

Public Health Director's Report

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Dates Covered: June 13, 2025 – August 15, 2025

Mission Moments

1. World Breastfeeding Week Celebration: WIC hosted an event at its Baby Cafe on August 5 and over 100 participants joined the celebration. Families explored local resources, participated in crafts, browsed our adorable kids' clothing store, received door prizes, and enjoyed light refreshments.
2. Sexual Health Program: In April 2025, Sexual Health expanded its Field Delivered Treatment for syphilis program to the Arapahoe County Detention Center. On a weekly basis, RNs work with medical staff at the jail and Disease Intervention Specialists at CDPHE to identify people, particularly women of reproductive age, who need syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia treatment and offer testing to people who may be at higher risk of exposure. As part of this expansion, our clinical advisor, Jordyn Bode, identified a need and helped to train nurses on neurological assessment to identify neurosyphilis, a serious complication of syphilis that requires hospitalization for IV antibiotic treatment. In July, while testing a patient for syphilis, one of our nurse supervisors, Renee Lenthe used this training to perform a neurological assessment and identified a possible case of neurosyphilis in a patient who also was living with long-term untreated HIV. The medical staff at the jail was unaware of both of these conditions. Renee alerted jail staff and referred the patient to the emergency department to receive a lumbar puncture to make a definitive neurosyphilis diagnosis. One week later, our RN staff had a call with the medical staff at the detention center and learned that this patient had not yet received her workup or initiated HIV care. Our RNs, particularly RN Jess Goldberg, advocated strongly for immediate follow up on this call. Later that day we learned that she was immediately taken to the ED for a workup and later diagnosed with neurosyphilis and admitted to the hospital for treatment. Thanks to the strong nursing assessment skills, tireless advocacy, teamwork and community engagement of our nursing staff, this vulnerable patient who had fallen through the cracks of our medical system received the treatment she has needed for years and prevented further spread of HIV and syphilis.
3. Nurse Liaison Program: Nurse Laura Dechant visited a Spanish-speaking mother of three young children, including a premature infant, who faced homelessness and required Spanish interpretation. The father was incarcerated, and the family had no local support. Laura provided education on child development, nutrition, safe sleep, and accessing benefits. Despite outreach to 25+ shelters and organizations, housing options were limited. While the family stayed in a motel, Laura delivered essential supplies. She secured emergency assistance from Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation for bus tickets and supplies, enabling the family to relocate out of state to stable housing with a friend. SNAP benefits arrived just in time, and the family's safe arrival in Washington was confirmed.

A. Program Updates

Administration

- 1) ACPH has completed the move to Lima from Willow, and everyone is settled in. We hosted a meet & greet at Lima with Retirement and Facilities and Fleet Management, and hosted an Open House attended by all five Commissioners and three Board of Health members. The next phase of our move will be moving Englewood to Arapahoe Plaza (1610 W, Littleton Blvd). This is pending 2026 budget approval.
- 2) Jennifer Ludwig, Breanna Paderewski, and Monica Kovaci attended the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) conference in July. The main topics of interest included applications of AI in public health.
- 3) Vital Records received a 100% on its last audit in June for both locations. This is huge achievement considering ACPH has only been open for two years, and the Altura location has only been open for one year.
- 4) Jennifer Ludwig and Heather Baumgartner will host a roundtable with Arapahoe County healthcare executives. The focus will be on shared challenges, emerging opportunities, and collaboration to improve health outcomes in a changing environment. Terrence Walker will represent the Board of Health.

Partnerships, Planning, and Community Health Promotion

1) Community Event Participation

June-July events and opportunities included but were not limited to:

- El Grupo Vida Youth Conference
- City of Englewood Neighborhood Nights
- Doctor's Care Back to School Fair

August events and opportunities include but are not limited to:

- We Are Aurora National Night Out
- Iron Sharp Foundation Back to School Fair
- Housing Resource Fair- Alameda View Apts
- City of Englewood Neighborhood Nights
- Lowry Landfill Superfund Site Community Meeting

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

2) Introducing the ACPH Youth Advisory Board

ACPH's first Youth Advisory Board kicked off their efforts with a strategic planning workshop on August 8. The Advisory Board is youth-led, with ACPH staff from the Community Health Promotion Section supporting the advisors as they learn about public health, local government, and the connection between social determinants and the health of young people. The board consists of three Arapahoe County residents, ages 16-22, who were selected through a competitive application and interview process to help inform and contribute to ACPH efforts with a youth perspective. The advisors identified nutrition, mental health, public health policy, and communications as their initial priority areas.

