El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) Director's Report

To: The El Paso County Board of Health
From: DeAnn Ryberg, Public Health Executive Director
Date: June 2026 (reflects activity through May)

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In the News

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) was featured in a variety of timely television, radio and print news coverage stories in May, resulting in eight stories (21 mentions) totaling 282,549 in local viewership and over $15,106 in local earned media value. Additionally, a story about EPCPH was featured on Yahoo News.

- The May edition of the New Falcon Herald featured an article from EPCPH Acting Disease Prevention and Response Division Director Janel McNair about the steps citizens can take to avoid wildfires. The New Falcon Herald article can be accessed through the following link: Take steps to prevent wildfires
- KOAA reported on the rising number of measles cases in Colorado. Communicable Disease Division Manager Haley Zachary provided information about the symptoms and effects of measles on the body. The KOAA story can be accessed through the following link: Colorado measles cases climb to 20, with nearly all patients unvaccinated
- Following the release of an EPCPH press release that detailed the discovery of two bats in our area that tested positive for rabies and provided tips on wildlife safety, the following news sources provided coverage:
    - The FOX News 21 story can be accessed through the following link: Bats test positive for rabies in El Paso County, health officials warn
    - The KRDO story can be accessed through the following link: El Paso County confirms first rabies cases of 2026 in bats
    - The Gazette article can be accessed through the following link: El Paso County officials urge testing after bat at Fountain Creek Regional Park tests positive for rabies
    - The Yahoo News story can be accessed through the following link: Bats test positive for rabies in El Paso County, health officials warn
    - The KKTV story can be accessed through the following link: 2 bats found in El Paso County test positive for rabies
    - The 9News (KTVD) story can be accessed through the following link: El Paso County confirms first rabies cases in bats
    - The KVOR-AM story can be accessed through the following link: Bats test positive for rabies in El Paso County

Agency Operations

In 2008**,** the Colorado Public Health Act required the State Board of Health to establish, by rule, the core public health services that each county and district public health agency must provide or assure as well as establish minimum quality standards for those public health services. A revised ruling (6 CCR 1014-7), effective Jan. 1, 2020**,** now requires state and local health departments in Colorado to ensure provision of seven Foundational Capabilities and five Foundational Services. More information can be found at the following link: Colorado Local Public Health and Environmental Resources

EPCPH fulfills its statutory requirement of providing these core public health services through the work of its divisions and programs. Activities supporting these services for the timeframe of this report follow.

Foundational Public Health Capabilities

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and Communicable Disease (CD) staff participated in several special pathogens training opportunities in May, including a tabletop exercise facilitated by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), a tabletop exercise coordinated by UCHealth, and an internal training provided by the Denver Health Special Pathogens Treatment Center. These trainings provided valuable opportunities to review response plans, discuss communication and coordination procedures, and reinforce partner roles and responsibilities during high-consequence communicable disease events. Strong coordination and established partnerships across healthcare and public health agencies remain critical to ensuring an effective and successful response.

Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control

On May 15, 2026, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare confirmed an outbreak of Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) in Ituri Province in northwestern DRC. At this time, the risk to the United States (U.S.) public associated with the current Ebola outbreak remains low, and no cases linked to the outbreak have been identified in the U.S.

Response activities for emerging infectious disease threats continue to be coordinated across federal, state, and local public health partners. At the federal level, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies and screens travelers upon entry into the U.S. and notifies state health departments of individuals requiring follow-up. The State then determines jurisdiction of residence and coordinates notification and support to the appropriate local public health agency (LPHA). Locally, EPCPH CD staff conduct traveler monitoring activities and coordinate closely with healthcare partners and infection prevention specialists. The goals of this coordinated approach are to identify illness early, support timely response coordination, and prevent disease transmission.

Additionally, during the month of May, EPCPH launched a new Communicable Disease Data Dashboard to provide residents and medical providers with expanded tracking of local disease trends. The new platform replaces the former Respiratory Disease Dashboard. While the previous system tracked influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the expanded dashboard now includes data on vaccine-preventable illnesses, enteric diseases, rabies, animal bites and localized outbreaks.

EPCPH will update data on the second Wednesday of every month to reflect case counts and

historical trends from the previous month. The dashboards also replace the "What's Going Around" publication, which has been discontinued.

