

WASHINGTON SENTINEL NETWORK FINALIZING SECOND STATEWIDE HEALTH EMPLOYER SURVEY

Help ensure WSHA members' voices are heard!

Data collection closes [Friday, December 16!](#)

First round results show difficulties filling openings for registered nurses, medical assistants, lab technologists

The Washington Health Workforce Sentinel Network launched its second survey of healthcare providers on Nov. 1 to add more “ground level” data about emerging healthcare workforce needs throughout Washington State.

Known as the Sentinel Network, healthcare providers representing a wide range of health care facilities, from large urban hospitals to small to rural home health facilities, provide information for educators, trainers, and policymakers to respond to health workforce demand changes as they emerge.

A project of the state’s Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) and the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University of Washington, the Sentinel Network is funded by the Healthier Washington initiative of the Washington State Health Care Authority.

Baseline data from this summer’s survey pointed to “exceptionally long vacancies” at large hospitals for medical/clinical laboratory technologists, registered nurses, and medical assistants

Meanwhile, registered nurses, physicians, mental health counselors, and dental assistants were among occupations cited by the FQHCs and free clinics as having exceptionally long vacancies. Sentinels also frequently reported need for additional staff training to keep up with electronic records and information technology.

The Sentinel Network is continuing recruitment efforts to expand the number and types of healthcare providers in its statewide network, ***particularly large and small hospitals.***

Healthcare employers can participate in the Sentinel Network at www.wtb.wa.gov/HealthSentinel/.

Initial Sentinel Network results can be viewed at: www.wtb.wa.gov/HealthSentinel/results.asp.