

August Director's Report



Public Health Director's Report

Prepared by: Jennifer Ludwig

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Dates Covered: June 10 – August 10, 2026

Mission Moments

ACPH applied for and was **selected to participate in the Safe States Alliance 2026 Technical Assessment Team (STAT)** process. Between May and July 2026, a team of national injury and violence prevention experts reviewed ACPH's briefing materials, held six virtual briefing calls with ACPH staff, conducted six virtual group interviews with partners, and completed on-site interviews in Aurora with representatives from county leadership, ACPH divisions, state agencies, health systems, school districts, municipalities, and academic institutions. The in-person site visit concluded with a report of the team's findings and recommendations, organized around four core components of an effective injury and violence prevention program: infrastructure, data and surveillance, prevention strategies, and partnerships and collaboration. We hope to have the assessment ready to share with community soon. Over the next year ACPH will have access to technical assistance to support us in implementing the recommendations. Our goal is to implement 3 or more of the recommendations in the report. **This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing community safety.**



Quotes from Community

The following are a few recent quotes submitted from the public via our Community Pulse Survey and Customer Experience interactions:

- *I had a great experience communicating with Vital Records. She was very professional, nice, and explained everything clearly. Her positive attitude made me feel genuinely welcomed right from the start.*
- *Thanks for sharing health and safety information. It is important to our family. You do a terrific job.*
- *Thank you ACPH for keeping us informed!! - community member regarding cyclospora support*

A. Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Headlines

- 1) [Safe States Alliance Partnership to Enhance Violence and Injury Prevention Capacity](#)
- 2) [Community Engagement and Event Opportunities](#)
- 3) [Youth Advisors Reflect on Inaugural Year](#)
- 4) [Priorities Identified to Help Prevent Chronic Disease](#)
- 5) [Highlighting Community Policy Partnerships](#)
- 6) [Summer Outreach Promoting Chronic Disease Prevention](#)
- 7) [Conference Session Highlighting Partnership to Support Perinatal Families](#)
- 8) [Tax Strategies Reach 5,330 Community Members, Explore Future Improvements](#)
- 9) [Resource Finder Expands Beyond ACPH](#)
- 10) [Helping Expand the Doula Workforce](#)
- 11) [Doula Convening Reveals Increased Awareness Among Spanish Speakers](#)
- 12) [Efforts Highlighted in Gun Violence Prevention Panel Presentation](#)

B. Events and Engagement Opportunities

Recent events: Littleton City Council Meet, Greet & Eat, Englewood Neighborhood Nights, Town of Bennett Community Night Out

Upcoming events: Littleton City Council Meet, Greet & Eat, Food Justice Festival in Aurora, Arapahoe Community College Basic Needs Fair

Please reach out to [Grace Soulen](#) or visit our [Community Engagement Event Request Form](#) to suggest upcoming outreach opportunities. **This initiative aligns with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) cross-cutting objective to advance community engagement.**

All Staff Picnic on September 9, 2026

ACPH will be hosting the fourth annual All Staff Meeting combined with our annual picnic at the Fairgrounds. Staff will enjoy the morning learning and recognizing peers through the Golden Duck awards followed by an afternoon picnic of fun!

C. Program Updates

Executive Office

- 1) Progress continues with the National Association of Counties Public Health Leadership Academy project. The capstone presentation is August 26 and will include a high-level overview of the project (accelerating trust in government), key accomplishments, and future plans. The Public Health

Director is working closely with the Communications Department and Public Health Planner to explore focus groups, community pulse engagement, and questions for the next community engagement survey.

- 2) The Public Health Director is serving on a small work group to redesign the County's performance appraisal process. The current process has been a pain point for employees even before ACPH joined in 2023. This change is long overdue and will take a considerable amount of time to implement, but hopefully well worth the effort.
- 3) The Public Health Director was appointed Chair of Trailhead Institute Board of Directors for a two-year term.
- 4) The Deputy Director coordinated a tour and site visit with Representative Crow's office at our Altura location. It was a great opportunity to share information about our programs and discuss barriers to services and funding challenges.
- 5) The Deputy Director has taken on key roles in two large efforts: Arapahoe County Facilities Master Planning, and executive sponsorship of the Overdose Fatality Prevention Review Team.
- 6) Progress on the move from Englewood to Arapahoe Plaza (APZ) continues. The move is still planned for the end of November/early December. The communications staff have begun to create signage and flyers to ensure early communication of the move.