This tool is intended to help community organizations and healthcare partners plan resource needs, enhance patient education, and allow residents to take timely health precautions. The dashboards are available at elpasocountyhealth.org/disease-tracking-reports/.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helped to connect enrolled clients to care by providing nearly 35 referrals on behalf of more than 30 families. These referrals were to housing assistance, mental health treatment, childbirth education, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), childcare, dental services, primary medical care, smoking cessation treatment, lactation support, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program has partnered with Colorado Springs School District 11 (D11) through a Memorandum of Understanding to support training on the Neurosequential Model in Education (NME). This framework is designed to help educators better understand student behavior and enhance both teaching and learning processes. Since this project began in 2021, approximately 850 educators and support staff have been trained on the impacts of ongoing stress and challenging life experiences, as well as how these factors can affect a child's brain, learning, and behavior.
A meaningful outcome of this collaboration has been the development of internal district capacity. During this partnership, six additional D11 employees obtained NME certification, allowing D11 to continue training staff and sustaining this important work within the district for years to come. D11 expressed their profound gratitude for the investment EPCPH made in the lives of their students, families, and staff. While this formal partnership is sunsetting; the learning, integration, and ongoing application of the framework will continue to influence the district's practices and approach to supporting students.

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion

EPCPH recently hosted a Chronic Disease Prevention Stakeholder Discussion to bring together community partners and advance shared efforts to reduce chronic disease in the region.

The purpose of the event was to build a shared understanding of local chronic disease priorities, share highlights from the chronic disease community assessment, and gather partner perspectives on feasibility, alignment, and community needs. Presenters reviewed why chronic disease prevention is critical for community well-being, highlighted the state's 1-3-4-50 framework, and walked participants through the assessment process, including local data on leading causes of death and contributing health behaviors. They also presented five priority strategy areas identified through data review: breastfeeding support, alcohol use prevention, cardiovascular disease education, increased access to diabetes prevention and management programs, and improved cancer screening.

Partners engaged in a data walk and group discussions to assess feasibility, existing momentum, gaps, and alignment with community needs. Their insights will inform the next phase of the process, in which EPCPH will refine and finalize the top strategies based on readiness, capacity, and community support. The event emphasized collaboration and shared ownership, reinforcing the role of community partnership in shaping sustainable chronic disease prevention efforts.

Injury & Violence Prevention (IVP) presented EPCPH's child passenger safety and infant safe sleep initiatives at the National Child Safety Learning Collaborative (CSLC) in Waltham, MA on May 6. This learning opportunity was sponsored by the Children's Safety Network for selected IVP and MCH programs to learn about evidence-based strategies, implementation activities, and evaluation measures for improving child safety outcomes at the state and local level.

IVP hosted an impaired driving data walk at the Catamount Institute on May 14. Several Catamount Institute students selected impaired driving as the topic for their community problem solving project. IVP offered an educational session about the local impact of impaired driving and community prevention efforts led by EPCPH and community partners. Resources were also provided for the students to facilitate their own data walk at a parent project showcase.

Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) launched a partnership with the El Paso County (EPC) Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The goal of this collaboration is to increase awareness of the health risks associated with secondhand smoke exposure in cars and educate about free tobacco cessation resources available to Coloradans. Education efforts launched this month included distributing Colorado QuitLine and Smoke-Free Car resources at four DMV locations throughout the county.

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare

Clinical Services increased access to education, preventive services, and informed, patient-driven health decisions by delivering care and outreach in community, educational, and institutional settings. These efforts focused on reducing barriers to services, increasing awareness of available programs, and supporting individuals in making informed choices about their health through accessible, community-based events, partnerships, and preventive care services.

Key activities included:

- Providing sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening services through the EPC Criminal Justice Center (CJC) program to over 70 individuals during the month of May, supporting early detection, treatment, and disease prevention efforts within a congregate living environment.
- Hosting a clinic day at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), where six students received long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) services and more than 20 students participated in comprehensive STI screening services, including treatment when indicated, increasing access to preventive care within a campus setting.

