overdose shall be included in the list of notifiable conditions established by the Public Health Officer.
- (C) Persons Required to Report. The following persons shall report notifiable conditions to the Public Health Officer:
  - (1) Health care providers;
  - (2) Health care facilities;
  - (3) Day care facilities;

- (4) First responders, including paramedics, volunteer firefighters and police officers responding to emergency calls.
  
- (D) Reporting Requirements. Persons required to report notifiable conditions shall notify the Public Health Officer of cases or suspected cases of notifiable conditions on a form or format provided by the Public Health Officer using a secure means of communication. In the event of an immediately notifiable condition, persons reporting shall notify the Public Health Officer in person or by phone. The Public Health Officer may adopt alternative arrangements for meeting the reporting requirements under this Chapter through coordination with local, state, and federal partners.
  
- (E) Public Health Officer Authority. The Public Health Officer has the authority to:
  - (1) Carry out additional steps determined to be necessary to verify a diagnosis reported by a health care provider;
  - (2) Establish and maintain confidentiality procedures related to handling of all reports of cases and suspected cases, prohibiting disclosure of report information identifying an individual case or suspected cases except as allowable under applicable health privacy laws;
  - (3) Investigate any case or suspected case of a reportable disease or condition or other illness, communicable or otherwise, if deemed necessary;
  - (4) Conduct investigations and institute control measures;
  - (5) Coordinate with, receive information from and report to local, state, or federal agencies or tribal organizations providing epidemiological services regarding any notifiable conditions.
  
- (F) Health Information Privacy.
  - (1) All records and specimens containing or accompanied by patient identifying information are confidential.
  - (2) The Public Health Officer shall establish and maintain confidentiality procedures consistent with applicable health privacy laws, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191; 110 Stat. 1936).

[History] Ord. 437 (2/20/24).

**10-12.040 Conditions and Principles for Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation and Quarantine.**

- (A) The Public Health Officer, to the greatest extent possible consistent with the protection of public health, shall comply with and utilize the following conditions and principles when acting to isolate or quarantine a person or group of persons under this Chapter:
  - (1) Isolation or quarantine must be by the least restrictive means necessary to prevent the spread of a communicable disease to others and may include, but

are not limited to, confinement to private homes or other public or private premises;

- (2) Isolated individuals are to be confined separately from quarantined individuals to the extent that separation is practicable;
- (3) The health status of isolated or quarantined individuals must be monitored regularly, to determine if they require continued isolation or quarantine;
- (4) If a quarantined individual subsequently becomes infected or is reasonably believed to have become infected with a communicable disease that the Public Health Officer believes poses a significant threat to the health and safety of other quarantined individuals, the quarantined individual is to promptly be placed in isolation;
- (5) Isolated or quarantined individuals are to be discharged from isolation or quarantine, as applicable, as soon as practicable when the Public Health Officer determines that they pose no substantial risk of transmitting a communicable disease that would constitute a serious or imminent threat to the health and safety of others;
- (6) The needs of a person isolated or quarantined must be addressed to the greatest extent possible in a systematic and competent fashion, including, but not limited to, providing or providing access to adequate food, clothing, shelter, means of communication with those in isolation or quarantine and outside these settings, medication, and competent medical care;
- (7) Premises used for isolation or quarantine are to be maintained in a safe and hygienic manner by those using premises for isolation or quarantine, to minimize the likelihood of further transmission of infection or other harm to persons isolated and quarantined;
- (8) To the extent possible, cultural and religious beliefs should be considered in addressing the needs of individuals, and establishing and maintaining isolation or quarantine premises; and
- (9) Isolation or quarantine shall not abridge the right of any person to rely exclusively on spiritual means alone through prayer to treat a communicable disease in accordance with religious tenets and practices, nor shall anything in this Chapter be deemed to prohibit a person so relying who is infected with a communicable disease from being isolated or quarantined in a private place of their own choice, provided, it is approved by the Public Health Officer, and all laws, rules and regulations governing control, sanitation, isolation and quarantine are complied with.

[History] Ord. 420 (5/4/21); Ord. 417 (4/28/21).

**10-12.050 Voluntary Isolation or Quarantine.**

- (A) Voluntary Isolation or Quarantine should always be used as a first option unless the Public Health Officer has determined that in the Officer's professional judgment:
- (1) Seeking and relying only upon voluntary compliance would create a risk of serious harm;
  - (2) There is reason to believe that the person or group of persons is, or is suspected to be, infected with or exposed to a communicable disease that could spread to others if remedial action is not taken; and
  - (3) There is reason to believe that the person or group of persons would pose a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others if not detained for purposes of isolation or quarantine.