Finance and Administration

- 1) Completed the 2025 Single Audit on the WIC program as part of the annual county audit. The results were presented to the BOCC in July. There was no material weaknesses identified, and no significant deficiencies were identified.
- 2) Additionally, while the county audit was underway CDPHE Fiscal Monitoring initiated a single month Desk Audit for the WIC program. Here is a passage from the letter determination letter notifying ACPH that this audit also had no findings. *"Your accountability system is good, and you are timely in the submission of your billings. You do a great job of preparing Reimbursement Invoice Forms and documentation is well maintained and information requested was readily available."*

Partnerships, Planning and Community Health Promotion

- 1) Youth Advisors Reflect on Inaugural Year

ACPH Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members Avalon McDowd, Selah Riehl, and Hyo-Jae Lee are proud to share highlights of their inaugural year informing and enhancing community health promotion efforts. Since August 2025, these motivated students have participated in activities such as providing advisement on social media outreach, designing an operating structure for the Board, building on-the-job public health practice skills, and providing health education to audiences ranging from middle school students and parents to policymakers, like Ms. McDowd's remarks at a meeting of Aurora City Council regarding vaping regulations and tobacco retail licensing. Just a few of the activities on deck include continuing targeted public outreach by building on opportunities like this summer's Aurora Safe Zones events, where they gained experience with a shared risk and protective factors approach to community health, and a collaboration with the Aurora Partners for Thriving Youth coalition to design tobacco cessation



messaging for school-based events. In recognition of their developing leadership skills, they will play a key role in orienting four new youth advisors to the board this fall. **This initiative aligns with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) cross-cutting objective to advance community engagement.**

2) Sharing Insights on Community Policy Partnerships

At next month's Public Health in the Rockies Conference, ACPH staff will join partners from Aurora Public Schools and the City of Aurora in presenting a learning session on the passage of Aurora's uniquely comprehensive tobacco retail license ordinance, which expands compliance checks to reduce youth access to tobacco, nicotine, kratom, and psychoactive hemp products and establishes inspections to prevent the sale of unscheduled psychoactive substances and drug paraphernalia. The session will highlight steps that helped enable informed decision making, including the consideration of diverse community viewpoints throughout the learning and deliberation process. **This initiative aligns with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) objectives to advance community safety.**

3) Grant Supporting Harm Reduction Expansion Sunsets

A 3-year grant program administered through CDPHE to support expansion of harm reduction services ended June 30. In addition to extending the reach of existing services through this funding, ACPH created its first harm reduction community advisory board. Known as the Participant Advisory Leadership Committee (PALI), this group and its coordinator met 42 times throughout the 2026 fiscal year alone, researching emerging practices across the national landscape, creating new connections to services, and gathering insights from regional partners and local residents to help inform current and future harm reduction programming. Just a few of the PALI's recent achievements included 18 community cleanups over 12 months with 132 bags of trash disposed and distributing 259 naloxone kits over six months. The program's coordinator and PALI members hosted a recognition event in June, including partner organizations, to celebrate successes and mark the end of the grant. Plans are underway within ACPH's harm reduction program to build on lessons learned and identify strategies for continuing the important practice of authentic engagement and co-learning with program participants.

4) Priorities Identified to Advance Chronic Disease Prevention

ACPH wrapped up a five-month process to assess factors and outcomes associated with chronic disease in Arapahoe County. Multiple methods were used to review disease burden and disparities, gather key data insights and findings, review capacity and partnership considerations, and identify evidence-based strategies from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's [LPHA Chronic Disease Framework](#). Capacity and readiness were explored through a 17-member Chronic Disease Advisory Committee comprised of partner organization representatives and ACPH staff, two focus groups with 14 community members, a survey in English and Spanish with 47 responses from 20 zip codes and review of additional county data sources. Advisory Group members used this information to prioritize three top strategies for driving future



implementation efforts: a) healthy food access, b) healthy food distribution, and c) increasing linkages between the community and clinical sectors. A collaborative process will be used to help guide this work, which is funded through a multi-year CDPHE-administered grant. **This initiative aligns with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) objectives to advance economic wellbeing.**

