



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) Program Overview

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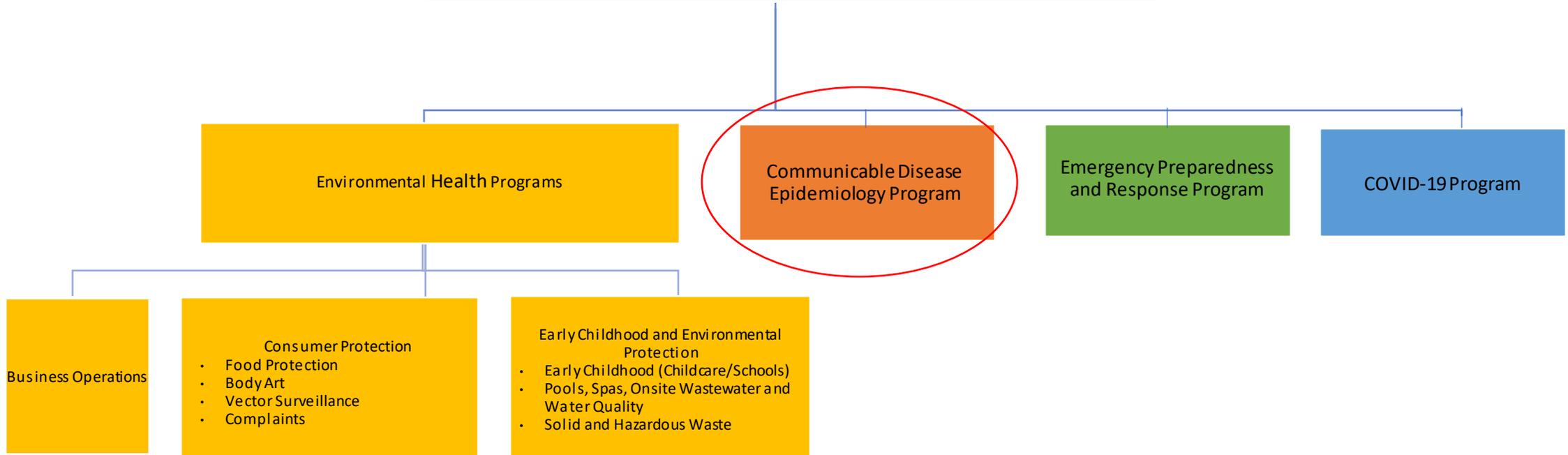
Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program Manager

Agenda

- Organizational Structure
- Purpose Statement
- Role of a Communicable Disease Program
- Alignment with ACPH Strategic Goals
- Program Functions
 - Case Investigation and Contact Tracing
 - Animal Related and Rabies Investigations
 - Specimen Collection
 - Outbreak Management
 - Data Collection and Analytics
 - Education, Training, and Collaboration
- Non-Routine Case Investigation Example
- Questions



Division of Health Protection and Response





Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Arapahoe County Public Health (ACPH) Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) Program is to protect and improve the health of our community by preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases. We achieve this by responding quickly to reports of diseases and outbreaks, educating the public on preventive measures, monitoring data trends, and collaborating with partners to ensure a unified and effective health response. Our goal is to create a safer, healthier environment for all community members, focusing on prevention, awareness, and timely action.



Role of a Communicable Disease Program

- Required by Colorado state statute to report, investigate, and control communicable diseases
 - Over 100 [reportable conditions in Colorado](#)
 - Shared state and local responsibility and authority
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CDE Alignment with ACPH Strategic Goals

- **C** Cultivate Comprehensive Health Equity Practice
 - Promptly identify and control exposures and outbreaks before disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations
 - Use our communicable disease data to identify health disparities and inform targeted interventions to promote health equity across different populations.
 - Provide education and outreach to specifically address the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations, ensuring equitable access to information and resources.
- **O** Optimize Interventions
 - Tailor responses to severity and nature of the disease, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently
 - Analyze outbreak data and implement evidence-based interventions to optimize our efforts to control and prevent future outbreaks efficiently
- **R** Reinforce and expand robust partnerships
 - Collaborate with the public, healthcare providers, organizations, laboratories, and other entities to strengthen partnerships that are essential for a comprehensive epidemiological response.
 - Collaborate with community organizations, schools, and other partners to disseminate information effectively and widely.
- **E** Enhance Capacity and workplace diversity, inclusion, and engagement
 - Engage a diverse team in the response efforts to ensure a variety of perspectives and skills are utilized, enhancing our capacity to address health issues effectively.
 - Develop education and outreach initiatives using a diverse team that understands various cultural and community norms, enhancing our program's reach and impact.

