

Public Health Director's Report  
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## **Mission Moment**

Narcan training works! One of our division directors was on her way home from a sporting event when her son noticed someone curled up in the gutter. She pulled over and rushed to help the person, who was unresponsive and showing signs of possible overdose. Two other individuals came to assist, and one quickly ran into a nearby grocery store and grabbed Narcan while the other called 9-1-1. Having just gone through Narcan training, our division director knew how to administer the life-saving overdose reversal medication. When paramedics arrived and took over, they said the administration of Narcan saved the person's life. Thanks to our Community Health Nursing Division, an observant child, a trained public health professional and good teamwork, a life was saved.

## **A. Program Updates**

### **Partnerships, Planning and Community Health Promotion**

#### **1) Community Event Participation**

Community engagement events attended in the past month included but were not limited to:

- Sheridan Children's Day Celebration, April 25
- Jewish Family Services Mobile Food Pantry at Englewood ACPH, April 29
- Soccer City with Iron Sharp Foundation, May 10
- McGruff Family Safety Resource Fair with APD, May 14

Upcoming events and opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Eastern Arapahoe Senior Resource Fair at May Farms in Byers, May 19
- Jewish Family Services Mobile Food Pantry at Englewood ACPH, May 21
- Village Institute Cultural Festival in Aurora, May 31
- Compound for Compassion Youth Safe Zone events every Friday evening in June
- Colorado Access Maternal Health Resource Fair, June 7
- Town of Bennett Summer Event, June 13

Please reach out to [Grace Soulen](#) or visit the [Community Engagement Event Request Form](#) to join or suggest upcoming community outreach opportunities. ***These efforts align with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) objective to advance community engagement across CHIP priority areas.***

#### **2) Community Safety**

ACPH staff across multiple divisions participated in a one-day workshop hosted at the University of Colorado to enhance knowledge and skills for the practical application of evidence-informed approaches to preventing firearm-related harms. Hosted by the [Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative](#) at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the event served as a connection point for urban local public health agencies throughout the Front Range. Takeaways will be applied across

existing ACPH efforts. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal to advance Community Safety.***

### 3) Healthy Aging

- a. Following the April 18 release of Colorado's first draft [Multi-Sector Plan on Aging](#), members of the ACPH Healthy Aging Advisory Team gathered to discuss reflections, questions, and input to share as part of the statewide input period. Feedback will be reviewed with the ACPH Executive Leadership Team and submitted to help inform the final 10-year blueprint, which will officially launch in July. Developed by Kristine Burrows, Board of Health member and Colorado Department of Human Services Senior Specialist on Aging, the plan outlines goals and strategies for enhanced collaboration to meet the needs of older adults. The draft is [available for review](#) through May 30; Coloradans are invited to provide feedback using the following [online form](#).
- b. ACPH's Healthy Aging Coordinator, Melissa Smith, and Board of Health member Kristine Burrows have teamed up to plan a 90-minute interactive training on May 22 entitled Reframing Aging. At this in-person learning opportunity, led by Director Burrows, staff will learn to recognize and challenge stereotypes, reinforce the importance of diversity, and practice age-inclusive strategies that can be applied to Community Health Improvement Plan efforts and those across any public health program or service

***These efforts align with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) objective to advance healthy aging.***

## Nutrition Division

### 1) WIC

- a. In April, WIC served 12,285 enrolled clients, with 5,172 completed appointments. To help meet the growing demand for WIC and ensure timely access to food benefits, staff continue to promote WICHealth.org, an online platform that allows participants to complete and receive nutrition education conveniently and quickly. This effort is working, we saw our highest monthly total yet, with 784 WICHealth.org appointments completed in April!

### 2) Grocery Shopping Tours for WIC Clients

- a. As part of the WIC Community Innovation and Outreach (CIAO) grant and partnership with Village Exchange Center, the first grocery store tour was hosted on April 26 at Ahorra Mucho. The grocery shopping experience for WIC foods can be overwhelming for clients trying to find the WIC approved food items, so a tour was created to help clients feel more confident shopping with their eWIC card. During the 45-minute tour, participants learn how to identify eligible foods, use the WICShopper app, learn how to fully utilize all their food benefits each month, and successfully check out using their eWIC card. WIC staff and VEC Cultural Navigators plan to tweak and modify the plan and the timing of tours to best meet our client needs. The grocery store tours will be provided once a month.