5) Health Promotion at Summer Neighborhood Events

ACPH staff and volunteers of the Arapahoe Food Security Coalition, including local youth and interns with the City of Englewood, participated in 8 evening and weekend community engagement events across Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan this summer, hearing from residents and providing information and resources to support healthy food access and chronic disease prevention. Additional outreach opportunities are slated for September. **This initiative aligns with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) objectives to advance community engagement and economic wellbeing.**

Nutrition Division

1) Additional Funding Received from Hunger Free Colorado for SNAP Application Assistance

The goal for ACPH FY26 was 400 SNAP Applications by 9/30/2026. In the first 6 months, the milestone is at pace and has surpassed with a total of 300 SNAP Applications. This work is a result of having trained and experienced bilingual navigators helping WIC clients to navigate the SNAP benefits and eligibility, and providing updated information and resources available. To recognize this outstanding performance and support these efforts, Hunger Free Colorado allocated an additional \$12,000 to the original budget to allow ACPH to cover their payroll costs by the end of the current FFY 2025-2026.

2) Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week, August 1 – 7

[World Breastfeeding Week](#) (WBW), observed annually from August 1–7, is a global campaign to raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding for the health of both mothers and babies. The 2026 WBW theme - “Strengthen What Works” – focuses on understanding what is working with breastfeeding support and using that knowledge to help more families succeed. It encourages us to look at real data and real experiences to see how breastfeeding supports optimal nutrition, strengthens family food security, provides lifelong health benefits and reduces financial stress by offering a low-cost, locally accessible source of nutrition for every infant and mother.

Here are some ways we are celebrating:

- Spread the word about WBW/NBM through an all-staff email, weekly WIC staff emails with quiz questions to win a gift card, a town hall presentation, social media posts, breastfeeding peer counselor text messages, and articles in the ACPH and WIC newsletters.
- Created promotional materials such as bulletin board displays in the WIC offices and gave away adult coloring books with breastfeeding messages.
- Hosted a free WBW Baby Café Celebration on August 4 at CentrePoint Plaza, which was a great success! Around 80 people joined us for a morning full of fun and learning – families enjoyed food, crafts, a photo booth, kids play area, a clothing store, and won door and raffle prizes. It was a great opportunity for families to interact with each other while learning about local resources.



Community Health Nursing Division

1) Family Connects

- a. In partnership with Colorado Access, the MCH team was accepted to present at the Public Health in the Rockies Conference. The presentation will focus on a partnership between Colorado Access and Family Connects to leverage Colorado Access member incentives to encourage participation in nurse-led postpartum home visits and completion of 6-week postpartum care. This project examines whether incentives, combined with trusted community-

based care, increase engagement in home visitation and timely postpartum care. **This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic wellbeing.**

2) Maternal Child Health & Regional Health Connector

- a. MCH hosted a Tax Ambassador Celebration Lunch with the tax outreach Community of Practice CBOs. During the event, MCH shared initial impact data from the five participating agencies across Adams, Jefferson, and Arapahoe counties and facilitated discussion around future opportunities to strengthen Colorado's tax outreach processes. Collectively, the five agencies dedicated 549 hours to outreach efforts and reached a total of 5,330 community members. **This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic wellbeing.**
- b. For the second year in a row, ACPH is recipients of A Precious Child's "Fill a Backpack" program. We received 200 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to distribute through Immunizations Program and nurse home visiting programs.
- c. ACPH officially kicked off our partnership with Arapahoe County Community Resources to collaborate on the maintenance and use of the Resource Finder database. We hope this will expand access to quality referrals and access to supports for Arapahoe County residents, no matter what door they walk through. **This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic wellbeing.**
- d. The MCH team helped Health First Colorado identify a need for stronger support for the Community Based doula workforce as they complete their certification and enroll as Medicaid Providers. As a result, HCPF awarded 8 community organizations mini-grants through the Doula Workforce Advancement Fund. Five of the eight organizations awarded were connected to the funding opportunity through ACPH outreach. These organizations will help scholarship recipients successfully enroll as Health First Colorado providers, gain mentored hands-on experience, establish sustainable community-based practices and begin delivering covered doula services to Health First Colorado members. **This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic wellbeing.**
- e. The MCH team hosted an in-person support meeting for the Arapahoe doula training cohort that completed training in August 2025. During the meeting, we learned that four Spanish-speaking trainees are launching a doula cooperative and partnering with community organizations to provide presentations on doula care to expectant families. We are excited to see them expanding awareness and access to doula services for Spanish-speaking communities while building a sustainable, collaborative practice. **This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic wellbeing.**
- f. The Child Fatality Prevention coordinator and the RHC attended the CDPHE Office of Gun Violence Prevention's second annual grantee convening. We were invited to present on a panel to discuss child fatalities related to firearms, sharing current data as well as prevention strategies we've implemented. The convening also provided valuable opportunities to connect with Community Based Organizations from across Colorado, including several that work directly in