[History] Ord. 420 (5/4/21); Ord. 417 (4/28/21).

**10-12.060 Involuntary Isolation or Quarantine.**

- (1) **Petition.** The Office of the Tribal Attorney may petition the Swinomish Tribal Court ex parte for an order authorizing involuntary detention of a person or group of persons for purposes of isolation or quarantine pursuant to this section: The petition shall specify:
  - (a) The identity of all persons or groups to be subject to isolation or quarantine;
  - (b) The premises where isolation or quarantine will take place;
  - (c) The date and time at which isolation or quarantine will commence;
  - (d) The suspected communicable disease or infectious agent if known;
  - (e) The anticipated duration of isolation or quarantine based on the suspected communicable disease or infectious agent if known;
  - (f) The measures taken by the Public Health Officer to seek voluntary compliance or the basis on which the Public Health Officer determined that seeking voluntary compliance would create a risk of serious harm; and
  - (g) The medical basis on which isolation or quarantine is justified.
- (2) The petition shall be accompanied by the declaration of the Public Health Officer attesting to the facts asserted in the petition, together with any further

information that may be relevant and material to the Swinomish Tribal Court's consideration.

**(B) Order for Involuntary Isolation or Quarantine.**

- (1) The Swinomish Tribal Court shall issue an order directing isolation or quarantine of an individual or individuals if the Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that isolation or quarantine is necessary to prevent a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others. If the Court finds that isolation or quarantine is not necessary to prevent a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others, then the order directing isolation or quarantine shall be vacated.
- (2) A Swinomish Tribal Court order directing isolation or quarantine as a result of an ex parte hearing shall:
  - (a) Specify a maximum duration for isolation or quarantine for no more than 14 calendar days, provided, however, that the order may be extended by the Court for an additional period of no more than 14 days if the Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that such an extension of the period of isolation or quarantine is necessary to prevent a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others;
  - (b) Identify the isolated or quarantined persons or groups by name or shared or similar characteristics or circumstances;
  - (c) Set forth the Court's factual findings warranting isolation or quarantine pursuant to this section;
  - (d) Include any conditions that the Court finds are necessary to ensure that isolation or quarantine is carried out within the stated purposes and restrictions of this section;
  - (e) Specify the premises where isolation or quarantine will take place;
  - (f) Be served upon the individual or individuals who are ordered to isolate or quarantine, along with a copy of the petition and notice of the ability to seek relief from isolation and quarantine.

- (C) Service.** Service of orders under this Chapter shall be done by a method or methods most likely to provide effective notice to the affected individual or individuals as promptly as possible and with the lowest risk of transmission, including by mail to the last known address of the affected individual(s), by affixing the order to the residence of the affected individual(s), by email if the email address of the affected individual(s) is known, or by text message if the cell phone number of the affected individual(s) is known. The Court may also order service by any other reasonable method the Court deems effective so long as it does not involve direct contact with the affected individual or individuals.

- (D) **Relief from Isolation and Quarantine.** An individual or group of individuals ordered by the Swinomish Tribal Court to be isolated or quarantined may apply to the Swinomish Tribal Court for an order to show cause why isolation or quarantine should not be terminated. The Petitioner will bear the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that continued isolation or quarantine is necessary to prevent a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others. The Court shall either issue an order directing continuing, with or without modifications, the isolation or quarantine of an individual or individuals if the Court finds that isolation or quarantine is necessary to prevent a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others. If the Court finds that isolation or quarantine is not necessary to prevent a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others, then the order directing isolation or quarantine shall be vacated. The Court shall be accessible to such individuals in a manner that does not require physical appearance at the Court. The Court shall set a hearing on the application to show cause within forty-eight (48) hours of its filing. The individual or individuals who are ordered to isolate or quarantine may be represented by an attorney at their expense, or may appear telephonically or by internet-based video.

[History] Ord. 420 (5/4/21); Ord. 417 (4/28/21).

#### **10-12.070 Penalties.**

Orders issued pursuant to this Chapter shall have the same enforceability as other orders of the Swinomish Tribal Court. Violation of such an order shall be a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$1,000.00, or up to \$500.00 per day in the case of a continuing infraction. The procedure for issuance, response and order regarding the civil infraction shall follow the procedure set forth in STC 5-01.090 - 5-01.180. Notice of the violation is proper when it is personally served, mailed to the last known address of the violator, or affixed to the door of the address where the violator is ordered to isolate or quarantine.

[History] Ord. 417 (4/28/21).

#### **10-12.080 Severability.**

The provisions of this Code are severable. If any provision of this Code or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid in any court, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this Code which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

[History] Ord. 417 (4/28/21).