Meet the advisors:

- Hyo-Jae Lee is entering her first year of college, attending the University of Colorado Boulder in the pre-med program with a minor in public health.
- Avalon McDowd also is entering her first year of college, attending Metro State University and studying video production.
- Selah Riehl is a high school senior in Englewood and wants to lift the voices of her peers who do not feel heard and represented. Selah is the first person under the age of 18 to be employed by Arapahoe County.

This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) cross-cutting objective to advance community engagement.

3) Increasing Access to Healthy, Affordable Food in the Tri-Cities

A 2-year grant application prepared by ACPH on behalf of the Arapahoe Food Security Coalition has been awarded funding by the Telluray Foundation. This critical seed funding will enable the Collaborative to increase operational capacity and continue its journey to the creation of a collaborative food hub serving the Tri-Cities of Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan.

The Coalition also is pleased to share that, through a partnership with Dr. Mark Levine and the Colorado School of Public Health, new communication resources are available highlighting food insecurity in the Tri Cities. The resulting [white paper](#), prepared by practicum student Anupriya Rajendiran, MPH, also discusses ways that the coalition is actively working to address systems-level challenges. Dr. Levine served as technical advisor to the student and ACPH Communications Business Partner, Melia Sandler, assisted in the creation of a [flyer](#) for broad distribution to the community. Project outcomes were presented to members of the Arapahoe Food Security Coalition on August 4 ([presentation slides](#)).

This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of advancing access to healthy, affordable food.

4) Working to Limit Youth Access to Tobacco and Nicotine Products

ACPH Tobacco Control and Prevention Program staff are working with the City of Aurora, Adams County Health Department, and Aurora Partners for Thriving Youth on a local ordinance to limit youth access to tobacco and nicotine products. Nearly 84% of Arapahoe County High School students who tried to buy tobacco or vaping products in a store were not turned away based on age restrictions, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's 2023 Healthy Kids Colorado survey.

Nutrition Division

1) World Breastfeeding Week

[World Breastfeeding Week](#) (WBW), observed annually from August 1-7, is an annual celebration of breastfeeding to increase breastfeeding awareness to improve the health of mothers and babies. This year's theme, "Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems," highlights the need for lasting, community-wide support to help families succeed in their breastfeeding journeys. ACPH

celebrated and promoted breastfeeding during WBW and will continue celebrating throughout the month of August, National Breastfeeding Month (NBM). Governor Polis officially [proclaimed](#) August 2025 as Colorado Breastfeeding Month.

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.
- Hosted a free WBW Celebration on August 5 at our Aurora South office Baby Café. Over 100 people joined us for a morning full of fun and learning.
- Created promotional materials such as bulletin board displays in the WIC offices where families fill in the phrase “I’m glad I know...” on hearts to hang on the boards and adult coloring books with breastfeeding messages.





2) Grocery Store Tours for WIC Families

We have been partnering with the Village Exchange Center in Aurora as part of the WIC CIAO grant to increase participation in the WIC Program among underserved areas and populations. We recognize that shopping with WIC can be confusing for some families, particularly when language barriers are involved. To help address this, we began offering guided shopping tours for families recruited from our co-located WIC/VEC enrollment days with bilingual WIC and VEC staff. Tours are offered at the Ahorra Mucho store located right across the street from the Altura Office.

Initially, participation in the shopping tours was low. In April, 11 families were scheduled but only 1 attended. In May, no one signed up, and in June, only 2 families signed up and both did attend. To understand the barriers, we gathered feedback from families about the tour day, location, and reasons they couldn't attend. We learned that families preferred later times and often missed due to work, illness, or unexpected family obligations, not from lack of interest, transportation, day of the week, or the location of the store.