Arapahoe County. **This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing community safety.**

- g. In response to staff requests, the MCH team created an “Immigration Toolkit” to help ACPH families better serve immigrant families. It included:
 - a. A series of 4 staff support sessions designed to equip staff to navigate the complexities of supporting families. On average, 40 staff participated in each session.
 - b. A panel at the CHN division meeting on connecting families to community resources
 - c. A bilingual, vetted resource handout
 - d. Guidance on how to talk to clients about Medicaid privacy concerns

Immunizations

- a. In June and July 1,555 vaccines were administered in Immunization clinics.
- b. Mobile clinics were held in conjunction with the Arapahoe County Detention Center, APS summer school, and Arapahoe County Community College (ACC). The ACC clinics are a new partnership to support healthcare students who are often working adults on Medicaid or uninsured who need required vaccines to begin their programs. ACC focuses on adult learners wanting to start careers with greater income opportunities in the healthcare field. The Arapahoe County Jail recently highlighted their partnership with public health in a conference presentation, including vaccination metrics up to mid-2026:

	Patient's Vaccinated	Vaccines Given
2024	236	346
2025	150	206
2026	63	125
Total	449	677

- c. With the close of the state fiscal year in June, insurance billing revenue (primarily Medicaid) is up more than 50% from the same point in 2025. This increase occurred despite slightly fewer patient encounters and no increase in the percentage of insured patients served, but rather reflects improved billing processes by both Immunization and Nursing Operations staff.

Sexual Health

- a. Sexual Health welcomed Arianel to the team in July. She is a medical assistant who brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in public health, as well as Spanish language skills to help support our clients with limited proficiency in English.
- b. Since May, 2026, 70 patients have accessed free contraceptive care through the FreeBC app. Although ACPH Sexual Health clinics provide free contraceptive care to people who meet income requirements, FreeBC allows us to reduce the cost for those patients whose household income places them above the threshold for free care under Title X. FreeBC has extended this pilot program and provided us with an additional \$22,000 in funding to provide free contraceptive care to patients.
- c. The results of the sexual health patient satisfaction survey are in! Over 90% of responses rated our clinic as excellent or great in areas such as courtesy, wait time, comfort in our waiting area, and explanations and education provided by staff. We are so proud of the care that we provide to our community and of our staff who care so deeply for our patients.

- d. Due to reduced funding, the Sexual Health team has reduced the number of free cervical and breast cancer screenings we are able to provide through the CPED program. We hope to increase later in the year, but we are currently using funds for biannual screening mammograms and diagnostic services such as colposcopy, LEEP and breast ultrasound and biopsy. We are no longer using CPED funds for annual screening mammograms or cervical cancer screenings such as HPV testing and paps.
- e. Below are updated numbers for STIs, HIV and Hepatitis C in Arapahoe County. Overall numbers are trending down, but please note *May data is incomplete. June data is not yet available.

Total Cases in Arapahoe County	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis	Congenital Syphilis	HIV	Hepatitis C
2024	3,014	812	443	9	69	98
2025	2,839	676	336	7	69	90
January 2026	210	55	14	0	6	6
February 2026	198	35	18	1	2	6
March 2026	206	46	10	1	5	8
April 2026	227	47	17	0	4	10
May 2026*	220	48	7	0	2	7
2026 total to date	1061	231	42	2	19	37

- f. The syphilis FDT program is busier than normal and the team completed 3 out of 4 FDT treatments that were scheduled (one patient did not attend her scheduled visit). The FDT program assisted with completing treatment for a pregnant woman with a new case of syphilis.

