Public Health Director's Report Prepared by: Jennifer Ludwig Date Prepared: April 12, 2024

Dates Covered: March 18 - April 12, 2024

A. Equity and Engagement

- 1) Please reach out to <u>Grace Soulen</u> or visit our <u>Community Engagement Event Request Form</u> to suggest upcoming outreach opportunities.
- 2) Upcoming Community Engagement Event:
 - a. Community Health Event- Aurora Economic Opportunity Coalition
 Tuesday April 16, 2024, 11am-2pm Dayton Street Labor Center 1521 Dayton Street,
 Aurora, CO 80010
- 3) New Language Access Procedure approved by Policy Workgroup and rolled out to staff. Includes general access information around interpretation, translation, and language justice.

Training Opportunity

Leadership in Action Course for Board of Health Members:

OPHP has partnered with RIHEL (Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership) to offer Leadership in Action, a free virtual session for Colorado Board of Health members. There are two sessions to choose from:

May 8, 2024, 9:30 – 11:00 am (Registration deadline is 4/30/24)

June 6, 2024, 11:00am – 12:30 pm (Registration deadline is 5/29/24)

This interactive 90-minute virtual session will share best-selling authors James Kouzes and Barry Posner's Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership. Participants will have the opportunity to complete the *Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI): Self assessment*. Activities and small group discussion with other Colorado board members will then be used to apply the leadership practices to public health. Use the links above to register for one of the sessions, and for additional information.

B. Program Updates

Administration

- 1) Sustaining Essential Services: Arapahoe County is facing a significant budget shortfall starting in 2025. The County Commissioners are committed to finding a sustainable solution, but without an increase in revenue, leadership will be forced to make more significant cuts in services, affecting both businesses and residents. In April, the County will launch an <u>educational campaign</u> and <u>interactive website</u> to engage with residents about the budget shortfall. Arapahoe County Public Health is developing messages about how the cuts could impact our programs and services that all residents of Arapahoe County benefit from.
- 2) Legislation ACPH is tracking:

Bill	Status	Positions Taken	Overview
HB 24-1028	Introduced, 1/10		Allows a municipality to authorize the operation of
			an overdose prevention center within the
Overdose	Passed third		municipality's boundaries for the purpose of
Prevention	reading in House		saving the lives of persons at risk of preventable
Centers	<u>4/5</u>		overdoses.
SB24-043	Introduced, 1/12	CALPHO: Oppose	Authorizes a raw milk producer (producer) that
			registers with the department of public health and
Raw Milk Sales	No movement	BOCC: Amend	environment (department) to engage in direct-to-
			consumer sales of raw milk in the state if the
			producer complies with certain labeling, storage,
11024 4004	1.111.4/40		handling, and transportation requirements.
HB24-1081	Introduced, 1/10		The bill limits the sale or transfer of a product
Regulation of	Engrossed 2/5		containing sodium nitrite in a concentration greater than 10% of the mass or volume of the
the Sale of	Reengrossed 2/6		product to commercial businesses that are verified
Sodium Nitrite	Reeligi 033eu 2/0		to require a covered product.
Journal Withte	Passed		to require a covered product.
	<u> </u>		
SB 165:	Hearing, 3/20	BOCC – monitor	SB 165 would require the Air Quality Control
	G, .		Commission in CDPHE to adopt certain emission
Air Quality	No movement	CALPHO – support	standards and rules for
Improvements			controlling emissions that result in pollutants
<u>SB 166</u> :	Hearing 3/20	BOCC – No position	SB 166 would focus on enforcement, including for
			repeat offenders. CDPHE would be required to
Air Quality	Referred to	CALPHO – Support	assess civil penalties and require a root-cause
Enforcement	<u>Finance</u>		analysis from repeat offenders, vs issuing a
			warning letter or other informal actions.
HB24-1359	Hearing: 3/28	BOCC – No position,	Would create additional notification requirements
11024-1333	11601111g. 3/20	staff and lobby team	for oil and gas operators in the event of a spill or
Public	Amendments	working with bill	release of a hazardous chemical. Within 24 hours
Notification of	passed 3/27	sponsor	of report submission, it would need to be shared
Hazardous	<u> </u>	-1	with people located near the well site and through
Chemical		CALPHO – oppose	emergency notification systems.
Releases			
SB24-181	Introduced 3/13	CALPHO - support	SB24-181 would create an alcohol impact recovery
			enterprise in the department of revenue to collect
Alcohol Impact	Finance 4/9		a fee from manufacturers and wholesalers that
& Recovery			distribute alcohol within Colorado and use the fee
Enterprise			for alcohol and related substance use disorder
			prevention, early intervention, treatment, harm
			reduction, and recovery services and programs.