In response, we adjusted the tour times and, in July, offered a \$25 grocery store gift card as an incentive. This led to a significant improvement—17 families signed up, and 10 attended. Many participants shared that they appreciated the tour, and two families specifically joined because they needed help purchasing WIC foods such as canned fish and whole grains. The July tour was a success, and we are excited for our next tour later this month.

Community Health Nursing Division

1) Maternal and Child Health and regional Health Connector Programs

- a. Arapahoe County Public Health staff from the MCH and RHC teams were included as co-authors on an abstract submitted by the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado for their work to coordinate trainings for Human Services caseworkers. The trainings, held in 2024, equipped caseworkers with the knowledge and skills to talk with families about secure storage of firearms and provided lock boxes for guns. The 2025 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms aims to bring attention and focus to the current state of the science and research on firearm related harms across the lifespan. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing community safety.***
- b. The MCH team coordinated the receipt of 182 boxes of diapers from the Builders for Babies Diaper Drive that filled up an entire box truck to the brim! This added up to about 50,000 diapers and 180 packages of wipes. That's about \$17,000 worth of needed baby supplies for Arapahoe County families. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.***



- c. The MCH team secured 150 backpacks through A Precious Child for the Immunization (IZ) team to hand out at back-to-school events, helping boost IZ clinic attendance and school

- readiness. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.***
- d. The MCH team launched a workforce development partnership with A/D Works! and community-based organizations to strengthen infrastructure for financial support for community-based doula trainings and internships. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.***
 - e. The MCH team kicked off a training of 22 community-based doulas, all of whom plan to serve clients in Arapahoe County. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.***
 - f. The Tax Preparation Community of Practice kicked off in July with five community-based organizations, three of which primarily serve Spanish-speaking populations and one that serves children and youth with special health care needs. These organizations are learning collaboratively and developing action plans to ensure they are well-prepared for the 2026 tax season starting in January. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.***
 - g. ACPH staff from the MCH and RHC teams were invited to join the National and State Child Safety Learning Collaborative, which supports Title V programs (MCH) in states and jurisdictions to collaborate with the aim to advance evidence-based policies, programs, and practices at the state and local levels to reduce fatal and serious injuries among infants, children, and adolescents. The CSLC aims to reduce fatal and serious injuries among infants, children, and adolescents by providing participants access to a national peer network, expert-led trainings, coaching, and technical assistance. ACPH will participate in two CSLC cohorts that aim to reduce injury and fatalities among two leading causes of child deaths in our county: Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety (includes child passenger safety and teen driver/passenger safety) and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) Prevention. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing community safety.***
 - h. In partnership with the Firearm Injury Prevention Institute at the University of Colorado, staff from the MCH and RHC teams coordinated a webinar on 8/7 for all-staff on how to talk with clients or community members about secure storage of firearms. This webinar was designed to support staff in the distribution of cable gun locks and lock boxes to clients receiving services at ACPH as well as at community events. ***This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing community safety.***

2) Immunizations

- a. Immunization Program funding, which is a combination of state and federal funds, has been received for the state fiscal year 2026. A reduction in the award will result in one current nurse vacancy remaining on hold for the time being. Federal appropriations from both the proposed presidential budget and senate appropriations currently show Immunization funding level with federal fiscal year 2025.

- b. The Immunization Program saw more clients during the 2025 back-to-school season in comparison to 2024. Data includes:
 - i. July – 296 clients seen with 857 immunizations administered, an increase of 10% from the same month in 2024
 - ii. August 2 to August 9 – including two Saturday events as part of back-to-school clinics, 221 clients seen with 641 immunizations administered
 - iii. Offsite clinics from July through the first part of August include the Arapahoe County Detention Center, Cherry Creek School District registration events, Aurora Public Schools summer school students and APS Back to School event on 8/2 which is a 10+ year partnership and annually ACPH's biggest clinic.
 - iv. 150 backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies were donated by A Precious Child and secured by the Maternal and Child Health Team to provide to Immunization clients.

This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.
- c. CDC [released data in July](#) showing that vaccination coverage among kindergartners has decreased again and exemptions have increased. At the same time, the American Academy of Pediatrics released a [position statement](#) call for an elimination of non-medical exemptions for school immunization requirements.
- d. Four staff completed Cultural Navigation training. These individuals are bilingual and already completed medical interpreter training. This additional training was co-designed by CDPHE to help in outbreak responses and have more people trained to assist public health in bridging connections to various communities.

