## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 7 | **Name:** | Sam Porter |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2020-0182 | **Date:** | June 2, 2020 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion 2020-0182 would requests the Executive to contract with the University of Washington to conduct a retrospective analysis of the Coronavirus pandemic response in King County and transmit a report to Council.

**SUMMARY**

Proposed Motion 2020-0182 would request the King County Executive to enter into a contract with the University of Washington in order to conduct a retrospective analysis of the effectiveness of actions taken by King County leaders and the Department of Public Health to limit the spread of the virus. The motion recommends that the analysis begin at a time far enough in the future that experts are able to effectively analyze the pandemic response. The analysis is recommended to be conducted in partnership with Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC), the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the Gates Foundation and other organizations that have been directly involved in the COVID-19 response in King County. The motion requests that the Executive transmit a report to Council based on the retrospective analysis filed by June 30, 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

The 2019 coronavirus[[1]](#footnote-1) (COVID-19), a highly contagious and rapidly spreading disease[[2]](#footnote-2), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), first appeared in people in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Onset of symptoms occurs between two and 14 days after exposure to the virus though transmission can occur while an individual is asymptomatic.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 known at the time in the United States occurred in January in a Snohomish County resident who had traveled to China.[[4]](#footnote-4) By January 21, PHSKC had activated the Public Health Departmental Emergency Operations Center. On February 26 the Life Care Center of Kirkland, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, reported an outbreak of COVID-19 to Washington state health officials.[[5]](#footnote-5) March 1, the King County Executive issued a proclamation of emergency in order to exercise the Executive's emergency powers. On March 23, Washington Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25 imposing the "Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order" throughout Washington State. As of publishing this staff report, according to the PHSKC COVID-19 Dashboard there have been 8,159 positive cases in King County and 557 deaths attributable to COVID-19.[[6]](#footnote-6) According to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, to date more than 6.1 million cases have been reported worldwide with more than 371,995 deaths, 104,358 in the United States.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**ANALYSIS**

Proposed Motion 2020-0182 would request the King County Executive to contract with the University of Washington to conduct a retrospective analysis of the effectiveness of actions taken by King County leaders and the PHSKC to limit the spread of the virus. The study is intended to be conducted with participation by PHSKC and organizations directly involved in the COVID-19 response in King County. Examples of such organizations include the University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation and the Gates Foundation.

A retrospective analysis would look backwards into the emergence and outbreak of COVID-19 in King County and may examine such things as the timeline of the onset of the outbreak in King County, subsequent decision points for King County leaders and PHSKC, and equity and social justice.

Note that state law, RCW 39.04.280, and King County Code, Section 2.93, describe the procurement and competitive bidding requirements for awarding contracts. The Executive would likely need to determine whether the University of Washington would qualify for a sole source waiver, or if a procurement process would need to be conducted.

The Proposed Motion does not specify a date by which the analysis needs to begin but states that the analysis should begin sufficiently beyond the onset of the pandemic that an analysis is effective. The Proposed Motion requests the executive to submit a report based on the analysis to Council by June 30, 2021.

**INVITED**

* Karan Gill, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2020-0182

1. World Health Organization, "Naming the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the virus that causes it." <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/naming-the-coronavirus-disease-(covid-2019)-and-the-virus-that-causes-it> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "High Contagiousness and Rapid Spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2." <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/7/20-0282_article> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Symptoms of Coronavirus." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. New York Times, "First Patient With Wuhan Coronavirus Is Identified in the U.S. " <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/21/health/cdc-coronavirus.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Seattle Times, "Life Care Center of Kirkland, the epicenter of Seattle-area coronavirus outbreak, faces $611,000 fine." https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/life-care-center-of-kirkland-the-epicenter-of-seattle-area-coronavirus-outbreak-faces-611000-fine-for-jeopardy-to-patients/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. PHSKC, COVID-19 Outbreak Summary. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data/daily-summary.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)