- Conducting community outreach and education activities at the Deerfield Hills Community Center Women's Wellness Resource Fair and at the LaunchPad, a transitional housing program for young adults ages 18 to 24. These events provided education about available clinic services, preventive health resources, and onsite STI screening services. Nearly 10 residents participated in STI screening services at the LaunchPad event.
- Delivering health education presentations to community organizations, including Family Life Services, where staff provided information on preventive healthcare services such as well-woman exams, cancer screenings, STI screening, and primary care resources to support informed health decisions among participants.
- Providing educational presentations to healthcare providers and institutional partners to strengthen community capacity for STI prevention and treatment. Activities included a training session for Peak Vista medical residents on syphilis staging, laboratory interpretation, client assessment, and treatment approaches, as well as an STI education presentation within a CJC male housing unit to increase awareness of prevention, testing, and treatment services in advance of a scheduled screening event.

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

Environmental Health	May 2026	2026 Total	2025 Total
Air Quality Construction Activity Permits	12	55	109
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	0	0	30
Air Quality Complaints	3	15	41
Animal Bites Reported	147	518	1424
Body Art Routine Inspections	13	46	133
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	1	4
Body Art Complaints	2	11	33
Childcare Routine Inspections	15	93	231
Childcare Follow-up Inspections	0	0	3
Childcare Complaints	2	6	10
Childcare Outbreak Investigations	0	7	14
Childcare High Risk Field Consults	0	0	58
Land-Use Planning Review	39	163	332
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	4	59	96
OWTS Final Inspections	41	205	499
OWTS Partial Inspections	13	63	73
OWTS Application Design Reviews	60	234	535
OWTS Design Revision Reviews	15	58	129
OWTS Design Revision Reviews (add)	10	37	24
OWTS New Permit Applications	29	105	247
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	26	105	280
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	0	8	21
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	100	391	785
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	39	184	401
OWTS Complaints	1	12	22
OWTS O&M Systems	21	66	73
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	7	49	337
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	0	5	16
Recreational Water Complaints	0	1	13
RFE Routine Inspections	214	1210	2,969
RFE Re-Inspections	16	127	267
RFE Complaint Investigations	48	216	663
RFE Inspections Resulting in Closure	5	23	71
RFE Plan Reviews	43	154	279
RFE Pre-Operational Inspections	56	215	553
Foodborne illness EH investigations	2	7	18
School Routine Inspections	0	6	30

School Complaints	1	6	20
School Self-Certification Audits	0	45	50
School Self-Certifications Returned	0	0	350
Waste Tire Facilities Routine Inspections	13	66	150
Waste Tire Complaints	0	2	2

Table 1 - Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

Appendix B: Water Systems Testing

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Public Water Systems	334	286	307	306	356	344	394	348	318	317	283	297
Private Wells	303	294	338	390	408	409	392	370	427	338	293	311
Totals	637	580	645	696	764	753	786	719	745	655	576	608

Table 2 Appendix B: 2025 Water Systems Testing

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Public Water Systems	326	287	298	327	384							
Private Wells	284	325	471	390	340							
Totals	610	612	769	719	724							

Table 3 Appendix B: 2026 Water Systems Testing

Appendix C: Immunizations Program Vaccines Administered

Month	2025 Total Vaccines Administered	2026 Total Vaccines Administered
January	1020	818
February	870	629
March	796	672
April	910	645
May	832	514
June	847	
July	911	
August	738	
September	730	
October	960	
November	721	
December	737	

Table 4 Appendix C: 2025 and 2026 Immunizations Program Vaccines Administered

Appendix D: Nurse-Family Partnership Client Visits

Month	2025 # of Client Visits	2026 # of Client Visits
January	264	229
February	253	223
March	210	242
April	226	245
May	229	222
June	226	
July	239	
August	222	
September	239	
October	251	
November	185	
December	254	

Table 5 Appendix D: Nurse-Family Partnership Client Visits

Appendix E: Disease Prevention and Control

Link to EPCPH Respiratory Disease Dashboard: https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/disease-tracking-reports/.