Program Functions



Animal Related & Rabies Investigations



- Human vs. rabies reservoir species
- Human vs. domestic pet
- Domestic pet vs. rabies reservoir species
- Other calls and inquiries about animal interactions
- Specimen collection
- Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) coordination

- 2023 Data
 - 619 animal related investigations
 - 90 rabies reservoir species
 - 33 people recommended PEP
 - 21 animals tested
 - 1 positive bat

Specimen Collection

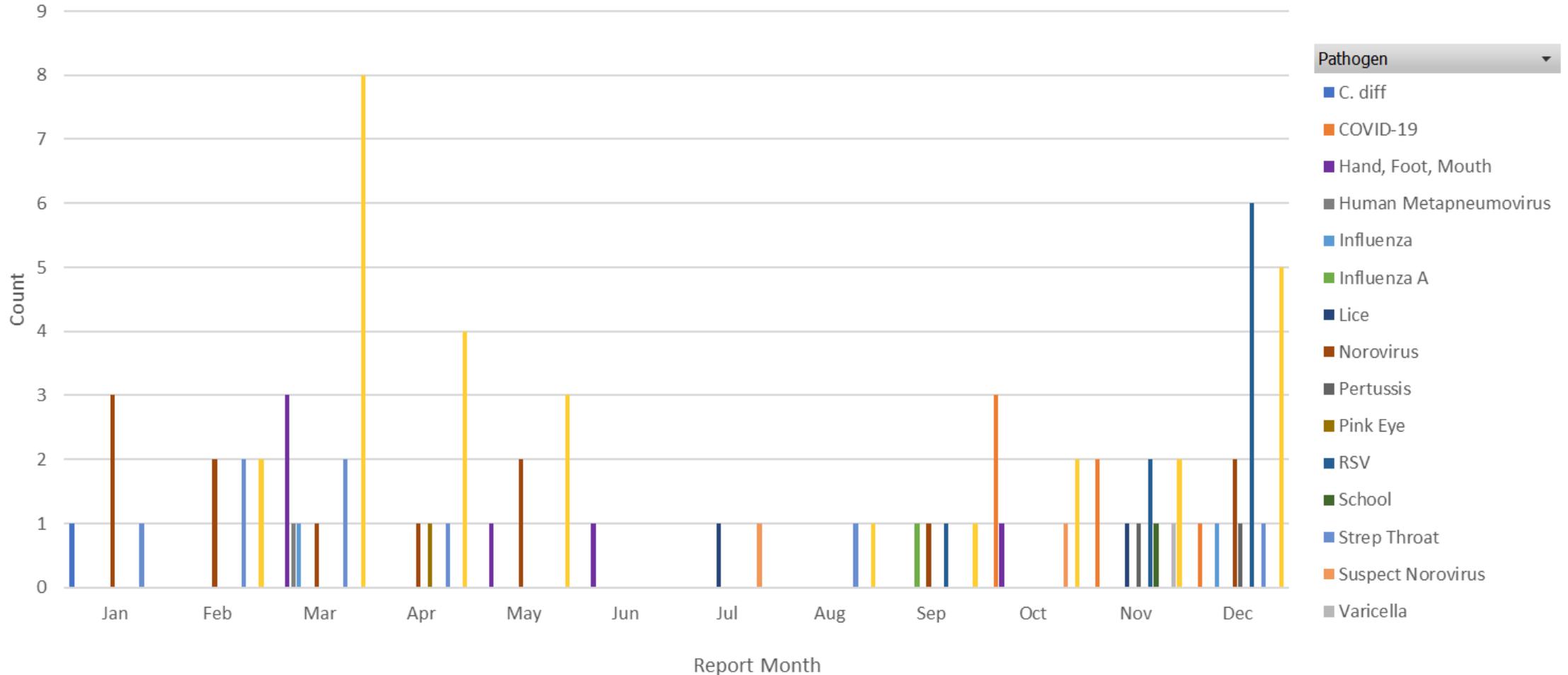
- Stool
 - Exclusions
 - Identifying carrier status
 - Outbreaks
- Animals for rabies testing
 - All CDE staff are rabies vaccinated
 - Contracted veterinarians
 - In-house bat euthanasia
- Food (very rare)
 - Outbreaks



