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: July 2026 (reflects activity through June)

Table of Contents

In the News

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) was featured in a variety of timely television, radio and print news coverage stories in June, resulting in five stories (nine mentions) totaling 71,677 in local viewership and over $11,486 in local earned media value.

- The June edition of the New Falcon Herald featured an article from EPCPH Injury and Violence Prevention Planner Emma Bernick on how to stay safe when at home and on the road. The New Falcon Herald article can be accessed through the following link: Building a Safer El Paso County: Celebrate National Safety Month This June
- KOAA reported on the return of the Southeast Farmers Market. EPCPH provided information on how such markets can benefit health by increasing intake of fruits and vegetables. The KOAA story can be accessed through the following link :Southeast Farmers Market returns with more vendors, fresh food access
- KKTV reported on steps everyone can take to hike safely. EPCPH Acting Division Director of Disease Prevention and Response Janel McNair offered tips. The KKTV story can be accessed through the following link :Hiking safety

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 es tablish 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

Assessment and Planning

In June, EPCPH successfully submitted all required documentation to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), marking a major milestone in the reaccreditation process and reflecting the dedication and hard work of staff across the agency. Maintaining accreditation demonstrates to our community, partners, and funders that EPCPH continues to operate at the highest national standards for public health practice. Reaccreditation—which is completed every five years—is a rigorous process requiring significant documentation to demonstrate that the agency continues to meet nationally recognized standards for quality, accountability, and continuous improvement in public health practice. EPCPH was the first local public health agency in Colorado to become accredited in 2013, and the first to become reaccredited in 2020.

Communications

The Communications program—in collaboration with the Budget team and programs across the agency—completed two high-priority reports in June: Th e2025 Annual Report and th e2025 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). Additionally, th eAnnual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Single Audit Report were completed by El Paso County Financial Services department. All reports are posted to the EPCPH website.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) staff attended the annual Continuity of Operations (COOP) Workshop and the Severe Winter Weather Sheltering After Action Review, both hosted by the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM). These activities provided opportunities to strengthen regional coordination, identify lessons learned, and enhance planning efforts related to continuity of operations and community led sheltering during emergencies.

Additionally, the EPR team participated in the Grandview Hospital Wildfire Evacuation Tabletop Exercise. The exercise focused on hospital preparedness, patient surge, evacuation operations, and coordination with response partners during a wildfire event. Participation reinforced the importance of partnerships, coordination, and recovery planning to strengthen preparedness for wildfire-related impacts on healthcare delivery.

Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control

To view data on counts and trends for selected reportable communicable diseases among residents of El Paso County, Colorado, please visit our disease tracking dashboards here:

elpasocountyhealth.org/disease-tracking-reports/.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helped to connect enrolled clients to care by providing over 50 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).

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) staff attended the Colorado Springs School District 11 Early Childhood Summer "Playgroups at the Park" series on June 11 and 18. This is a summer offering for parents and families of preschool-aged children to gather at local parks for activities and circle time. Activities include practicing gross motor skills, art, science, dramatic play, bubbles, building blocks, and other developmentally appropriate play. MCH provided information on program referrals, developmental packets, and promoted early learning and literacy.

In June, MCH launched a training series as part of Fort Carson's Family Support "New Parent Bootcamp," providing sessions on June 2 and June 16. MCH has been invited to deliver this 90-minute training on a bi-monthly basis for all expectant and new military parents participating in the program. The training focuses on helping parents build early secure attachment by learning how to engage and respond to their infant in nurturing ways that promote healthy parent–child interaction during the earliest developmental period. Fort Carson recognizes the importance of providing education and tools to military families, who often experience unique stressors, transitions, and periods of separation. Strengthening secure attachment during infancy supports children's ability to cope with change, reduces later behavioral and emotional challenges, and fosters strong parent–child bonding. The New Parent Bootcamp is a co-learning model featuring multiple presenters covering topics including military service supports, breastfeeding, safe sleep, fatherhood, and more. MCH also provides supplementary educational materials and infant safe sleep resources.

Attendance and Evaluation

- MCH presented to 16 participants, in addition to three Family Support Center staff.
- A post-training survey generated 17 responses.
- 100 percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the content was useful and applicable to their situation.
- 100 percent indicated they were willing or very willing to use the information presented.

Participant Feedback Highlights

- "I loved the class—Paula and Rain did a fantastic job keeping the class interactive and fun."
- "Great job! Very informative and helpful!"
- "This training was very helpful and informative."
- "You both are amazing. I really connected with your presentation, and it opened my eyes into what I should do to strengthen my relationship with my wife and our boy."

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion

Chronic Disease Prevention efforts focused on completing Phase 1 planning activities and establishing the foundation for implementation of Phase 2. Throughout June, staff worked collaboratively with internal and external partners to finalize priority strategies, strengthen implementation infrastructure, and prepare for expanded chronic disease prevention activities that will increase access to evidence-based prevention resources throughout the community.

Key activities included:

- Completing the Phase 1 Chronic Disease Prevention Assessment and Strategy Selection Summary and submitting the required deliverable to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), marking the successful conclusion of the planning phase.
- Finalizing the selection of five evidence-based chronic disease prevention strategies through a collaborative process that incorporated findings from the organizational readiness assessment, community stakeholder engagement, EPCPH leadership, and Board of Health liaison feedback.
- Presenting Phase 1 assessment findings and selected strategies to Board of Health liaisons, providing an overview of the planning process and priorities that will guide implementation activities.
- Establishing the internal Phase 2 implementation workgroup to support cross-divisional coordination and successful execution of grant activities.
- Advancing Phase 2 staffing by hiring a Senior Public Health Nurse dedicated to Chronic Disease Prevention efforts and conducting interviews for the Lead Policy and Prevention Specialist position to support implementation of selected strategies.

