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: October 2026 (reflects activity through September)

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In the News

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) authored an article for New Falcon Herald in September.

- The September edition of the New Falcon Herald featured an article from EPCPH Disease Prevention & Response Acting Division Director Janel McNair on National Preparedness Month. The article shared helpful tips for preparing your family for an emergency. The New Falcon Herald article can be accessed through the following link: National Preparedness Month: Be Prepared in 1, 2, 3.

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

An epidemiologist from the Public Health Data & Analytics (PHDA) team presented at the annual Public Health in the Rockies Conference, which brings together public health professionals from across the state. PHDA presented on the development and implementation of a dashboard—in partnership with Environmental Health—to standardize reporting systems and improve operational efficiencies. The presentation garnered positive feedback from attendees, which also led to a request to present the dashboard at a future Colorado Directors of Environmental Health meeting.

Partnerships

The Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) team partnered with the Housing and Building Association (HBA) to provide training and education for nearly 20 members interested in submitting their own OWTS permit applications. Since 2021, the Environmental Health Division has required licensed installers to submit all applications due to historically incomplete or insufficient documentation received from other industry members.

This partnership was developed in response to feedback regarding project delays and the challenges faced by builders who needed to secure installers before work could begin. HBA members who complete the educational session will now be authorized to submit their own OWTS permit applications moving forward.

The OWTS team will continue to offer this course annually, in collaboration with the HBA, to support ongoing training and continuing education for industry partners.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

In September, the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team organized a Continuity of Operations (COOP) workshop facilitated by a contractor for managers and supervisors. The workshop provided an in-depth overview of the current COOP Plan, introduced COOP fundamentals, and facilitated discussion to identify mission-essential functions and areas requiring updates. This work establishes a foundation for continued plan improvement, with next steps focused on updating the COOP Plan and keeping managers informed of changes.

EPR also hosted an agency-wide EPR Field Day in recognition of National Preparedness Month. The event provided staff with practical resources and information to help them prepare themselves and their families for emergencies. The event was well received and supported EPCPH's broader preparedness goals by encouraging employees to take personal preparedness actions that strengthen individual and organizational resilience.

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 40 referrals on behalf of nearly 40 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).

On Sept. 30, 2026, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) staff trained 13 University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) and EPCPH NFP nurses on the new Flange FITS (Feel, Intensity, Tempo, Supply) Guide. The purpose of the training was to provide staff with updated knowledge and practical guidance on proper flange fitting to support a more effective and comfortable pumping experience for breastfeeding families. The training helped strengthen staff's ability to assess flange fit and provide evidence-informed support to breastfeeding parents.

MCH provided training on strengthening caregiver-child relationships to support Fort Carson's Family Support New Parent Bootcamp on Sept. 1 and 16, 2026. The secure attachment training educates parents on how to engage their infant, encouraging nurturing parent–child interactions that build strong attachment 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 90 individuals and delivered a post-survey with the following results:

52 responses were received:

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

Respondents provided feedback:

- "I didn't expect this class to be useful but it actually was incredibly well put together and informative, thank you!"
- "I liked how engaging it was and how many activities there were."

MCH staff presented at the third annual "Together We Thrive" conference hosted by Harrison School District 2 and Academy School District 20 on Sept. 19, 2026. This is a conference specifically for families with a child in a special education program. MCH presented "How to Prepare for Everything for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs" (CYSHCN) for seven participants. This interactive workshop is focused on emergency preparedness for the unique needs of CYSHCN. Participants learned about resources they could use to prepare for emergencies. In addition, staff participated in a resource fair and connected with nearly 30 individuals sharing information on EPCPH services such as resource navigation.

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion

Injury & Violence Prevention (IVP) supported community partners from Drive Smart Colorado and Teens in the Driver Seat to host the annual Pikes Peak Youth Traffic Safety Summit on Sept. 18. This event brought together nearly 80 middle and high school student council members, club

members, and advisors from across El Paso County to advance peer-led evidence-based traffic safety education and outreach.

