

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: August 2026 (reflects activity through July)

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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 July, resulting in two stories totaling over 17,390 in local viewership and over \$255 in local earned media value.

- The July edition of the New Falcon Herald featured an article from EPCPH Immunization Division Manager Kristi Durbin on how to stay safe when you plan to travel abroad. The New Falcon Herald article can be accessed through the following link: [Don't forget: plan ahead for a healthy trip abroad](#)
- KRDO reported EPCPH ordered Fargo's Pizza to temporarily close after a routine health inspection found multiple critical food safety violations. The KRDO story can be accessed through the following link: [Restaurant Roundup: Multiple public health violations lead to temporary closure of Fargo's Pizza](#)

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

Assessment and Planning

Staff from the Public Health Data & Analytics team (PHDA) participated in the kick-off of the Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council (ROAC) Data Subcommittee. PHDA's role on the committee, in collaboration with partners from Teller and El Paso County (EPC), is to support the identification of data sources for metrics the council has selected to measure the success of its five-year strategic plan.

Communications

The Communications Program posted an updated [Digital Accessibility Compliance Plan](#) and [Digital Accessibility Plan Evidence of Progress June 30, 2026](#), in accordance with state law. This update shows our accessibility maturity, progress, challenges, implementation process and goals. This important accountability measure is updated annually.

Partnerships

EPCPH supported the Widefield School District 3 Back to School Bash, with representation from both the Immunization and Substance Use Prevention (SUP) teams. Staff administered 28 vaccine doses and connected with more than 60 participants, providing education on the harmful health impacts of vaping and tobacco use and sharing cessation resources.

EPCPH also supported the 5th Annual Community Health and Safety Culture event at Fort Carson with representation from Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and SUP. MCH provided safe sleep education, information about resource navigation, and medical identification tags for families, specifically those who have a child with a special healthcare need. SUP shared information about the harms of tobacco and vape use as well as tobacco prevention and cessation resources such as the Colorado Quitline, Strong Start Colorado, and My Life, My Quit. Together, they were able to provide resources for nearly 100 individuals.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) strengthened regional readiness and coordination through several quarterly partner engagements. EPR led the Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) meeting, bringing together health and medical partners for a staff-designed workshop on managing a power outage through a coordinated ESF-8 response. The exercise clarified partner roles, reinforced relationships, and strengthened the ability of the health and medical system to respond collaboratively when critical infrastructure is disrupted.

EPR also participated in the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management's Multi-Agency Coordination Group and the regional Mass Casualty Incident Committee. These forums support shared planning and situational awareness among emergency management, public safety, healthcare, and other response partners - helping to ensure a more unified and effective response during complex emergencies and mass-casualty incidents.

Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control

The Communicable Disease team strengthened both technical and operational readiness through an internal measles case investigation exercise and a half-day workforce development session. The measles exercise allowed staff to practice epidemiological investigation processes, helping maintain readiness for a timely and coordinated response to a highly contagious disease.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helped to connect enrolled clients to care by providing over 35

referrals on behalf of nearly 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).

MCH provided secure attachment training to support Fort Carson's Family Support New Parent Bootcamp on July 7 and 21. The secure attachment training educates parents on how to engage their infant, encouraging nurturing parent-child interactions that build secure attachment, and strengthening connection during the earliest developmental period. The bootcamp is a co-learning environment where several presenters review topics such as military service supports, breastfeeding, safe sleep, fatherhood and much more. For military families, who often face added stress, transitions, and separations, building secure attachment early helps the child cope better with change, reduces behavioral and emotional challenges later on, and strengthens the parent child bond even during difficult periods. MCH presented to nearly 40 individuals and delivered a post survey with 29 responses received:

- 89.66 percent stated they strongly agreed/agreed that the content in the training is useful and applicable to their job/situation.
- 89.66 percent stated they are very willing/willing to use the information presented in their job or situation.

Feedback responses to "What was the most important or impactful thing shared during the training?":

- "Building secure attachment with my child"
- "Understanding babies"
- "Learning what I could do to help ensure child is able to come to me"
- "How important it is to engage with baby in healthy way"

MCH staff provided an educational session to the male youth at Spring Creek Youth Service Center on July 29. This session was part of their summer nutrition curriculum. Education covered a range of topics to include child nutrition. While many of the subjects centered on mothers, such as the benefits of breastfeeding, tobacco cessation, and safe sleep, engaging male youth in these conversations is essential. When young men understand how behaviors influence infant safety, nutrition, and long-term development, they are better prepared to support healthy outcomes for their own families. The participants were highly engaged and expressed strong interest in learning about infant well-being. This information was provided to close to 50 youth and 10 staff.

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion

Chronic Disease Prevention efforts transitioned from Phase 1 - planning - to Phase 2 - implementation planning, with activities focused on building the infrastructure, partnerships and operational framework needed to successfully launch evidence-based chronic disease prevention strategies. Throughout July, staff advanced implementation readiness by developing program

infrastructure, strengthening evaluation and sustainability planning, and preparing for the phased rollout of initiatives that will expand access to chronic disease prevention resources across the community.