### 3) Call Center Pilot

- a. The WIC team along with Public Works and DMV are all part of the Contact Modernization Project to move from the Cisco Finesse platform. The WIC Program staff have been piloting the new call center, WebEx, during the first quarter of 2025 and went live on March 26. The WIC Program call centers handle 4,500 – 5,000 calls per month and we are excited to see what added functionality and reporting the new system can provide to improve program operations.

## Community Health Nursing Division

### 1) Nurse Family Partnership

- a. **NFP Medicaid Billing Launch:** As part of contract requirements, ACPH Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program started billing Medicaid in Quarter 1 of this year. The launch followed months of planning with ACPH finance, Colorado Dept of Early Childhood (CDEC), Invest in Kids (IIK) and CHN division staff (Makena Slater and Hannah Holland) to establish a solid billing infrastructure, programmatic workflow and NFP specific training. NFP leadership, including Ann Stager and Holly Cheng, worked with ACPH Finance and CDEC to ensure revenue could be properly coded and held for use in the following fiscal year, as required by CDEC. On 1/27/25, a pilot group of six RNs from NFP's Documentation Committee were trained to bill Medicaid for approved preventive counseling services. Since that time, a total of \$4,633.90 has been collected from Medicaid. The program had initially planned to roll out Medicaid billing to the remaining 12 NFP RNs on April 1, 2025, but due to the office move, this is now planned for August 5, 2025. As such, increased Medicaid revenue is expected for NFP after Q3 2025.
- b. **NFP Spring Client Event:** This April, ACPH Nurse-Family Partnership partnered with Aurora Public Library to hold a very successful client event. Nineteen (19) clients and their children enjoyed spring crafts, socializing and three clients received one on one support in accessing WIC benefits. Photos below.

***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal areas to improve access to nutritious and affordable food, access to physical health care, and increase social connection.***

- c. **NFP Spring Staff Retreat:** NFP held a staff retreat in April, focusing on staff resilience and combating vicarious trauma. The program engaged the services of Mirador Counseling. Photos below.

### 2) Immunizations

- a. 966 Immunizations administered in the month of April.
- b. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has published immunization data by school and school district for the 2024-25 school year available [here](#). The Immunization Program utilizes this data to help target outreach for mobile school clinics.
- c. Received [NACCHO Promising Practice Award](#) for mobile clinic work. This national award honors and recognizes outstanding local public health practice and shares the outstanding practices through the Model Practices Database.
- d. Three staff completed the national gold standard training for interpretation – Bridging the Gap – with the Colorado Language Connection. Three more will complete the training in July. All six staff are qualified bilingual staff who have been tested through Arapahoe County for Spanish language proficiency. This training will increase both patient satisfaction and patient outcomes as demonstrated through robust evidence for clinical outcomes when utilizing trained, in-person interpreters.

***These initiatives align with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal area to improve access to physical health care.***

### 3) Sexual Health

- a. In partnership with Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, the Sexual Health clinic was awarded a **NACCHO Promising Practice Award** for Syphilis Field Delivered Treatment.

- b. On April 3, we started offering STI Testing and Treatment at the Arapahoe County Detention Center. Nurses will be at the jail every Tuesday to offer this service in partnership with Detention Center medical staff and Disease Intervention Specialists at CDPHE.
- c. Sexual Health Program is now offering naloxone in clinic and expanding and improving the screening and referral process for people who use substances with support from the Reproductive Health National Training Center.
- d. Completed training in conjunction with the Harm Reduction team to start offering rapid chlamydia and gonorrhea testing and same day treatment by a registered nurse on Prevention Point.

***These initiatives align with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal area to improve access to physical health care.***

#### 4) Harm Reduction

- a. On April 9, had an extremely successful community event/pizza party at It Take a Village to celebrate expanded services and provision of safer smoking supplies. Many clients and community organizations attended, including CDPHE, Adams County Harm Reduction, Denver Department of Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Health Network.
- b. The program is in the process of developing new guidelines for first aid and wound infection prevention.
- c. Participating in a Systems Analysis and Improvement Approach (SAIA) initiative with the University of Washington to receive coaching and conduct a quality improvement project to improve rapid HIV testing services offered in the community.