This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.
- e. Colorado's Medicaid program, Health First Colorado, offers retroactive coverage for medical services received up to 90 days before the Medicaid application is approved. To increase Medicaid revenue, Immunizations is reviewing each pediatric client seen in 2025 to see if they became enrolled in Medicaid within 90 days from their date of service with ACPH which is a billable visit. To date, retroactive Medicaid billing for January through March has been completed, resulting in approximately \$1,000 extra revenue for each month reviewed.

3) Sexual Health

- a. The Sexual Health team is also conducting retroactive billing like the Immunizations Program to increase Medicaid revenue. Early estimates show that this practice will increase clinic revenue by up to \$3000/month.
- b. In July, Sexual Health had 371 clinical appointments, the highest number ever seen since the inception of Arapahoe County. We saw five patients for syphilis field delivered treatment in the community and completed treatment with two of these. Twenty-four patients were seen for testing in the detention center, and eight were treated for STIs. Follow up with patients after they are released from jail continues to be a challenge, and we are actively working with the Detention Center staff and the Wellness, Opportunity and Resilience Through Health (WORTH) program at University of Colorado to address this.

This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.

- c. Due to a nationwide recall of bicillin used to treat syphilis, we have changed our treatment regimen for syphilis from injectable treatment to oral medication, except for pregnant women. Thirty-two patients received the recalled medication in our clinic prior to the notification, so we have sent letters notifying patients of this, encouraging retesting and advising them to report any adverse effects they may have experienced. No adverse events have been reported so far.
- d. Sexual Health also added HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to its repertoire of sexual health services provided in the community. We are starting out slowly by providing oral PrEP to patients covered by Medicaid but will expand in the Fall to provide no-cost PrEP to uninsured individuals through the CDPHE Public Health Intervention Program (PHIP).
This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.

4) Harm Reduction

- a. The Harm Reduction team continues to see high demand for its services at It Takes a Village, Englewood, and in the community through outreach and on Prevention Point. In July, there were a record breaking 660 syringe access encounters. Of these encounters, 10k syringes and 2,364 pieces of glass were distributed to participants. This also included 807 naloxone kits, and 2,200 fentanyl and xylazine test strips. They are also actively working with our Nurse Informaticist, Makena Slater, to improve and streamline data collection processes to increase efficiency and accuracy. The Harm Reduction team and Sexual Health nurses continue to work closely together to improve STI testing and treatment services offered in the community. Four participants were identified as needing treatment with the RNs, and 1 person was treated. Unfortunately, two were lost to follow-up, although one of them received some form of treatment initiation, and the last person refused treatment.
This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal of increasing economic security and mobility.

5) Nurse Liaison Program

- a. The restructured Nurse Liaison program started in July with a new focus of ensuring nurse home visitation services for the most at-risk population within Child Protection Services, defined as children ages 0-1 with an Arapahoe Decision Aide Tool (ADAT) score between 15-20 who are exposed to predictive risk indicators. In the first month of the relaunch of the NLP, the nurse home visitor team achieved a client/family engagement rate of 79%, far exceeding the target performance goal of 40%.

Health Protection and Response Division

1) Environmental Health (EH) Programs

- a. *Fee Increases and operator / website messaging*

On May 22, 2025, the Colorado General Assembly signed Senate Bill 285 into law with bipartisan support and strong backing from the Colorado Restaurant Association. S.B.285 incrementally increases Retail Food Establishment fees over the next three years, beginning with a 25%

increase in 2026. While both the demand for services and the cost of providing those services have continued to increase year after year, retail food license fees have remained flat. In fact, retail food fees have not increased since 2015. The current increase, established in state statutes, allows local health departments to maintain comprehensive inspection programs, provide services that prevent foodborne illness, and ensure food safety across Colorado. This increase also enables local health departments to recoup more of the costs associated with running a retail food program.