Harm Reduction

- a. To kick off Pride Month, HRP staff attended the annual Pride PARTY hosted by our partners at It Takes a Village. The event focused on youth LGBTQ+ HIV prevention and brought together partners from UC Health's Infectious Disease Group, Vivent Health, Adams County Health Department, and The Center on Colfax. The event also featured local businesses and entertainment from the local ballroom scene. We distributed naloxone and testing strips, education on overdose and HIV prevention, as well as distributed condoms. It was a successful event that highlighted our programs while working to uplift the LGBTQ+ community.
- b. As of June 1, 2026, we relaunched Care Coordination services with our new Care Coordinator. Dee has worked up to this point to familiarize herself with the program ops, participants and build up her knowledge of different supports for participants with a focus on substance use disorder treatment, mental and behavioral health services, and HIV/STI linkage to care services. As of July, she had a caseload of 5 participants accessing Care Coordination services and successfully linked one person to post-incarcerations services with Second Chance Center.
- c. Harm Reduction participated in the first annual Black and Brown LGBTQ+ Health Collective Health Resource Fair. The Fair brought together different partners that support under resourced, and highly stigmatized community members including Black and Brown LGBTQ+ people, people needing

support after incarceration, people in need of recovery services, etc. It was really successful in bringing partners together to support the communities we serve.

- d. Harm Reduction Program Leadership participated in the CDPHE hosted Overdose Data 2 Action workshop for Overdose Fatality Prevention Review Programming (OFPR). HRP will begin integrating an OFPR in the fall, so this workshop will support staff in how to do so. Attendees also include ACPH Leadership, and other LPHA's selected to pilot an OFPR program.
- e. In collaboration with Keep the Party Safe, HRP attended the Excision concert at Fiddler's Green Amphitheater to do harm reduction tabling and naloxone distribution. We distributed over 60 doses of naloxone, provided about 15 trainings and education on overdose prevention, and connected with the South Metro Fire District and did some myth busting/education on harm reduction efforts.

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

1) Division Administration

a. National Workgroup Participation

Several staff in the HPR Division were appointed to NACCHO's Subject Matter Expert [Advisory Workgroups](#). These workgroups play an integral part in ensuring NACCHO's policy and advocacy is grounded in the latest science and the day-to-day experience of local health departments; provides an opportunity for staff to connect with peers and other subject matter experts in the field and gain exposure to innovative programmatic work at NACCHO and in other local health departments across the country. NACCHO workgroups that HPR staff are engaged include: 1) Environmental Public Health; 2) Infectious Disease Prevention and Control; 3) Medical Countermeasures; 4) Preparedness Policy Advisory Group and 5) Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health.

b. OSHA Training

Staff from across the HPR Division completed an annual OSHA eight-hour HAZWOPER refresher training. The training covered hazard recognition, chemical and toxicological risks, lethal dose concepts, field safety, personal protective equipment, respiratory protection, and the safe handling of petroleum, radiological materials, and other hazardous substances. This training helps ensure staff are prepared to safely conduct fieldwork and respond to incidents involving hazardous materials.

2) Environmental Health (EH) Programs

a. Early Childhood, Schools and Environmental Protection Programs

I. Waste Management (WM) Facility Opening

ACPH staff joined three County Commissioners and colleagues from Public Works and Development (PWD) Department at the July 9 grand opening of WM's new Denver East Recycling Facility and Hauling Site in Aurora near the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds. ACPH's involvement began well before the facility opened. Staff partnered with WM to arrange tours of other materials recovery facilities in the region to better understand local recycling center design and siting needs, coordinated with PWD to provide environmental health comments during the land-use review process, and submitted a formal letter supporting the project's

regional environmental, health, and safety benefits. The new \$110 million campus includes an 84,000-square-foot state-of-the-art recycling facility capable of processing up to 45 tons of material per hour using automated sorting and artificial intelligence technology. The site also includes compressed natural gas fueling infrastructure and a public education center focused on recycling practices. This major investment expands recycling capacity in Arapahoe County and supports broader efforts to reduce waste and improve sustainability across the region ([WM Article](#)).



II. CDPHE School Training

ACPH hosted CDPHE's 2026 School Regulation Update Training July 13–14, 2026, serving as one of four training locations statewide. The training is required for individuals who conduct school inspections in Colorado and included updates to the inspection field guide, chemical safety, violation identification, inspection report writing, and a mock inspection at Aurora Public School Vista Peak Preparatory. The training supported consistent inspection practices and provided participants with hands-on experience applying the updated requirements.

