

BOH Updates; EPI/EPR

EPI/EPR updates since the December BOH Meeting:

- Outbreaks since the last BOH meeting report:
 - We investigated 33 outbreaks in school, preschool, or childcare settings, 12 outbreaks in long-term care facilities, and 5 outbreaks in other priority settings.
 - A large suspect foodborne outbreak in the community involved collaboration with other jurisdictions and resulted in timely identification of the causative agent and education to prevent further transmission.
- Data:
 - We continue to update the Communicable Disease Dashboard available at <https://www.douglas.co.us/health-department/disease-surveillance/communicable-diseases/communicable-disease-data-dashboard/>.
- Disease Updates:
 - Norovirus cases and outbreaks increased in December and January but have since declined.
 - Respiratory illness is following the typical seasonal rise, with flu hospitalizations appearing to stabilize and RSV hospitalizations beginning to decline.
 - Reported COVID cases have been lower than last year, but due to changes in reporting requirements, data are likely incomplete.
- Misc:
 - All epidemiologists participated in a CDPHE Measles Tabletop Exercise to prepare for managing measles cases in the county. Additional internal exercises and preparation activities are under way.
 - Epidemiologists continue to participate in training activities to increase our skill set and provide residents with the best possible service and education. Training topics this quarter have included Motivational Interviewing, electronic communication accessibility, the use of AI in public health, public health communications, and advanced Incident Management certifications.
- Public Health Emergency Operations Plans (PHOEP)
 - Base plans and annexes have been codified and approved.
 - Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans for county and divisions have been updated and approved.

Additional:

- Collaboration with Douglas County OEM remains a very high priority. Presently, we are jointly evaluating revisions or enhancements to emergency operations/communications platforms.
- Members recently attended extensive training which explored current industry best practices and trends.
- Energy directed at last quarter grant close-out reporting and deliverables.
- Audit preparing and participation for specific grant(s).