Outbreak Management

Count of Pathogen

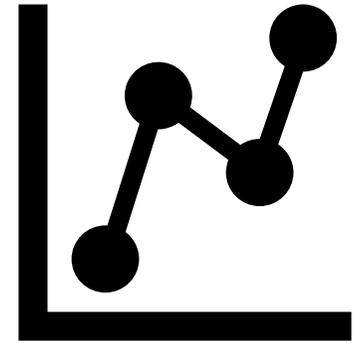
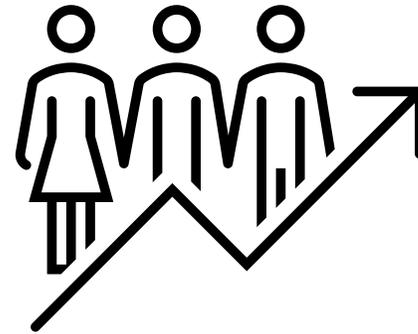
2023 Arapahoe County Outbreaks by Report Month



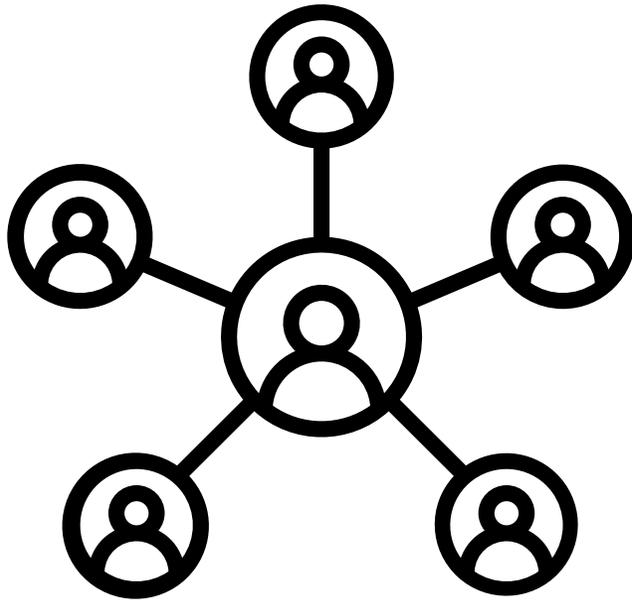
Months Report Date

Data Collection & Analytics

- Data dashboards (coming in 2024!)
- CEDRS/EpiTrax
- Electronic Lab Reporting
- Syndromic surveillance
- Case control and cohort studies
- Data requests
 - Internal and external



Education, Training, & Collaboration



- Education and Training
 - Partner presentations, workgroups, and webinars
- Collaboration
 - Internal – Environmental Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR), Immunizations, Communications, Community Resources, Open Spaces
 - External – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), LPHAs, hospitals, congregate settings, schools/childcares
- Community Engagement

Non-Routine Case Investigation Example - Measles

- EPR activates Incident Command Structure (ICS)
 - Staff across multiple ACPH Divisions activated (EPR, CDE, Communications, Nursing, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Leadership, Health Equity)
 - Shift all routine CDE work to CDPHE
 - Increased hours
 - 199 person hours for December case for just 5 CDE program staff
 - Quarantine orders/Public Health Orders
 - Immunization
 - Clinics for PEP
 - Increased external partner collaboration (CDPHE, LPHAs, Hospitals, Laboratory)
 - Media Inquires
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ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Questions?