III. Lowry Landfill Superfund Site open house

Come learn about the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site at the next Open House, being held at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds on August 26, 2026, 5:30-7:00pm. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, and Arapahoe County Public Health invite you to join us at an upcoming Open House to learn about the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site and the actions being taken to ensure cleanup activities remain protective of human health and the environment. The most recent updates and information on the Superfund Site are linked below:

1. [Executive Summary](#)
2. [March 2026 Site Status Report \(SSR\)](#)
3. [Lowry Landfill Superfund Site](#)

b. *Consumer Protection Programs*

I. Association of Professional Piercers Conference

One member from the Consumer Protection - Body Art Team recently attended the Association of Professional Piercers (APP) conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference spans several days and offers a range of training and networking

opportunities for industry and regulators alike. This year's conference focused on product developments in the industry and how to enhance safe piercing practices. The information presented and shared at the conference will be communicated to the full Consumer Protection staff and used to enhance our Body Art inspection approach and educational outreach.

II. Professional Women's Soccer Complex (Centennial)

On July 18, 2026, the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) stadium in Centennial successfully celebrated its first public event. The 15,000-seat venue is serving as a temporary home for the Denver Summit until a permanent stadium in Denver can be completed in 2028. To ensure a timely opening, ACPH worked closely with contractors and builders to review all food license applications, conduct multiple site visits and open 22 food establishments.

III. Arapahoe County Fair

On July 23, 2026, just ahead of the Arapahoe County Fair's official opening, Consumer Protection staff visited the fairgrounds to conduct routine food safety inspection of all onsite food vendors. Working closely with both County Fair organizers and food operators, ACPH staff inspected 22 onsite food vendors to ensure proper licensing and promote food safe food handling practices ahead the multi day event. This marks the fourth year ACPH staff worked with event organizers and vendors to plan and conduct inspections and work to promote a safe and successful event.



IV. Certified Food Protection Manager course highlights

In collaboration with CDPHE, ACPH provided Arapahoe County restaurant operators a low-cost food safety training on July 22, 2026. The course was offered concurrently in both English and Spanish, with a total of 32 attendees (22 English speaking attendees and 10 Spanish speaking attendees). ACPH staff received training to provide the course and proctor the exam, and we plan to routinely hold this class based on overwhelming demand.

3) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program

- a. On June 24, 2026, the EPR program provided a public health focused offering of G-191: Incident Command System (ICS) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This course

explored the link between the incident command post which creates and implements the tactics involved in incident response and the EOC, which provides consequence management during activation. Participants included LPHAs, CDPHE, and hospitals.

- b. In response to the many wildfires impacting the state and the need to back fill responders, an EPR Specialist from ACPH deployed during the second half of July as a Liaison Officer Trainee. The EPR Specialist, positioned with Colorado Team 2 at the Golden Mountain Fire outside of Ouray, spent two weeks at the scene providing response support to the surrounding community and learning from trained and experienced Liaison Officers. The staff member is bringing back lessons learned to inform our own Public Health Incident Response and Support Team (PHIRST), how we can utilize the Liaison Officer most effectively during public health responses, and how public health fits into the response community in any incident impacting the state.
- c. On July 22, 2026, EPR partnered with the County Communications office to provide training to PHIRST members on the Crisis Emergency Risk Communications (CERC) Annex to the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan (PHEOP). The overview provided members of the PHIRST an understanding of the communications office and staff, their responsibilities and actions during routine operations, and how they provide support during incident response. The training reviewed communications strategies and pitfalls as well as described how communications staff across disciplines and jurisdictional lines partner to provide clear and consistent messaging.

4) Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) Program

- a. On August 5, 2026, the CDE program presented on the statewide Foodborne Illness Task Systems meeting and ACPH's process to investigate foodborne outbreaks. This presentation included methodologies for determining an outbreak, importance of collaboration and joint inspections with Environmental Health, effectiveness in mass texting patrons and staff, and statistical code to determine possible causes of illness in the outbreak. This presentation provided an opportunity to share epidemiological investigation processes with colleagues across Colorado and the collaborative efforts in Arapahoe County.
- b. In June, a CDE program staff member attended the 2026 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Annual Conference in Boston, MA. This conference brings together epidemiologists and public health professionals from local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal agencies along with academic and healthcare partners to share emerging research, best practices, and innovative approaches to disease surveillance and outbreak response. Attendance supports ACPH's commitment to evidence-based public health practice by providing staff with the latest information on emerging infectious diseases, surveillance modernization, artificial intelligence applications, and epidemiologic methods. Knowledge gained through the conference strengthens the program's ability to enhance disease surveillance, improve outbreak investigations, adopt innovative tools, and maintain strong partnerships with public health agencies from across the country.
- c. *Rabies:*
Rabies is reported throughout the year in Colorado but is most commonly reported in summer months. Reports of human and domestic pet interactions with rabies reservoir species (bats, skunks, raccoons, and foxes) have been increasing both statewide and in Arapahoe County. As of August 5, 2026, 33 animals (28 bats, 5 skunks) have tested positive for rabies this season in Colorado. One skunk has tested positive in Arapahoe County. In

collaboration with Arapahoe County Communications, a News Post was released on [4/16/2026](#) notifying the public of the first positive result for the season and prevention messaging. An end of season rabies update will be provided in the October Board of Health Director's report.

d. *West Nile virus (WNV):*

WNV season typically runs from May through October. As of August 5, 2026, 4 cases of WNV in humans have been reported in Colorado. Of these 4 cases in Colorado, 2 were hospitalized, and 3 people experienced neurologic symptoms. Arapahoe County has had one human case reported so far this season. In collaboration with Arapahoe County Communications, a News Post was released on [8/3/2026](#) notifying the public of the first positive result for the season and associated prevention messaging. *Note: An end of season WNV update will be provided in the October Board of Health Director's report.*

This season our EH Consumer Protection program staff are again conducting mosquito surveillance at 4 designated locations within the county to trap and test mosquitoes for WNV. As of August 5, 2026, EH submitted 17 samples to CDPHE and all samples are negative for WNV. The CDE and EH Programs worked closely together to monitor positive pool locations and where individuals test positive to help aid in community public education and outreach to support prevention. In addition, the presence of positive pools often results in additional mitigation efforts as recommended by ACPH, such as additional signage, spraying and larvicide application.

The CDE program conducts in-depth investigations for human cases of WNV to determine case classification criteria, identify sources of infection as well as trends, and provide education about the illness and how to prevent illness.

e. *Ebola Virus Disease (EVD):*

As an update to the June Board of Health Director's Report, the CDE program continues to conduct traveler monitoring in response to the ongoing EVD outbreak in remote areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda caused by the Bundibugyo virus. This outbreak is spreading substantially faster than previous Ebola outbreaks and is now the largest Ebola outbreak reported in DRC and the second largest outbreak ever recorded globally. As of August 5, 2026, there have been 3,802 cases and 1,707 deaths in the DRC, 20 cases and 2 deaths in Uganda, and one case and no deaths in France. There have been no cases reported in the United States. As of August 5, 2026, 46 travelers from these impacted countries have been reported in Arapahoe County. The CDE program contacts each traveler to determine exposure potential, assess for symptoms, provide education, and monitor each individual for symptoms for 21 days from the date they left the impacted country. Of note, on August 4, 2026, Moderna commenced its first human trial in Canada of mRNA-1469, a BVD vaccine using the same mRNA technology as the COVID-19 vaccine. The early-stage study will assess safety and immune response in healthy adults.

f. *Cyclosporiasis:*

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. People become infected by consuming food or water contaminated with the parasite. Fresh produce, particularly leafy greens, herbs, berries, and other produce consumed raw, has been the source of most outbreaks reported in the United States. Cyclospora is not generally

spread directly from person to person. Symptoms generally begin 7 days after exposure and commonly include prolonged watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal cramping, bloating, nausea, fatigue, and low-grade fever. Without treatment, illness can last for several weeks and symptoms may continue to come back. Cyclospora infections are effectively treated with antibiotics.

During the summer months, state and local public health agencies routinely investigate cases of illness of Cyclospora, often related to international travel. Since May 1, 2026, there have been 1,947 confirmed cases and more than 5,000 suspected cases associated with domestically acquired Cyclospora across Midwest states linked to iceberg lettuce. On [July 16, 2026](#), Taylor Farms initiated a recall of all iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico. This is substantially higher than the 249 cases reported nationally by this same time last year. Cyclospora is often underdiagnosed and underreported and the true number of illnesses is likely higher than what has been reported to CDC.

