

REVISED HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER NO. 23-069-1

**ORDER REQUIRING DECONTAMINATION (ABATEMENT) OF CONTAMINATED
PROPERTY AND ADVISING OF HEALTH RISKS**

October 13, 2023

Complaint Number: CO0007993
Property Tax Account Number(s): 28050600401900

Berkshire Housing, LLC
dba Catholic Housing Services
Attn: Steve Powers
Clare's Place
6200 12th Dr SE
Everett, WA 98203

Occupants
6200 12th DR SE
Units,

XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XX
X,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,X
XX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX and Reception Area

Everett, WA 98203

Subject: Methamphetamine and Fentanyl Contaminated Property at 6200 12th DR SE,
Everett WA, 98203

Dear Owner and Occupants:

On September 22, 2023, the Snohomish County Health Department (Health Department) was notified about methamphetamine and fentanyl contamination at the above-referenced property. This correspondence is being directed to you either in your capacity as an owner of interest and/or having a secured interest in the subject property, and/or as an occupant of the property.

The Health Department received reports regarding the testing of numerous units and some common areas at the property for the presence of methamphetamine and fentanyl. The testing demonstrated methamphetamine and fentanyl contamination in the above-listed units and common areas. For the units and areas identified above, analytical results of the testing indicate that the level of methamphetamine contamination is in the range of 2.0 to 4000.0 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ cm}^2$ and fentanyl contamination is in the range of 0.13 to 0.17 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ cm}^2$. The Washington State Department of Health decontamination standard for methamphetamine is 1.5 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ cm}^2$ under WAC 246-205-541. The Washington State Department of Health has not adopted a decontamination standard for fentanyl or identified a level of fentanyl contamination that is safe for human exposure.

Pursuant to RCW 70.05.070 and Chapter 2.05 of the Snohomish Health District Code, contamination of the above-listed units and common areas with methamphetamine and/or fentanyl constitutes a public or common nuisance potentially injurious to health and could interfere with the health and safety of a considerable number of persons. The owner and/or operator must abate the nuisance by decontaminating the above-listed units and common areas by a Department of Health Certified Washington State Drug Lab Cleanup Contractor to Washington State standards under WAC 246-205-541.

Additionally, the Health Department advises there are potential health risks associated with occupying units and common spaces that are contaminated with methamphetamine or fentanyl. Smoking methamphetamine in a residential property contaminates the house, furnishings, and personal possessions within it; subsequent exposure through ingestion, dermal absorption, and/or inhalation could potentially cause adverse health effects. These adverse health effects can include behavioral changes, respiratory illnesses, and skin-irritation. Possible symptoms could include irritability, anxiety, sleeplessness, weight loss, a persistent cough, dizziness, difficulty in breathing, nausea, and throat, eye, and skin irritations. Residing in methamphetamine contaminated properties can represent a public health risk. Although the amount of contamination varies throughout the facility, the only adopted standard that is deemed safe under Washington State standards is the decontamination standard of 1.5 µg/100 cm². Therefore, **occupants of the above-listed units are advised to vacate their units until this standard is met.** The Health Department will post advisory notices notifying the occupants of potentially hazardous conditions. Until the property owner has provided documentation to the Health Department demonstrating that the above-listed units and common areas have been decontaminated in compliance with state standards the advisory notices will remain posted.

The Health Department further advises the property owner to test all common and public areas in the building for contamination if not already tested. If any common or public areas are contaminated, the property owner is advised to consult with the Health Department to determine whether it is necessary to vacate all residences and the building in its entirety until it is decontaminated in compliance with state standards. The Health Department is available to the property owner and residents to provide technical assistance on this matter until abatement is complete.

Effective as of the date of this Order:

The following units and areas of the building located at 6200 12th DR SE, Everett, Snohomish County, Washington 98203, have been determined to be contaminated with methamphetamine and/or fentanyl, and are declared to constitute a public or common nuisance under RCW 70.05.070(5), SHDC 2.05.010, and SHDC 2.05.020:

Units

XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XX
X,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,X
XX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX and Reception Area

The Health Department is advising these areas not be entered, occupied, rented, or leased to the public, or used in any other manner until they have undergone

approved decontamination by a Washington State Department of Health (DOH) authorized illegal drug manufacturing or storage site decontamination contractor.

In making this determination of contamination, your attention is called to the following:

1) **Property Information:**

The property on which the methamphetamine and/or fentanyl contamination occurred is legally described under Snohomish County property tax account number 28050600401900. The common street address of the subject property is 6200 12th DR SE, Everett, Snohomish County, Washington 98203. The property owner is Berkshire Housing, LLC, dba Catholic Community Services.

2) **Assessment of Costs:**

Any costs incurred as part of the testing, decontamination, and/or disposal of materials associated with the contaminated property are the responsibility of the property owner.

3) **Legal Authority:**

Under RCW 70.05.070, the local health officer shall: enforce the public health statutes of the state, rules of the state board of health, and all local health rules, regulations, and ordinances; take such action as is necessary to maintain health and sanitation supervision within the county; and shall prevent, control, or abate nuisances which are detrimental to the public health. Under Snohomish Health District Code (SHDC) 2.05.010, whenever any declared nuisance, source of filth, or cause or probable cause of injury to health is found by the health officer, they shall have the power and authority to order in writing appropriate action, at the expense of the owner, occupant, or user, to correct and remove the nuisance through a health officer order. Under SHDC 2.05.020, a public nuisance is that which is set up, maintained, or continued so as to be injurious to the health, safety, or life of any considerable number of persons. In the event of refusal or failure of such persons to abate a nuisance, the health officer may cause such nuisance to be abated and costs recovered in action filed in a court of competent jurisdiction. SHDC 2.05.010.

Corrective Actions Required:

Your failure to comply with this Order may result in the initiation of legal action against you. The following actions must be taken to comply with this Order:

- Hire a DOH certified drug lab cleanup contractor to decontaminate (abate) the property to Washington State standards. All decontamination and cleanup work must be performed by a Washington State Department of Health authorized illegal drug manufacturing or storage site decontamination contractor under a work plan reviewed and approved in writing by the Health Department. Decontamination shall be done in accordance with Revised Health Officer Order N. 23-069-1 and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, procedures, and guidelines. A determination of satisfactory decontamination will not occur until all documentation, notification, reports, etc. have been submitted to and approved by the Health Department.

Health Advisory:

The Department advises the following:

- All occupants of the units listed in this Order are advised to vacate the property until the units have been decontaminated.
- The property owner is advised to secure any contaminated common areas from use and entry.
- The property owner is advised to test all common and public areas in the building for contamination if not already tested. If any common or public areas are contaminated, the property owner is advised to consult with the Health Department to determine whether it is necessary to advise all residents to vacate the building in its entirety until it is decontaminated in compliance with state standards.

If you should have any questions or would like to discuss this issue in greater detail, please feel free to **contact Steven Hernandez of the Safe Environments Section at 425.339.8469** and at steven.hernandez@co.snohomish.wa.us

Sincerely,



James Lewis, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer
Snohomish County Health Department

SH:mh

DELIVERY:

- 1) Certified mail to addressee
- 2) Regular mail to addressee
- 3) Copy posted at property

Cc: Anne Marie Charles, Washington State Department of Health