The increase to “Categorical Fees” (which includes Plan Review application fees) went into effect on Aug. 6, 2025. The increase to the Retail Food License Fees is effective on Sept. 1, 2025. This increase applies to all new restaurant owners who need a food license beginning Sept. 1, 2025. Also, all invoices for a 2026 retail food license will reflect this increase (see below for a chart showing the graduated license fee increases over the next three years). Public messaging about the fee increases are posted on the ACPH web page. Additional messaging will be distributed to retail food operators in August and September via both Mailchimp and the ACPH Public Health newsletter to assure advance notice prior to our annual invoicing season.

Licensing Category	Current Fee	1/1/2026 Fee	1/1/2027 Fee	1/1/2028 Fee
Restaurant 0-100 seats	\$385	\$481	\$567	\$682
Restaurant 101-200 seats	\$430	\$538	\$634	\$763
Restaurant over 200 seats	\$465	\$581	\$687	\$826
Grocery Stores with Deli, up to 15,000 sq. ft.	\$375	\$469	\$552	\$664
Grocery Stores with Deli, over 15,000 sq. ft.	\$715	\$894	\$1,062	\$1,276
Grocery Store without Deli, up to 15,000 sq. ft.	\$195	\$244	\$282	\$340
Grocery Store without Deli, over 15,000 sq. ft.	\$353	\$441	\$519	\$624
Limited Retail Food Service	\$270	\$338	\$394	\$475
Mobile Unit, Prepackaged Food	\$270	\$338	\$394	\$475
Mobile Unit, Full Service	\$385	\$481	\$567	\$682

b. Summer Special Events highlight

Especially during the summer months, EH Consumer Protection (CP) staff are busy organizing and inspecting short term events and celebrations known as “Special Events”. These events feature entertainment and a wide range of food vendors from mobile food to food tents and booths. To ensure safe food handling and prevent foodborne illness, CP staff work closely with coordinators and food operators. Given its size and scope, the CP program was actively engaged in supporting the Arapahoe County Fair. For the third consecutive year, almost the entire CP field team conducted food safety inspections of all food vendors at the fair and featured in a [CBS Channel 4 news spot](#) about inspections and food safety.

c. Radon Grant Year 1 highlights

EH Consumer Protection (CP) staff recently submitted the final report for our first year participating in the CDPHE direct pay radon grant. Highlights from the 9 months of work include an updated [radon web page](#), and “boosted” social media messaging and newsletter outreach during National Radon Action Month (NRAM). CP staff also distributed a total of 83 free radon test kits through community events, walk-in requests, and mail delivery. Staff also contacted 75 in-home day care centers to offer fee radon test kits and in person radon awareness presentations. ACPH was recently awarded the same grant for FY 2025-2026 with the intention of continuing our work to raise radon awareness and encourage radon mitigation throughout Arapahoe County.

d. Childcare Health Consultants Partnership and Coordination

EH Early Childhood and Schools Program staff partnered with colleagues from the Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) and Immunization (IZ) programs to organize a recurring partner meeting with local Child Care Health Consultants. Representatives from Adams County Health Department, including program staff from both EH and CDE, were invited and participated alongside ACPH. The goals of this ongoing partnership are to increase reporting of communicable diseases, enhance collaboration on developments in the field, and provide unified support to early childhood educators.

e. PFAS Grant Project Final Update

The PFAS grant funded project wrapped up on June 30, 2025. Project accomplishments include:

1. The [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions of the PFAS project outreach documents are available on our ACPH website.
2. ACPH staff participated in two public outreach events at Cherry Creek State Park.
3. The study results have been shared with Buckley Space Force Base, Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, Englewood Utilities, and Aurora Water.
4. ACPH staff are presenting the project results at the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site open house, scheduled for August 27, 2025.

f. Lowry Landfill Superfund Site Community Meeting

The purpose of the community meeting is for community members to learn more about the Lowry Landfill superfund site, how the remedial components are protective of public health, and to understand the most recent site status report (issued every six months to provide an update on the site). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the lead for this event with support from Arapahoe County Public Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The meeting is being held on Wednesday, August 27, 2024, 5:30-7:30pm at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall B.

Broad advertising for the event will be included in posting information on social media, NextDoor, e-list blast, Superfund Web Page Announcement, and direct outreach to HOAs. ACPH and Arapahoe County Communications are amplifying posts from EPA.