While Colorado is seeing a seasonally anticipated increase in Cyclospora cases this summer, the majority of cases are related to international travel. At this time, there is no indication Colorado is part of the Cyclospora outbreak occurring in the Midwestern United States. As of August 5, 2026, there have been 22 cases reported in Arapahoe County so far this year compared to 29 cases in 2025. The CDE program conducts in-depth investigations for Cyclospora to determine case classification criteria, identify sources of infection as well as trends, and provide education about the illness and how to prevent illness. Finally, a Health Alert Network (HAN) was released to Colorado healthcare providers on [July 14, 2026](#) to notify them of the ongoing outbreak, provide education on Cyclospora, and recommendations for testing and treatment.

g. Salmonellosis:

Salmonellosis is an intestinal illness caused by *Salmonella* bacteria. Approximately 2,500 different serotypes of *Salmonella* have been identified. *Salmonella* bacteria are transmitted via the fecal-oral route. The most common mode of transmission is by ingesting food or water that has been contaminated with human or animal feces. While any food can become contaminated, common sources include raw or undercooked poultry, eggs and egg products, undercooked meats, produce, and raw milk or raw milk products. In addition, pet chickens and reptiles such as snakes and lizards are chronic carriers of these bacteria and are common sources of infection. Symptoms generally begin 6 hours to 6 days after an exposure and can include diarrhea (sometimes bloody), stomach cramps, fever, nausea, vomiting, and headache. Most people recover on their own without treatment within 4 to 7 days.

During summer month, public health agencies routinely investigate cases of illness of salmonella. However, federal and state agencies, including CDPHE, are reporting an increase in salmonella cases and are working to identify potential sources, including a recent [multistate Salmonellosis Javiana outbreak](#) associated with jalapeño peppers. As of 8/10/26, 27 states are associated with this outbreak and 345 cases have been reported nationwide, including 110 in Colorado. Seventy-six (76) cases of salmonella have been reported in Arapahoe County so far this year compared to 89 in 2025. In collaboration with Arapahoe County Communications, a News Post was released on [8/7/26](#) notifying the public of the increase in cases and ongoing multistate outbreak in addition to salmonella education. The CDE program conducts in-depth investigations for salmonella to determine case classification

criteria, identify sources of infection as well as trends, and provide education about the illness and how to prevent illness.

h. *New World Screwworm:*

New World screwworm (NWS) infestation is a type of myiasis that occurs when NWS fly larvae (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) infest the living flesh of warm-blooded animals, most commonly livestock and less commonly birds, pets, and humans. The screwworm flies are attracted to and lay their eggs on and in open wounds and mucous membranes. The name screwworm refers to the feeding behavior of the larvae (maggots) as they burrow (screw) into healthy tissue. NWS larvae cause extensive damage by tearing into the host's tissue with sharp mouth hooks. The wound can become larger and deeper as more larvae hatch and feed on living tissue. As a result, NWS can cause serious damage to the animal or person it infects. Bacterial superinfection can also occur because of the NWS infestation. People at higher risk include:

- I. Those living in rural areas in regions or countries where NWS is endemic, and where livestock are raised.
- II. People who frequently work with livestock.
- III. Anyone with open sores or wounds, including from a recent surgery, as the flies will lay eggs on open sores.
- IV. Vulnerable populations, including people who are immunocompromised, those at extremes of age, and people experiencing malnutrition.

Since prior eradication through sterilization methods, NWS has returned to Central America and Mexico, with a pattern of northward movement which increases the risk of re-emergence in the United States. The re-emergence is attributed to farming in prior fly control barrier regions and increased cattle movement. In February 2025, the USDA shifted NWS sterile fly dispersal efforts to help control the spread in addition to increased surveillance and monitoring of livestock, wildlife, and people. As of August 5, 2026, USDA confirmed 44 total animal NWS cases in Texas and New Mexico. On July 29, 2026, USDA announced a \$25 million investment toward opening a new sterile fly dispersal facility in Arizona to strengthen the nation's response to NWS. The ACPH CDE Program remains up to date on the situation to monitor surveillance trends, monitor the reintroduction risk to the U.S. and Colorado, and review considerations for a public health response should a case be reported in Colorado.