

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: September 2026 (reflects activity through August)

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In the News

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) was featured in a variety of timely television and print news coverage stories in August, resulting in five stories (12 mentions) totaling over 106,709 in local viewership and over \$12,220 in local earned media value.

- The August edition of the New Falcon Herald featured an article from EPCPH WIC Division Manager Melissa Sattler-Gordon on the benefits of breastfeeding. The New Falcon Herald article can be accessed through the following link: [Consider the benefits of breastfeeding](#)
- The Gazette reported on air quality advisories. EPCPH Medical Director Dr. Paul Mayer spoke to the paper about the effects of bad air quality on health and how to stay safe. The Gazette article can be accessed through the following link: [Air quality advisory hits every Colorado county thanks to smoke from Pacific Northwest](#)
- Axios reported on the rate of childhood vaccines dropping. EPCPH Immunization Clinic Program Manager Kari Torres noted that rates in El Paso County remained stable for schoolchildren, with small declines in MMR, varicella and DTaP vaccinations. The Axios story can be accessed through the following link: [Colorado's childhood vaccination rates slip lower](#)
- KOAA reported on a community event aimed at helping parents keep children safe. The article noted that EPCPH representatives were at the event providing information and resources. The KOAA story can be accessed through the following link: [TESSA, CSPD team up to share resources to keep kids safe online](#)
- KKTV reported on how to help schoolchildren avoid heat-related illness. Disease Prevention & Response Acting Division Director Janel McNair offered tips. The KKTV story can be accessed through the following link: [El Paso County Health Department offers tips to keep kids safe from heat at the bus stop](#)

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

In August, the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team strengthened regional partnerships and advanced emergency preparedness through participation in the South Central Healthcare Coalition meeting, South Central Regional Meeting, Front Range Public Health Committee meeting, and Colorado Springs Utilities Dam Exercise. These meetings and exercises provided opportunities to coordinate with public health, healthcare, emergency management, and community partners; clarify roles and responsibilities; identify gaps; and strengthen the region's ability to work together during an emergency. EPR also finalized the 2026 Public Health Emergency Operations Plan, providing an updated framework for coordinating EPCPH's emergency response.

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 35 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 & Child Health (MCH) program organized a Bundles of Care Event on August 10 at the United Way Family Resource Center. This event focused on maternal and infant well-being through connection to essential services and resources in the community. Several internal and external partners came together and were able to connect with more than 50 families and serve nearly 80 children. Partners provided critical resource connections such as benefit assistance, information on food access, maternal mental health, child development services, childcare, safety, and primary care. The Clinical Services Division (CSD) participated to increase awareness of Reproductive Health Clinic (RHC) services and connect community members with information about available reproductive and preventative healthcare services.

MCH administered a survey at the event and received 21 responses:

- On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your overall satisfaction with the event? 100 percent of respondents rated the event a 5
- How likely are you to contact or use any of the community resources you learned about today? 71 percent of respondents said very likely

MCH provided training on strengthening caregiver-child relationships to support Fort Carson's Family Support New Parent Bootcamp on Aug. 4 and 18. 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 transitions and separations, building secure attachment early helps the child cope better with change, reduces behavioral and emotional challenges later in life, and strengthens the parent-child bond, even during difficult periods. MCH presented to nearly 60 individuals and delivered a post-survey:

42 responses were received:

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

MCH provided breastfeeding training on Aug. 28 to lactation staff at CommonSpirit. The purpose of the training was to provide updated knowledge and practical guidance on proper flange fitting to support a more effective and comfortable pumping experience for breastfeeding mothers. The training helped strengthen lactation staff's ability to assess flange fit and provide evidence-informed support to breastfeeding parents. Proper flange fit can help improve comfort and pumping effectiveness, supporting families in meeting their breastfeeding goals.

MCH facilitated the quarterly Community Voice Collaborative (CVC) meeting on Aug. 4. The meeting provides a space to learn about services and resources for children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN). The CVC had more than 20 participants consisting of caregivers and community partners. This month's featured topics focused on therapeutic recreation and adaptive physical activity. MCH had guest speakers from Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) to present the benefits of their program for CYSHCN families. This included information on sports programs, healthy eating and nutrition, camps, workshops, leadership opportunities, and resources for families. Special Olympics also had a parent and young athlete present to share their lived experience with the program.