IVP partnered with Children's Hospital Colorado and Safe Kids Colorado Springs to host an interactive child safety workshop at Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) Head Start's Family Safety Adventure Night on Sept. 29. The event served as an educational opportunity for preschool families to learn about high-risk safety topics for the preschool age range, including pedestrian safety, bike and scooter safety, and dog bite prevention.

Substance Use Prevention (SUP) staff attended the 2026-2027 Pikes Peak Region Youth Safety Summit and the Serenity Recovery Connection: SoCo Recovery Rally 2026. The Youth Safety Summit empowers students to create safer, more inclusive school environments, while the Recovery Rally brings together community members to celebrate hope and support recovery. At both events, the team shared tobacco prevention and cessation resources with nearly 100 people, including information on the harms of tobacco and vape use and programs such as the Colorado QuitLine, Strong Start Colorado, and My Life, My Quit for those considering quitting.

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare

Clinical Services increased access to preventive services and supported informed, patient-driven health decisions by delivering care and outreach in community, campus, 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) screening through the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center (CJC) program, where 50 patients were screened during the month of September.
- Partnering with UCCS for a community outreach event where more than 30 patients received screening services.
- Hosting the monthly clinic day at UCCS to provide access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) services, continuing efforts to make preventive healthcare available in a campus setting.

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

Environmental Health	September 2026	2026 Total	2025 Total
Air Quality Construction Activity Permits	2	84	109
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	0	2	30
Air Quality Complaints	9	49	41
Animal Bites Reported	104	1092	1424
Body Art Routine Inspections	15	100	133
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	1	4
Body Art Complaints	2	24	33
Childcare Routine Inspections	18	148	231
Childcare Follow-up Inspections	0	0	3
Childcare Complaints	1	11	10
Childcare Outbreak Investigations	1	8	14
Childcare High Risk Field Consults	0	14	58
Land-Use Planning Review	34	276	332
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	8	76	96
OWTS Final Inspections	52	401	499
OWTS Partial Inspections	13	136	73
OWTS Application Design Reviews	44	423	535
OWTS Design Revision Reviews	10	107	129
OWTS Design Revision Reviews (add)	9	56	24
OWTS New Permit Applications	21	183	247
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	21	189	280
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	2	18	21
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	13	527	785
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	33	319	401
OWTS Complaints	2	24	22
OWTS O&M Systems	9	96	73
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	21	204	337
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	0	16	16
Recreational Water Complaints	0	10	13
RFE Routine Inspections	37	1837	2,969
RFE Re-Inspections	2	176	267
RFE Complaint Investigations	5	342	663
RFE Inspections Resulting in Closure	0	31	71
RFE Plan Reviews	17	282	279
RFE Pre-Operational Inspections	30	351	553
Foodborne illness EH investigations	1	11	18
School Routine Inspections	3	9	30
School Complaints	1	7	20

School Self-Certification Audits	0	45	50
School Self-Certifications Returned	0	0	350
Waste Tire Facilities Routine Inspections	10	91	150
Waste Tire Complaints	1	3	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	722			

*Table 3 Appendix B: 2026 Water Systems Testing – *As of September 2026, public and private water tests are no longer separated.*

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	657
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	240
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	131
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	3/13				**5/30**
New TB Disease Patients	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0				**5**
New LTBI Patients	9	1	1	3	2	5	4	2	3				**30**
Evaluations													
Evaluations Completed	10	6	7	8	10	5	10	14	3				**73**
Contacts Screened	2	0	0	1	9	1	1	6	1				**21**
DOT													
New DOT Patients	4*	0	2	0	4	2	0	1	1				**12**
Total DOT Occurrences	73	84	81	107	124	96	144	139	102				**951**
DOT/DOPT (Field)	12	0	8	42	39	27	10	12	22				**172**
eDOT (Remote)	61	84	73	65	85	69	134	127	80				**779**
Community Support													
TB Rule-Outs for Providers	0	0	1	2	4	0	1	0	0				**8**
Provider Consultations	5	8	10	9	12	12	1	8	4				**69**
Community Calls	8	5	8	6	7	9	14	15	19				**91**
**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.