Grant funding for EPCPH's Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) concluded June 30, marking the close of 10 years of service to the Fountain Valley, encompassing Fountain, Security and Widefield. During this decade, members and staff of the FV-CTC coalition have worked with

dedication to build a stronger, more connected, and prevention focused community to address youth substance use. Although the coalition is concluding, its structures, relationships, and shared leadership model will continue to support ongoing prevention efforts. Staff of FV-CTC have transitioned roles to EPCPH's Substance Use Prevention program.

Some of FV-CTC's most notable successes include:

- Through its Teen Action Board (TAB), young leaders hosted youth summits, navigated conversations addressing peer-led substance use prevention work, presented at statewide conferences, and helped guide impaired-driving prevention work ensuring youth and families live in a safer community. TAB also partnered with the Colorado State Patrol to produce safe driving messages that were posted on Instagram.
    - Graduated Driver's License
    - Put Away Phone Distractions
    - Speeding
- FV-CTC's work further supported youth engagement and valued community connectedness with the implementation of the Connect Me 2 FV initiative, which strengthened belonging and reinforced well-being. Through this project, the coalition hosted community engagement events, awarded more than $60,000 in mini-grants to local partners, and launched the Connect Me 2 FV Passport Program to help youth and their families access resources and build positive connections.
- Through FV-CTC's work to increase access to high-quality childcare in the area, a new 501(c)(3) was formed by community members. Fountain Valley Childcare Association for Resources, Education and Support (FVCARES) exists today to increase resources for families. For more information, visit https://www.fountainvalleycares.org/
- FV-CTC improved community safety through its participation in Drug Take Back Day events from 2022-2026, which collected nearly 1,500 pounds of unused and expired medications and increased safe-storage practices by providing 180 lockboxes and education.

The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) responded to six Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act complaints from El Paso County residents during Q2, all of which were received from residents in multi-unit housing settings. Education, materials, and resources were provided to tenants and property managers as appropriate.

TEPP provided training for 11 staff members at the Penrose Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic. The clinic has a goal of having 20 percent of their patients who currently smoke quit by the time they leave the cardiac rehab program. TEPP staff helped increase capacity by providing information on current tobacco and nicotine products, direct health impacts of these products, the effects of second- and third-hand smoke, how to talk to clients about quitting, and the cessation resources available to Colorado residents.

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, where 25 individuals from a male housing unit participated in on-site screening services. These efforts support early detection, timely treatment, and disease prevention within a congregate living environment.
- Strengthening partnerships with local healthcare providers through collaboration with UCHealth community practice leadership to increase awareness of Reproductive Health Clinic (RHC) services and identify opportunities to support local obstetric and gynecology (OB/GYN) practices. These discussions focused on enhancing referral pathways and improving access to preventive and reproductive healthcare services for community members.

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

Environmental Health	June 2026	2026 Total	2025 Total
Air Quality Construction Activity Permits	13	68	109
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	2	2	30
Air Quality Complaints	8	23	41
Animal Bites Reported	194	712	1424
Body Art Routine Inspections	13	46	133
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	1	4
Body Art Complaints	4	15	33
Childcare Routine Inspections	14	93	231
Childcare Follow-up Inspections	0	0	3
Childcare Complaints	2	8	10
Childcare Outbreak Investigations	0	7	14
Childcare High Risk Field Consults	2	2	58
Land-Use Planning Review	33	196	332
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	1	63	96
OWTS Final Inspections	54	205	499
OWTS Partial Inspections	21	63	73
OWTS Application Design Reviews	69	234	535
OWTS Design Revision Reviews	13	58	129
OWTS Design Revision Reviews (add)	5	37	24
OWTS New Permit Applications	24	105	247
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	22	105	280
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	3	8	21
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	71	391	785
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	42	184	401
OWTS Complaints	3	12	22
OWTS O&M Systems	12	66	73
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	33	82	337
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	2	7	16
Recreational Water Complaints	3	4	13
RFE Routine Inspections	226	1436	2,969
RFE Re-Inspections	13	140	267
RFE Complaint Investigations	58	274	663
RFE Inspections Resulting in Closure	4	25	71
RFE Plan Reviews	28	182	279
RFE Pre-Operational Inspections	58	228	553
Foodborne illness EH investigations	1	8	18
School Routine Inspections	0	6	30
School Complaints	0	6	20

School Self-Certification Audits	0	45	50
School Self-Certifications Returned	0	0	350
Waste Tire Facilities Routine Inspections	5	71	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	361						
Private Wells	284	325	471	390	340	467						
Totals	610	612	769	719	724	828						

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	602
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	195
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

The EPCPH Respiratory Disease Dashboard is available at
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	137
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	4/14							**7/24**
New TB Disease Patients	0	0	2	0	3	0							**5**
New LTBI Patients	9	1	1	3	2	5							**21**
Evaluations													
Evaluations Completed	10	6	7	8	10	5							**46**
Contacts Screened	2	0	0	1	9	1							**13**
DOT													
New DOT Patients	4*	0	2	0	4	2							**12**
Total DOT Occurrences	73	84	81	107	124	96							**565**
DOT/DOPT (Field)	12	0	8	42	39	27							**128**
eDOT (Remote)	61	84	73	65	85	69							**437**
Community Support													
TB Rule-Outs for Providers	0	0	1	2	4	0							**7**
Provider Consultations	5	8	10	9	12	12							**55**
Community Calls	8	5	8	6	7	9							**43**
**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 health care services that include primary care, maternal and child health care, oral health care, specialty care, and mental health care.