Key activities included:

- Officially launched Phase 2 grant activities and initiating implementation planning for the five selected chronic disease prevention strategies.
- Continued planning for the launch of an employee-focused Diabetes Prevention program (DPP), with an anticipated program start in early October, to increase access to evidence-based diabetes prevention services for the El Paso County (EPC) workforce.
- Began collaboration with Omni Institute to develop a comprehensive implementation plan that incorporates program evaluation, continuous quality improvement, and long-term sustainability strategies from the outset of implementation.
- Hired a lead policy and prevention specialist to strengthen implementation capacity and support coordination of Phase 2 activities, with the position scheduled to begin in September.
- Initiated cross-divisional planning to identify activities and implementation approaches for each of the five selected strategies, while awaiting the final implementation planning framework from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).
- Registered to participate in the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors' Data Modernization Incubator for local public health agencies to strengthen data collection, performance measurement, and evaluation capacity in support of Chronic Disease Prevention grant activities.

On July 2, Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) presented to the Colorado Young Drivers Alliance (CYDA), a statewide multidisciplinary group focused on improving youth traffic safety, about trends and prevention recommendations for transportation-related fatalities identified by the EPC Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT). The presentation highlighted rising injuries involving electric bikes, dirt bikes and motorcycles. By informing CYDA, this work supports coordinated efforts to reduce preventable injuries and fatalities among young people in our community and across the state.

IVP and NFP presented at the Colorado Traffic Safety Summit in Grand Junction on July 15. Information was shared about the agency's innovative child passenger safety efforts, including the car seat safety check offered by NFP's home visitors and the universal emergency identification tags offered by the MCH program. The presentation also highlighted ways other communities can adapt and implement these approaches and strengthen child passenger safety through collaboration with public health.

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 more than 50 individuals participated in screening services during the month of July, including over 20 individuals screened during an event within a male housing unit. Staff also delivered STI education prior to the screening event to increase awareness of prevention, testing and available treatment services.
- Expanding access to preventive care through community-based outreach events, where 20 individuals received STI screening services, including outreach at a local housing program serving low-income young adults. Participants were also connected with community resources and information about available Reproductive Health Clinic (RHC) services.
- Hosting the monthly clinic day at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), where students received long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) services and comprehensive STI screening, continuing efforts to increase access to preventive healthcare within a campus setting.
- Strengthening community partnerships by collaborating with Colorado Springs Recovery Center to establish onsite STI education and screening services beginning in October 2026. This partnership will expand access to preventive services for individuals receiving substance use recovery services and connect them with additional healthcare resources as needed.

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

Environmental Health	July 2026	2026 Total	2025 Total
Air Quality Construction Activity Permits	6	74	109
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	0	2	30
Air Quality Complaints	9	32	41
Animal Bites Reported	137	849	1424
Body Art Routine Inspections	13	59	133
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	1	4
Body Art Complaints	4	19	33
Childcare Routine Inspections	13	106	231
Childcare Follow-up Inspections	0	0	3
Childcare Complaints	0	8	10
Childcare Outbreak Investigations	0	7	14
Childcare High Risk Field Consults	3	5	58
Land-Use Planning Review	19	215	332
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	4	64	96
OWTS Final Inspections	52	311	499
OWTS Partial Inspections	17	103	73
OWTS Application Design Reviews	40	343	535
OWTS Design Revision Reviews	14	86	129
OWTS Design Revision Reviews (add)	3	45	24
OWTS New Permit Applications	17	145	247
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	19	149	280
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	0	13	21
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	47	491	785
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	29	260	401
OWTS Complaints	2	17	22
OWTS O&M Systems	10	71	73
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	56	138	337
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	7	14	16
Recreational Water Complaints	3	7	13
RFE Routine Inspections	189	1625	2,969
RFE Re-Inspections	19	159	267
RFE Complaint Investigations	34	308	663
RFE Inspections Resulting in Closure	5	30	71
RFE Plan Reviews	55	237	279
RFE Pre-Operational Inspections	44	272	553
Foodborne illness EH investigations	0	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	1	72	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	389					
Private Wells	284	325	471	390	340	467	351					
Totals	610	612	769	719	724	828	740					

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	658
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	200
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	141
August	135	
September	158	
October	135	
November	115	
December	132	

Table 6 - Appendix F: Reproductive Health Clinic

Appendix G: Tuberculosis Program

ECPH 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	4/15	4/14	3/14						6/27
New TB Disease Patients	0	0	2	0	2	0	0						4
New LTBI Patients	9	1	1	3	2	5	4						25
Evaluations													
Evaluations Completed	10	6	7	8	10	5	10						56
Contacts Screened	2	0	0	1	9	1	1						14
DOT													
New DOT Patients	4*	0	2	0	4	2	0						12
Total DOT Occurrences	73	84	81	107	124	96	144						710
<i>DOT/DOPT (Field)</i>	12	0	8	42	39	27	10						138
<i>eDOT (Remote)</i>	61	84	73	65	85	69	134						572
Community Support													
TB Rule-Outs for Providers	0	0	1	2	4	0	1						8
Provider Consultations	5	8	10	9	12	12	1						57
Community Calls	8	5	8	6	7	9	14						57
<i>*Includes all existing DOT patients as of Jan 1, 2026</i>													

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.