Recent updates and background on the site are referenced below:

1. [Executive Summary](#) and the [Most Recent Site Status Report](#) for the [Lowry Landfill Superfund site](#)
2. Webpage for site background: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowry-landfill>

3. The Site Status Report Video to be posted soon on YouTube and prior videos can be viewed via: <https://www.youtube.com/@lowrylandfill4440/videos>

2) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

- a. After a one-month delay, the contracts for federal passthrough grants that fund the EPR program are fully executed. While the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant for medical countermeasures is funded at 100% of the expected amount, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant, related to general emergency preparedness and response, is funded at 75%. The remaining 25% may become available later in the fiscal year, but the state health department is still unclear if this will be passed through by the CDC. ACPH staff are closely monitoring the appropriations legislation now and for next fiscal year to engage in program sustainability planning.
- b. The EPR program funded a Summer Safety Campaign, coordinated by county communications, to address seasonal public health risks specific to Arapahoe County to help keep our communities safer. This campaign was developed as a partnership between Communications, the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program, the Environmental Health Program, and EPR specifically focusing on food safety, vector born illness, pool safety, and extreme heat. Materials and messaging will be shared through county publications, traditional print media and social media, at community engagement events and other opportunities as identified throughout the summer months. You can find the video developed for this campaign at: <https://vimeo.com/1103526558>.
- c. ACPH EPR staff continued to lead the statewide Equity in EPR workgroup. The workgroup is a partnership with CDPHE, other LPHAs, and community organizations from across the state to prepare materials and resources to support equity in preparedness and response activities, to share examples of equity in action, and to foster connections between LPHAs and leaders in this effort.
- d. EPR Specialist Lauren Johnson has been selected to serve on the [NACCHO Medical Countermeasures \(MCM\) Workgroup](#). This group, made up of participants from around the nation, is used to gather feedback from local and state health departments on MCM planning, coordination, and best practices. This information is shared with federal partners charged with establishing programmatic requirements, guidance, and standards. As we continue to see drastic changes to the emergency preparedness and response landscape at the federal level, this workgroup is key in ensuring better alignment between expectations set by the federal administration and state and local readiness.

B. Communicable Disease Epidemiology Report

Ongoing Activities of Note:

- a. *Measles*
Updates related to measles will be shared through a presentation at the Board of Health Study Session.
- b. *Rabies*: Rabies is reported throughout the year in Colorado but is mostly 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 8/12/2025, 26 animals (24 bats, 2 unknown) have tested positive for rabies this season in Colorado. Two bats have tested positive in Arapahoe County. In collaboration with Arapahoe County Communications, a News Post was released on [5/29/2025](#) 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 Directors report.

- c. *COVID-19*: Similar to increases being seen nationwide, reports of COVID-19 hospitalizations and outbreaks are increasing both in Colorado and Arapahoe County. Four confirmed and one suspect outbreak has been reported in Arapahoe County since the middle of July 2025. The Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) program continues to monitor this situation in preparation for the start of respiratory season. A full respiratory season update, including COVID-19, influenza, and RSV, will be provided in the October Board of Health Directors report.
- d. *Enteric Updates*: Increases in enteric conditions, such as salmonella, Shiga-toxin producing e.coli, shigella, and cyclospora are reported throughout the year, but increases are commonly seen in the summer months and often associated with international travel. The CDE program investigates each of these cases to determine how a possible exposure may have occurred, monitor for commonalities reported across each interview to signal a possible outbreak, and provide disease education and prevention information. A full update on trends in enteric conditions will be provided in the January Board of Health report to include data from all of 2025.
- e. *West Nile virus*:
 - i. West Nile virus (WNV) season typically runs from May through October. As of 8/12/2025, 24 cases of WNV have been reported in Colorado. Of these 24 cases in Colorado, 5 were hospitalized, 9 people experienced neurologic symptoms, and 2 people have died. Arapahoe County has had one case reported so far this season.
 - ii. This season our Environmental Health (EH) program staff are again conducting mosquito surveillance at 4 designated locations within the county to trap and test mosquitoes for WNV. As of August 4, EH has submitted 30 samples to CDPHE and two samples have tested positive for WNV. The two samples were over consecutive weeks at the same trap location off the Southwest corner of Parker Rd and Arapahoe Rd. 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 signage, spraying and larvicide application.
 - iii. The CDE program conducts in-depth investigations for 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.
 - 1. Colorado West Nile Data: [CDPHE Web Page](#)