Partnerships, Planning and Community Health Promotion

- 1) Community Health Assessment Update:
 - a. Following the March publication of our 2024 Arapahoe County Community Health
 Assessment, efforts are underway to assess capacity, readiness, and opportunities to address
 the six top health issues that emerged for consideration as final, top priorities in the
 upcoming Community Health Improvement Plan. Structured engagement opportunities
 occurring in April to help inform those decisions include:
 - i. Six ACPH staff focus groups, during which team members across the agency will provide subject matter expertise and insights.
 - ii. Data presentations and issue discussions with elected officials:
 - 1. April 16, Littleton City Council
 - 2. April 22, Sheridan City Council
 - 3. April 23, Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
 - 4. May 14, Bennett Board of Trustees
- 2) Dr. Tania Cerrato, Data Science Team Manager, is invited to present on April 19 at Colorado's Public Health Culture of Data Conference. She will provide an overview and status report on ACPH's Health Vista Project. Slated to culminate in late 2024, the project's goal is to deliver a data dashboard and toolkit using predictive analytics to better understand and track interconnections between substance use disorder, housing, and houselessness in Arapahoe County, to inform future project planning and resource optimization. The effort has been enabled through a competitive grant award from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, the nation's professional association for applied epidemiologists.

Nutrition Division

1) RTD Transit Assistance Grant (TAG) Received

The Nutrition Division partnered with the Community Health Nursing Division, along with our Human Service and Community Resources departments, to apply for the RTD TAG Program. The TAG Program helps qualified nonprofits and associated organization serving clients with immediate needs by providing grants for RTD fares. The county was awarded \$27,362.50 in the equivalent of 995 standard 10-ride ticket books. Each ticket book is valued at \$27.50. The books will be dispersed in early May among Public Health direct service programs, Human Services and Community Resources and individual ride tickets or books will be provided to community members we serve who may need transportation assistance.

Community Health Nursing Division

- 1) Nurse Liaison Program
 - a. The program has applied for a \$10,000 grant through the E470 Foundation to provide car seats and safety education to families in need who are served at Arapahoe County Public Health. We anticipate knowing more about the award in May.
- 2) Immunizations
 - a. During the month of March, the program held 21 clinics and administered 956 vaccines.
 - b. In addition to the monthly Shots for Tots clinic, off-site clinics were also conducted at Giving Heart, Vaughn Elementary, Safe Side Recovery, Movement 5280, Laredo Elementary, and the Academy for Advanced Learning.

- c. Immunization and public health outreach were provided at Colorado Finest High School in Englewood during their Multilingual Family Night.
- d. In response to the influx of migrants, transcription of international vaccine records has become a normality. This month, 19 international vaccine records were transcribed (Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, and Honduras)
- e. Gun locks are now available in all immunization clinic waiting areas.

3) Sexual Health

- a. Staff conducted their first syphilis Field Delivered Treatment (FDT) home visit to administer the necessary antibiotics to a client referred to us from Pueblo. Each FDT syphilis treatment consists of a series of three home visits spaced two weeks apart. This first round of home visits was successfully conducted by Dr. Chris Urbina and Nurse Supervisor, Renee Lenthe.
- b. For the first quarter of 2024, the program averaged 280 client visits per month. This is an approximate 23% increase in comparison to numbers from quarter one of 2023.