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion

Injury and Violence Prevention presented at Operation Arrive Safe, a training hosted by the American Bar Association at Peterson Space Force Base on Aug. 24-25. The training brought together military, federal, state, and local judges who preside over impaired driving cases involving service members, as well as military commanders involved in non-judicial adjudications, to exchange knowledge and deepen their understanding of the unique challenges presented by military defendants. The presentation provided data regarding impaired driving risk factors among military populations and insights into protective factors among this group through local data walk results.

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare

The Disease Response team increased access to vaccinations by providing on-site immunization services at the Ponte La Mochila Health and Resource Fair. By offering vaccines alongside other community resources, the team helped reduce barriers to accessing preventive services for interested families.

Clinical Services increased access to education, preventive services, and informed, patient-driven health decisions by delivering care and outreach in community 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 partnerships, education, and preventive care services.

Key activities included:

- Providing sexually transmitted infection (STI) education and screening services through the EPC Criminal Justice Center (CJC) program, where over 100 individuals were screened during August, including 60 males. As part of focused outreach within male housing units, staff also delivered two STI education sessions reaching approximately 65 individuals, followed by two on-site screening clinics. These coordinated education and screening efforts increased awareness of STI prevention, testing, and treatment, while expanding access to preventive services within the CJC.

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

Environmental Health	August 2026	2026 Total	2025 Total
Air Quality Construction Activity Permits	8	82	109
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	0	2	30
Air Quality Complaints	8	40	41
Animal Bites Reported	139	988	1424
Body Art Routine Inspections	13	85	133
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	1	4
Body Art Complaints	3	22	33
Childcare Routine Inspections	10	130	231
Childcare Follow-up Inspections	0	0	3
Childcare Complaints	2	10	10
Childcare Outbreak Investigations	0	7	14
Childcare High-Risk Field Consults	9	14	58
Land-Use Planning Review	27	242	332
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	4	68	96
OWTS Final Inspections	38	349	499
OWTS Partial Inspections	20	123	73
OWTS Application Design Reviews	36	379	535
OWTS Design Revision Reviews	11	97	129
OWTS Design Revision Reviews (add)	2	47	24
OWTS New Permit Applications	17	162	247
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	19	168	280
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	3	16	21
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	23	514	785
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	26	286	401
OWTS Complaints	5	22	22
OWTS O&M Systems	16	87	73
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	45	183	337
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	2	16	16
Recreational Water Complaints	3	10	13
RFE Routine Inspections	175	1800	2,969
RFE Re-Inspections	15	174	267
RFE Complaint Investigations	29	337	663
RFE Inspections Resulting in Closure	1	31	71
RFE Plan Reviews	28	265	279
RFE Pre-Operational Inspections	49	321	553
Foodborne illness EH investigations	2	10	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	9	81	150
Waste Tire Complaints	0	2	2

Table 1 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	433				
Private Wells	284	325	471	390	340	467	351	395				
Totals	610	612	769	719	724	828	740	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	658
August	738	742
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	189
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	134
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	4/15	4/14	3/14	4/14					7/29
New TB Disease Patients	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1					5
New LTBI Patients	9	1	1	3	2	5	4	2					27
Evaluations													
Evaluations Completed	10	6	7	8	10	5	10	14					70
Contacts Screened	2	0	0	1	9	1	1	6					20
DOT													
New DOT Patients	4*	0	2	0	4	2	0	1					12
Total DOT Occurrences	73	84	81	107	124	96	144	139					849
<i>DOT/DOPT (Field)</i>	12	0	8	42	39	27	10	12					150
<i>eDOT (Remote)</i>	61	84	73	65	85	69	134	127					699
Community Support													
TB Rule-Outs for Providers	0	0	1	2	4	0	1	0					8
Provider Consultations	5	8	10	9	12	12	1	8					65
Community Calls	8	5	8	6	7	9	14	15					72
<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.