2. Arapahoe County News Post ([7/25/2025](#), [8/7/2025](#))
3. ACPH Social Media: [Facebook](#), [X](#)

f. Chikungunya

- i. Chikungunya virus is spread to people through the bite from an infected mosquito. Outbreaks are most common in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. However, the virus can spread to other areas by infected travelers. People most commonly become infected with chikungunya virus when mosquitoes feed on an infected person and then bites another person. Additional spread can occur through blood transfusions, handling infected blood in a laboratory, and drawing blood from an infected patient. Chikungunya virus is not spread from person-to-person and is not spread through coughing, sneezing, or touching someone that is ill. While rare, it is possible for the virus to spread from a pregnant woman to a fetus but has not been found in breast milk. The most common symptoms include fever and joint pain but can include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash. While chikungunya is generally a mild illness with a low fatality rate, severe disease can occur with some patients experiencing long-term joint pain and disabilities. The best way to prevent chikungunya virus is to prevent mosquito bites by using an EPA-registered insect repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants, treat clothing and gear with 0.5% permethrin, and choose lodging with air conditioning or screens on windows and doors or use a mosquito net if sleeping outdoors. [Two chikungunya vaccines](#) are available in the U.S. and some travelers at higher risk of exposure should consider getting vaccinated before their trip.
- ii. On 7/15/2025, public health authorities in China reported an outbreak of chikungunya of 478 cases in the Guangdong Province. The outbreak is believed to have started with one imported case. Confirmed cases in China have quickly risen to over 8,000, but newly reported cases each week continue to decline. On 7/22/2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned of increasing chikungunya cases worldwide and early warning signs that a major outbreak could be possible. As of July 2025, approximately 240,000 cases and 90 deaths have been reported in 16 countries and territories. On 8/1/2025, the CDC issued a Level 2 Travel Health Notice for the outbreak, recommending that any travelers to Guangdong receive a chikungunya vaccine prior to travel. CDC has issued additional travel health notices for additional areas experiencing an [outbreak](#).
- iii. Chikungunya is rarely identified in U.S with majority of cases associated with travel. In 2014, chikungunya was reported among U.S. travelers returning from affected areas in the Americas and local transmission was first identified in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Locally acquired chikungunya cases have not been reported from U.S. states or territories since 2019. As of 8/5/2025, 46 cases have been reported in the U.S. associated with travel. Cases reported in Colorado are also rare with an average of 3 cases reported annually. Eight cases have been reported in Arapahoe County since 2018, and none have been reported thus far in 2025. The CDE program remains up to date on the current global outbreaks in order to respond to cases that may be reported locally.

C. Social Media and Communications

To promote greater communication with County residents, ACPH has developed a series of new videos to share vital health information with the public and to foster a greater understanding of public health's work and value to the community.

This summer ACPH produced a new Health Protection and Response [“Summer Safety” video](#) that aligns with our awareness campaign around rabies, extreme heat, vector illness, water and pool safety, and food safety. Hosted on our new webpage, www.arapahoeco.gov/summersafety, the video can be utilized each year. (Each of the five topics also has its own mini-video.) These videos are posted throughout our ACPH website on relevant pages. They will also be featured on social media and links to them can be utilized during community engagement and outreach opportunities at schools, events, community meetings. Additionally, they can be shared with other county departments (Open Spaces, etc.) and partner organizations as needed.

ACPH Communications also just completed a [Welcome to Public Health introduction video](#) outlining our services, explaining the role of public health in the community, and sharing contact information to help residents reach out to us. The video is available in English and in Spanish (subtitled).

All video links:

- Summer Safety at [Top ways to stay safe this summer](#)
- Rabies at <https://youtu.be/A49rf9yXqAM>
- Insects/Vector at <https://youtu.be/xvHRAloctvs>
- Extreme Heat at <https://youtu.be/ZG7SGzAEisU>
- Water and Pool at <https://youtu.be/6kWeJdwPzG4>
- Food at <https://youtu.be/Dqb57BaxaNA>
- Welcome To Public Health at <https://vimeo.com/1109472233>