4) Harm Reduction

- a. The program recently hired Arnette Lim, our new Care Coordinator. Arnette will be working to link clients to infectious disease treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and mental and behavioral health treatment.
- b. The program had a change in leadership and will soon be posting for a Harm Reduction supervisor.

Health Protection and Response

- 1) Conference Presentations and Publications
 - a. CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Abstract
 - i. Talitha Appel, Immunization Nurse Manager and Melissa Adair, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program Manager, coauthored an abstract with the CDC EIS Officer housed at CDPHE related to the 2023 measles response. This abstract focused on response activities, partner collaboration, vaccination clinic, and the use of a cultural navigator. This abstract was accepted for a late-breaking presentation at the annual CDC EIS Conference on April 26, 2024.
 - b. Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center ECHO Series Panelist
 - i. Melissa Adair, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program Manager, was invited to participate as a panelist in a Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center ECHO series on April 16, 2024. She will share insights and strategies regarding practical challenges and opportunities in managing shifting disease control measures, priorities and epidemiology teams as we emerge from the pandemic.

2) Environmental Health Programs

- a. Retail food establishment licensing has concluded, and all facilities are now licensed for 2024. 59 facilities required a civil penalty of \$500 for compliance and no facility needed an injunction as they all came into compliance before April 1st.
- b. Continuation of School Inspection Program Outreach
 - i. Danielle Henderson, Environmental Health Supervisor and Environmental Health Specialists Courtney Tomlin, Diane Garibay, and Sia Lor of the Early Childhood and School Inspection Team, met with Cherry Creek School District Health Services Director, Jennifer Ellerbroek, on March 4, 2024, to share details specific to the Health Services section of the School Regulations and answer questions on what to expect for regulatory inspections starting in Fall of 2025. The team introduced the ongoing opportunity to partner on mock school inspections starting Fall of 2024.

- ii. The Early Childhood and School Inspection team partnered with Byers School District 32J on March 12, 2024. The District Facilities Director, Tim Barber accompanied ACPH representatives in a walk-through of Byers Elementary, Middle and High School. ACPH representatives learned more about Byers School district and got an opportunity to explore the different types of vocational programs the district offers for middle and high school students. ACPH representatives helped Byers Staff understand how the regulations would be applied in high-risk areas of the high school and offered support and guidance on how to access the section of the regulations that applies for the spaces observed.
- iii. The Early Childhood and School Inspection team met with Littleton Public Schools Fire Safety representative, Glenn Benjamin, and Littleton Public School District Safety and Security representative, Leah Raymond, on March 22, 2024, to introduce the school inspection program, identify partners in Littleton Public Schools, and introduce the mock inspection program. The Team gained interest and scheduled three schools (Elementary, Middle, and High School) to complete a mock inspection starting fall of 2024.
- iv. The Early Childhood and School Inspection team partnered with South Metro Fire Rescue on March 19, 2024, to shadow a fire inspection in a high school. ACPH representatives gained a deeper understanding of Fire Inspections regulatory work in support of identifying potential regulatory overlap and mechanisms to build strong partnerships with schools in this area of work.
- v. Early Childhood Program Outreach: Sick Simon: Germs! Lesson Plan Pilot Program
 - 1. The Early Childhood and School Inspection Team presented at Aspen Crossing Elementary School to two Early Childhood Education classrooms on a pilot program lesson plan related to germs and staying healthy. ACPH staff read the children's book <u>Sick Simon</u> by Dan Krall. ACPH facilitated a glow germ activity starting with an ACPH staff member covered in "germs" venturing around the classroom contaminating frequently touched surfaces with Glow Germ. ACPH representatives separated the class into groups to show preschool students the contaminated frequently touched surfaces with a blacklight. Lastly, a discussion took place as a group to explore ways to stay healthy and keep their friends healthy.