***These initiatives align with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal area to improve access to physical health care.***

### **Health Protection and Response Division (*Environmental Health, Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs*)**

#### 1) Environmental Health (EH) Programs

- a. CDPHE PFAS Grant Update: Following previous updates regarding the PFAS grant managed by EH Water Quality Program staff, all of the four quarterly PFAS samples have been collected as the end of April, with results expected by mid-June. Public outreach efforts will begin mid-May and run through the end of June, in conjunction with several of the water districts and planned local community events. In addition to this grant related effort, EH Water Quality Program is communicating with CDPHE regarding locations in Arapahoe where fish flesh may be sampled for PFAS, possibly including Cherry Creek Reservoir.

#### 2) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

- a. On April 16, the EPR Program participated in an Extreme Heat tabletop hosted by the North Central Region Healthcare Coalition and our partners at the National Weather Service in Boulder. This exercise provided an opportunity to gain an understanding of what heat related response plans exist within the region, determine how extreme heat impacts are currently managed, and to identify opportunities for ongoing planning. While no solutions are identified yet for this growing concern, the exercise was successful in identifying current challenges and identifying who should be engaged for ongoing efforts.

- b. On April 23, ACPH hosted the Cross-Jurisdictional Outbreak Coordination Workshop, facilitated by the EPR Program. This exercise brought Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) and EPR partners from the 10 counties of the North Central Region as well as El Paso and Larimer Counties, and CDPHE together in one room. This discussion-based exercise focused on how LPHAs currently work together during cross-jurisdictional outbreaks using a measles scenario. The group identified processes for increased efficiency, opportunities to partner more effectively with CDPHE, and ways to formalize findings for future use and improvement. This exercise was deemed a success and similar engagement will be scheduled on a more routine basis for relationship building and enhanced coordination along the I-25 corridor.
- c. From April 28-May 1, 3 members of the EPR Program attended the annual NACCHO Preparedness Summit. The theme for this year's conference was *Pathways to Recovery in the Aftermath of Disasters* and included discussion regarding the role of public health in recovery, how to be a leader in the recovery phase of emergency management and operating in the evolving public health landscape. Lessons from various incidents including hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and outbreaks were shared by responders from across the country – providing valuable lessons learned and innovations in emergency preparedness and response with a wide range of international conference participants.

#### **Finance and Administration, Executive Office**

- 1) Members of the Finance and Admin and Executive Office have been instrumental in project managing the multiple moves. Penny, Camille, Joni, and Katie have been invaluable in planning, organizing, packing, instructing, and informing to make the moves as seamless and painless as possible.
- 2) The Commissioner's Office and County Finance have asked each department and office to prepare a presentation based on outcomes of the 1A Ballot Initiative discussion at the offsite retreat held in February 2025. The presentation considers budget needs in three categories: things we must do; things we should do; and things we could do. Public Health will present at a BOCC study session on May 20, 2025.

#### **B. Communicable Disease Epidemiology Report**

- a. Measles Update
  - i. As of 5/14/2025, 1,022 measles cases and 14 outbreaks have been reported in the United States. The number of newly reported cases nationwide is showing signs of slowing down with a peak at the end of March. This is the largest number of measles cases reported in the United States since 2019 (n=1,274) and prior to that in 1992 (n=2,200). There are 5 cases of measles reported in Colorado (Pueblo County - 1, Archuleta County - 1, Denver County – 3). The ACPH Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) program continues to monitor the nationwide increase in cases for exposures and outbreaks. Program staff follow up with residents exposed to measles to provide post-exposure prophylaxis vaccines, quarantine guidance, and monitor for symptoms for 21 days following their exposure.
- b. Respiratory Season
  - i. Nationwide, current levels of emergency department visits for viral respiratory illnesses are decreasing across most areas of the country. The CDC has determined that the highest hospital demand for COVID-19, flu, and RSV to date for the 2024-

2025 season occurred in February 2025, and it was lower than the peak demand from last season. The peak hospital demand due to COVID-19 during this fall and winter respiratory season was lower than all previous seasons, and nearly 50% lower than the peak demand last season.

