






Data Sharing Request Pause FAQs

Updated 6/23/2025

This change only applies to *new* data sharing requests submitted *on or after* April 1, 2025. All existing data access remains active.

- Timelines to be aware of:
 - **April 1 – July 31, 2025** – Temporary pause in effect
 - **August 1, 2025** – Expected end date
- What requests will RHINO process during this time?
 - RHINO will continue with the following activities related to requests from partners:  Updating existing DSAs as needed.
 -  Adding new ESSENCE users where a DSA is already in place or is in the process of being completed.
 - For DOH users where a DSA is not necessary, new ESSENCE users will only be added if there is an existing project in place.
 -  Review of products that will be shared publicly (dashboards, reports, manuscripts, etc.).
-  RHINO will not be accepting requests for participation in new projects until the pause is lifted. New DSAs will not be initiated during this pause.
-  Still unsure? Contact RHINO@doh.wa.gov before submitting
- Does this impact access to ESSENCE data for existing ESSENCE users?
 - No – this request pause does not impact existing data access. Users with existing access may continue their work as normal.
 - RHINO will accept requests for reviews of products (reports, dashboards, manuscripts, etc.) intended for public display or disclosure to ensure there are no unnecessary work stoppages for our partners.
 - Requests for things like consultation on new projects or new datasets will not be considered during this time.
 - Projects with planned dataset updates will continue without interruption.
 - Please note that LHJs are not permitted to share datasets without RHINO approval.
- How do I know if this pause is going to impact my request?
 - If you submitted your request before April 1, 2025, it will continue to be processed.
 - A general rule of thumb is that if you have already been in contact with someone from RHINO about your request, it will continue to be processed.
 - RHINO will be in touch if your request is not accepted during this pause.
- When will the pause end?
 - The initial pause is intended to last for 4 months: April 1 – August 1, 2025. We will evaluate our status throughout this time to determine if the pause needs to be extended.