c. Vector Surveillance Season

- i. The Environmental Health staff kicked off its mosquito surveillance season on April 9, 2024. The Vector Surveillance team will receive a refresher on surveillance, review and refine the vector standard operating procedures, and review the core values of the program. This year, the team will be setting four mosquito traps spanning Arapahoe County to survey for West Nile virus. Mosquito trapping will begin the week after Memorial Day and is expected to run until two weeks after Labor Day.
- d. Air Quality Monitor Loan Program
 - i. ACPH entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Sheridan, Arapahoe Libraries District, and Arapahoe County Public Health to support enhancing public awareness regarding air quality in the community. Under the terms of the MOU, the City of Sheridan will procure ten air quality monitors and accompanying materials to create educational kits. Arapahoe Libraries will then undertake the cataloging and processing of these materials, making them available

for patrons to check out from the Sheridan Library, while also spearheading marketing efforts to promote the availability of these kits. ACPH's involvement in the initiative encompasses assisting in the creation and dissemination of marketing materials through our various channels, which may include the website, social media and community newsletters. Additionally, all parties will collaborate to develop educational resources, such as instructions on interpreting air quality data. The initiative is scheduled to roll out during <u>Air Quality Awareness Week</u>, starting May 6, 2024. This MOU underscores a commitment to fostering community engagement and access to information regarding environmental health issues, a partnership that brings unique expertise and resources to achieve shared objectives.

C. Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program Report

1) Dengue

- a. Dengue viruses are spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Nearly half of the world's population, about 4 billion people, live in areas with a risk of dengue. Dengue outbreaks occur in many countries around the world, including the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The most common symptom of dengue is fever along with nausea, vomiting, rash, aches and pains, including eye pain, muscle, joint, or bone pain.
- b. On February 16, 2024, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an epidemiological alert for areas of Central and South America due to substantial increase in dengue cases and deaths. PAHO reported that so far in 2024, the cumulative incidence of dengue in these regions is 327.59 cases per 100,000 population, representing a 243% increase compared to the same timeframe in 2023 and a 379% increase compared to the previous 5-year average.
- c. The ACPH Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program is closely monitoring this situation as global temperatures rise and mosquito species that spread dengue migrate to other parts of the world. On average, Arapahoe County has approximately three dengue cases annually related to international travel. So far in 2024, two dengue cases have been reported among Arapahoe County residents due to international travel.

2) Mpox

- a. Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) is a disease caused by infection with the mpox virus (also referred to as MPX, MPV, or MPXV), which is a type of orthopoxvirus. The source of the disease remains unknown. However, African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) might harbor the virus and infect people. People may become infected either by being scratched or bitten by the animal, or by preparing or eating meat or using products from an infected animal or direct person-to-person contact with someone infected with mpox. Prior to the 2022 outbreak, almost all mpox cases in people outside of Africa were linked to international travel to countries where the disease commonly occurs or through imported animals. People with mpox often get a rash that may be located on the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth, or near the genitals, including penis, testicles, labia, vagina, and anus.
- b. Colorado is experiencing an increase of reported mpox cases this year. Cases of mpox have decreased since the outbreak in August 2022; however, new cases continue to be reported. As of April 3, 2024, 37 cases have been reported in Colorado in 2024. That is

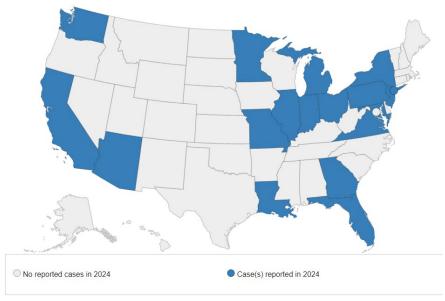
- compared to 13 cases in 2023 and 405 cases in 2022. There have been three cases reported in Arapahoe County so far in 2024. A Health Alert Network (HAN) notification was released on April 5, 2024 notifying medical providers of the continued rise in statewide cases, information on testing, vaccination, and treatment, and public health guidance for infection prevention and exposures.
- c. The Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program conducts in-depth mpox case investigations to determine possible cause of infection, severity of illness, recommend additional medical care if needed, exclude individuals from work while symptomatic, and identify close contacts to offer post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) vaccinations to prevent infection. Through collaboration with the Immunization Program, we refer individuals to ACPH clinics to receive PEP vaccines. The Immunization Program continues to offer free mpox vaccines at ACPH clinics to anyone who thinks they may be at risk of exposure and would like a vaccine.