Appendix F: Reproductive Health Clinic

Reproductive Health Clinic Client Visits

Month	2025 # of Client Visits	2026 # of Client Visits
January	170	120
February	127	130
March	159	125
April	147	142
May	128	130
June	138	
July	154	
August	135	
September	158	
October	135	
November	115	
December	132	

Table 6 - Appendix F: Reproductive Health Clinic

Appendix G: Tuberculosis Program

EPCPH TB Program Data 2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
TB Disease Treatment													
TB Disease / LTBI Patients	2 / 12	2 / 11	4 / 12	3 / 13	5/15								**7/19**
New TB Disease Patients	0	0	2	0	3								**5**
New LTBI Patients	9	1	1	3	2								**16**
Evaluations													
Evaluations Completed	10	6	7	8	10								**41**
Contacts Screened	2	0	0	1	9								**12**
DOT													
New DOT Patients	4*	0	2	0	4								**10**
Total DOT Occurrences	73	84	81	107	124								**469**
DOT/DOPT (Field)	12	0	8	42	39								**101**
eDOT (Remote)	61	84	73	65	85								**368**
Community Support													
TB Rule-Outs for Providers	0	0	1	2	4								**7**
Provider Consultations	5	8	10	9	12								**44**
Community Calls	8	5	8	6	7								**34**
**Includes all existing DOT patients as of Jan 1, 2026*													

Table 7 Appendix G: Tuberculosis Program

Definitions of Foundational Terms

Foundational Public Health Capabilities

Assessment and Planning - Colorado's governmental public health system will apply the principles and skilled practice of epidemiology, laboratory investigation, surveillance and program evaluation to support planning, policy and decision making in Colorado.

Communications - Colorado's governmental public health system will be a trusted source of clear, consistent, accurate and timely health and environmental information.

Policy Development and Support - Colorado's governmental public health system will inform and implement policies to meet the community's changing health needs. Public health policies will aim to eliminate health disparities, reduce death and disability, and improve environmental quality and health outcomes for all people in Colorado.

Partnerships - Colorado's governmental public health system will create, convene, and support strategic partnerships, engage community members and cross-sectoral partners, agencies and organizations to achieve public health goals.

Organizational Competencies – No official definition from CDPHE but this section will be used to report on QI, accreditation, finance/budget, governance, awards, etc.

Emergency Preparedness and Response - Colorado's governmental public health system, in coordination with federal, state and local agencies and public and private sector partners, will have the capability and capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies with health, environmental and medical impacts.

Social Determinants of Health - Colorado's governmental public health system will intentionally focus on improving systems and institutions that exacerbate health disparities so that all people and communities in Colorado can achieve the highest level of health possible. Governmental public health will have the requisite skills, competencies and capacities to play an essential role in creating comprehensive strategies needed to address health inequities, and social and environmental determinants of health.

Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control - Colorado's governmental public health system will carry out state and locally coordinated surveillance, disease investigation, laboratory testing, and prevention and control strategies to monitor and reduce the incidence and transmission of communicable diseases. Programs will target illnesses that are vaccine-preventable, zoonotic, vector-borne, respiratory, food- or water-borne, bloodborne, healthcare-

associated, and sexually transmitted as well as emerging threats. Communicable Disease Control will collaborate with national, state and local partners to ensure mandates and guidelines are met and timely, actionable information is provided to the public and to health professionals.

Environmental Public Health - Colorado's governmental public health system will use evidence-informed practices to understand the cause-and-effect relationships between environmental changes and ecological and human health impacts to protect, promote, and enhance the health of the community and environment. Agencies will participate in the protection and improvement of air quality, water, land and food safety by identifying, investigating and responding to community environmental health concerns, reducing current and emerging environmental health risks, preventing communicable diseases, and sustaining the environment in a coordinated manner with agencies at the federal, state and local levels as well as industry stakeholders and the public.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health - Colorado's governmental public health system will develop, implement and evaluate statewide, regional and local strategies related to maternal, child, adolescent and family health to increase health and well-being, reduce adverse health outcomes and advance health equity across the life course. Strategies may include, but are not limited to, identifying and providing information, promoting evidence-informed and multi-generational approaches, identifying community assets, advocating for needed initiatives, and convening partners.

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion - Colorado's governmental public health system focuses on common risk and protective factors that affect social, emotional and physical health and safety. To prevent chronic disease and injuries and promote behavioral health, Colorado's governmental public health system will use policy, systems and environmental change strategies to comprehensively address the root causes of poor health outcomes and advance health equity. Priority areas include, but are not limited to, nutrition, physical activity, oral health, access to care and disease management, injury prevention, violence prevention, suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use (including tobacco, alcohol and other substances).

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare - All Coloradans should be connected with and have access to needed personal healthcare services that include primary care, maternal and child healthcare, oral healthcare, specialty care, and mental healthcare.