ii. Influenza

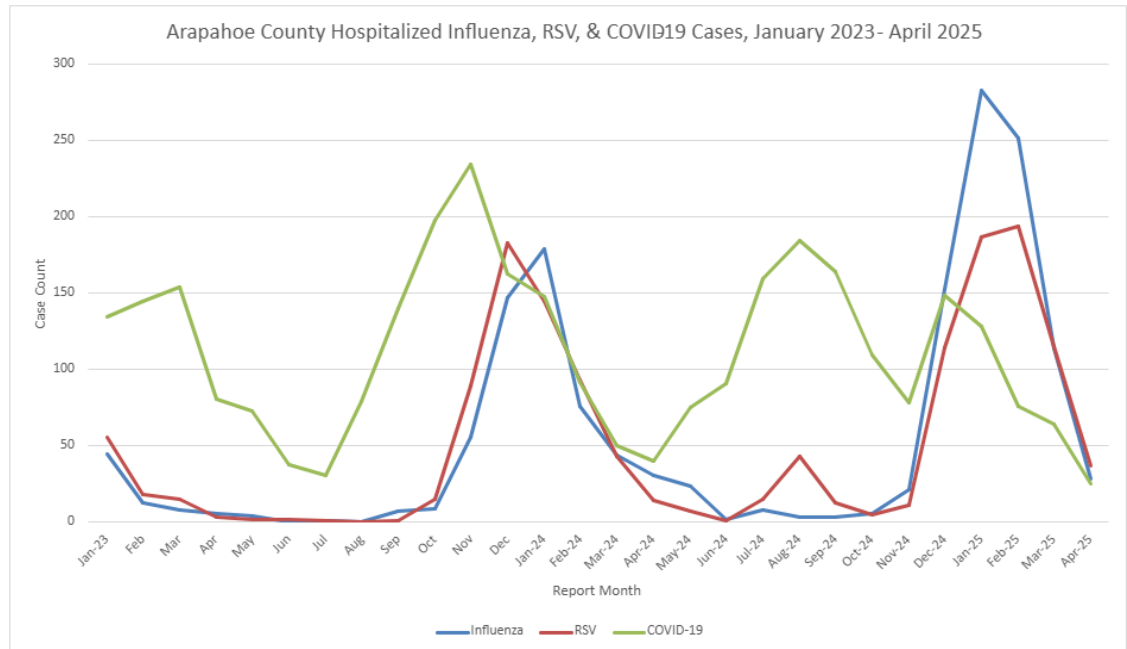
1. Surveillance for the 2023-2024 influenza season officially began on October 1, 2024. Statewide influenza hospitalizations have been declining since mid-February. Arapahoe County influenza hospitalizations peaked in January followed by a continued decline. The number of influenza-associated hospitalizations was higher than the previous two seasons. There have been 29 influenza outbreaks reported and managed in Arapahoe County since October 1, 2024. In regard to influenza vaccine effectiveness, the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [interim estimates of the seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness](#) was released on February 27, 2025. Analysis of data from four vaccine effectiveness (VE) networks estimated interim pediatric influenza VE was 32% - 60% in outpatient settings and 63%–78% against influenza-associated hospitalization. Interim adult influenza VE was 36%–54% in outpatient settings and 41%–55% against influenza-associated hospitalization. These data indicate that the 2024-25 seasonal influenza vaccine is effective at reducing the risk of influenza-associated outpatient visits and hospitalizations.

iii. RSV

1. Surveillance for the 2024-2025 RSV season officially began on October 1, 2024. Statewide RSV hospitalizations appear to be decreasing since the end of February. RSV hospitalizations in Arapahoe County also peaked in February and have continued to decline. There have been 11 RSV outbreaks reported and managed in Arapahoe County since October 1, 2024.

iv. COVID-19

1. Since COVID-19 does not appear to follow the same seasonal pattern as influenza and RSV, COVID-19-associated hospitalizations are monitored year-round. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations appear to have peaked in early January. COVID-19 hospitalizations in Arapahoe County peaked in December and have continued to decline. However, increases in COVID-19 are commonly seen in summer and rates of hospitalizations are often equal or higher than rates seen in fall/winter. There have been 29 COVID-19 outbreaks reported and managed in Arapahoe County since October 1, 2024.



### c. Rabies Season

- i. Rabies is a preventable disease 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 2024, 58 animals (56 bats; 2 dogs) tested positive for rabies in Colorado, including three bats and one dog in Arapahoe County. As of 5/14/2025, one rabies positive bat has been reported in Colorado ([Weld County](#)).
- ii. 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.
- iii. In preparation for the 2025 summer season, the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program, Environmental Health Program, and the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program are partnering with Communications to launch a summer-long safety campaign covering topics such as rabies, West Nile virus, plague, extreme heat, and more. The campaign will feature content on social media ([Facebook](#) and [X](#)) as well as in the [County Line newsletter](#). 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. On April 2, 2025, 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.



### Photos from NFP 2025 Spring Client Event



### Photos from NFP Staff Retreat