3) Nationwide Measles Update

a. Measles cases and outbreaks have been increasing in the United States. As of April 4, 2024, a total of 113 measles cases were reported by 18 jurisdictions nationwide. There have been seven outbreaks (CDC is defining an outbreak as 3 or more related cases) reported in 2024, and 73% of cases this year have been outbreak associated. For comparison, four outbreaks of measles were reported in 2023. Of the 113 cases, 83% were unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccine status, 50% were under 5 years old, and 58% have been hospitalized. The Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program continues to monitor the rise in cases and outbreaks to prepare to respond should another case occur in Arapahoe County.

Jurisdictions Reporting Cases in 2024





4) Rabies Season

a. Rabies is a preventable disease that is spread through direct contact, such as a bite or scratch, with the saliva or brain/nervous system tissue of an animal that is sick with

- rabies. Most rabies cases are found in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, and coyotes. Rabies is regularly found in Colorado wildlife. While reports of rabid animals can occur throughout the year, the majority of reports occur between March and September. In 2023, 56 animals (47 bats; 8 skunks) tested positive for rabies in Colorado, including one bat in Arapahoe County. No positive animals have been reported in Colorado so far in 2024.
- b. The Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program conducts in-depth rabies risk exposure assessments for humans and domestic animals following an encounter with wildlife. If a wild animal is unable to be tested for rabies following an encounter with a human, rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) vaccinations may be recommended to prevent possible infection.
- c. In preparation for the 2024 summer rabies season, the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program is working closely with Communications to share rabies prevention and animal safety messaging on social media and with our community partners (Facebook). We also included information on the website about 10 Ways to Prevent Rabies and Other Diseases this Spring and Summer in an effort to share as much preventive education with the public as possible. In addition, we are partnering with Open Spaces to include rabies messaging in Arapahoe County parks and trails. On April 9, 2024, the Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Environmental Health Programs hosted a rabies training with animal control officers within Arapahoe County to include education on rabies, rabies reservoir species, animal quarantine and testing, and collaboration for how public health and animal control work closely to protect residents and their pets.
- 5) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)
 - a. In March 2024, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was detected in livestock for the first time during the current HPAI outbreak in the United States. On March 25, 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - in partnership with state veterinarians and public health officials – confirmed HPAI in dairy cattle in Kansas and Texas. To date, no cattle mortality has been reported and symptoms have included decreased lactation, reduced appetite, low-grade fever, and mild respiratory symptoms. On April 1, 2024, the first human case of H5N1 was reported in Texas among an individual with direct exposure to dairy cattle that are presumed to be infected with avian influenza. The only reported symptom was eye inflammation and the individual is isolating from others and being treated with an antiviral drug. This is the first human detection of avian influenza potentially linked to infected cattle. However, an individual from Colorado tested positive for H5N1 in 2022 who had direct contact with poultry with presumptive H5N1 bird flu. CDC remains that the risk to human health is low. However, people with close or prolonged, unprotected exposures to infected birds or other animals (including livestock), or to environments contaminated by infected birds or other animals, are at greater risk of infection. As of April 5, 2024, no cases have been reported in Colorado consistent with the illness or H5N1 infection in cattle.

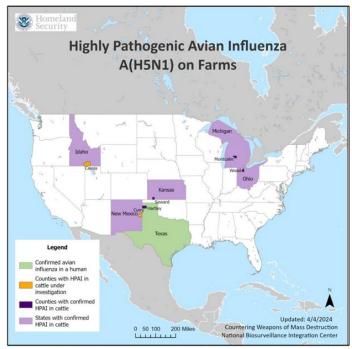


Figure: Confirmed HPAI H5N1 detections or detections under investigation in the United States on dairy cattle farms, as officially reported by USDA APHIS, CDC, FDA, and state governments.^{23,24,25} Exact locations within states have not been identified in many cases to protect farm privacy.

