

Washington | Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH

State Health Officer

Washington State Department of Health

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH serves as State Health Officer at the Washington Department of Health.

Throughout his career Tao has focused on bringing together people, systems, and ideas—building collaborative relationships with state and local public health leaders in rural and urban regions throughout Washington.

Tao earned his medical degree at Harvard Medical School and a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington School of Public Health.



Before joining the Department of Health in 2021 he practiced primary care pediatrics in Seattle for over 12 years with an emphasis on behavioral health. His public health perspectives were also powerfully shaped by volunteer work with refugee communities in Seattle as well as on the Thai-Burma border. As a medical epidemiologist at Public Health Seattle & King County, Tao led the day to day work of a team responsible for communicable disease prevention and control. Tao has also served as a faculty member at the University of Washington School of Public Health, where he directed the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) regional public health training center for two years, engaged in teaching and research, and trained health professionals in cross-sector collaboration and health equity at NWCPHP's Public Health-Primary Care Leadership Institute.

As State Health Officer, Tao has testified to the state legislature on topics ranging from influenza to drunk driving and most recently on preserving state and local public health's ability to use the best available science when responding to communicable disease threats. Tao serves on Washington's Public Health Advisory Board, the state's Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee, the Washington State Board of Health, and as one of the executive sponsors of the Washington State Opioid and Overdose Response Plan.