D. Social Media and Communications

- a. Public Health Week:
 - i. <u>Seven public health wins: A week of reasons to celebrate for National Public Health</u> Week (arapahoeco.gov)

Arapahoe County Public Health

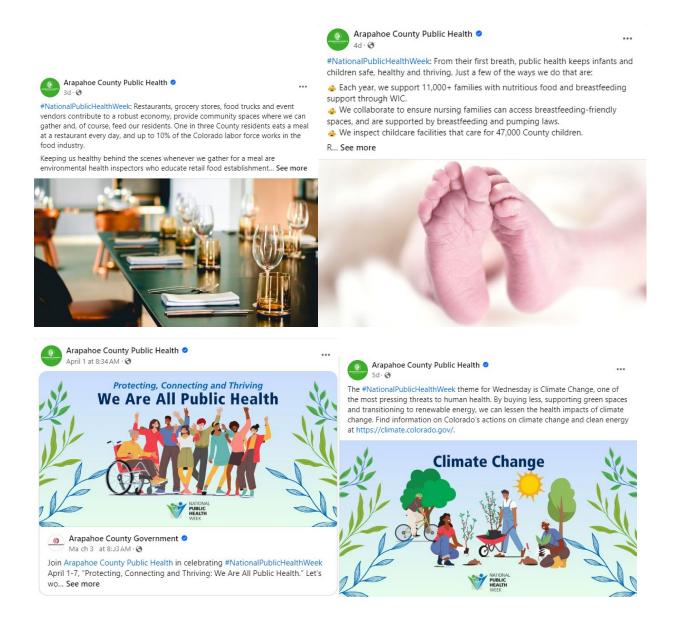
ii. Board of County Commissioners Proclamation: <u>24-148 - Proclamation - National</u> Public Health Week (legistar.com)











E. All Staff Meeting

- **a.** ACPH held its first all staff meeting on April 3, during National Public Health Week. It was an opportunity to gather, play, provide updates, learn about each division's work and priorities, destress, and give recognition.
- **b.** Golden Duck Awards: staff submitted over 122 nominations for their co-workers in 9 categories.

CATEGORIES	WINNER
Above and Beyond : The Above and Beyond Award recognizes individuals who often do more than what is expected of them or	Jason Ford Finance & Admin

exceeding what their job may require. This individual continually surpasses expectations of others and goes the extra mile.	
Data Nerd : The Data Nerd category recognizes a staff member that thinks outside the box and uses their creativity to drive data innovation to better the organization and/or community.	Kathleen Rebollo Nutrition Division
Excellence in Customer Service : The Excellence in Customer Service Award Category recognizes individuals whose accomplishments, professionalism, and commitment to customer service make them role models for customer service delivery.	Angeline Higgins Health Protection & Response
Funniest Coworker : This staff member has a genuine sense of humor. They bring you joy and happiness. Anything they utter constantly makes you laugh out loud. Without their presence, the office appears to be silent.	Jess Gomez Community Health Nursing
Innovative Idea : The Innovative Idea Award recognizes staff who have designed or developed an original and new method or project that were advanced to improve public health operations or programming.	Michael Roy Health Protection & Response
Process Improvement Award : This staff member has demonstrated a process improvement where they identified, analyzed and improved existing business processes to achieve higher efficiency.	Alex Kellogg Health Protection & Response
Team Building Award : The Teambuilding category recognizes a staff member who is dedicated to building, developing, and bettering teams and their work.	Michele Askenazi Health Protection & Response
Community Engagement: The Community Engagement Award recognizes staff who have gone above and beyond to connect with the community through numerous community events, health fairs and meetings with community partners.	Hanan Sebbahi Health Protection & Response
Top Problem Solver/Super Sleuth : A staff member that has shown quack-tastic detective skills, splashes into problem solving when the situation arises and investigates solutions within their daily work and/or with an exceptional work project, is the true marker of a Darkwing Duck!	Makena Slater Community Health Nursing

