

Douglas County Health Department

Environmental Health Division Update

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1. Environmental Health Staffing and Training

During the last quarter, Environmental Health (EH) has hired the final member of the team and is fully staffed. We continued to train and upskill Environmental Health Specialists and will be working to further cross-train. The team is focused on training the newest hires in the various EH programs and expanding our depth and breadth of knowledge amongst our senior staff. We continue to collaborate with CDPHE for training and the official signoffs needed for new inspectors to conduct independent inspections.

- 1 EH Specialist has started their training in the OWTS Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has been signed off in the Recreational Water Program.
- 2 EH Specialists have been signed off in the Child Care Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has been signed off in the Retail Food Program.
- 1 EH Specialist will be starting their training in the Child Care Program.

2. Environmental Health Water Team Updates

Douglas County Health Department was provided with an opportunity to comment on the Chatfield Basin Water Reclamation Facility Refurbishment Project. These efforts will expand wastewater treatment services to those that are currently on Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and address an existing wastewater lagoon located in Louviers. A process will need to be in place to ensure that OWTS systems are properly pumped by a licensed contractor, the septic tanks are crushed to prevent future safety concerns, and the proper documents are submitted to the health department to close out these permitted systems.

Our Water Team has reviewed the proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment System regulations (Reg. 43) which set the minimum standards for how OWTS systems are regulated statewide. These updated regulations are anticipated to go into effect June 15, 2025. DCHD anticipates the need for adopting a local regulation and will have up to one year from the effective date to adopt local regulations. A proposed timeline for adoption of local regulations will be completed following the *Procedures to Adopt or Revise Regulations by the Local Board of Health* in the upcoming months.

House Bill 24-1362 Concerning Measures to Promote the Use of Grey Water has been monitored by the EH Division. Periodic check-ins are held with Building Department and Public Works regarding the installation and use of grey water in new construction in the county. Douglas County will automatically be opted-in on January 1, 2026 and will need to meet the full requirements of Reg. 86, unless the Board of County Commissioners or Municipalities choose to opt-out, in full or in part. Counties or Municipalities can choose to opt-in later if they so choose.

3. Environmental Health Consumer Protection Team Updates

Senate Bill 25-285 was a collective effort regarding the retail food establishment inspection program across the state. It updated the annual fee schedule that is assessed to retail food establishments and supplements the inspection and new business implementation work that the Consumer Protection team provides.

House Bill 25-1295 Food Truck Operations also passed. This bill established a definition of what a mobile food establishment is and allows for reciprocity of various food truck licenses between jurisdictions across the state. The largest impact for local health departments will be the acceptance of Denver Licenses starting January 1, 2026.

4. Environmental Health Statistics

Since June, EH has:

- Conducted 403 inspections
 - 2 Body Art inspections
 - 50 Childcare facility inspections
 - 31 Recreational Water inspections
 - 311 Retail Food Establishment inspections
 - Licensed 43 Special Event Vendors
- Assisted restaurant owners and builders with 5 plan reviews
- Responded to 56 complaints
- Issued 211 permits
 - Issued 25 New Installation OWTS permits
 - Issued 12 Major Repair OWTS permits
 - Issued 30 Minor Repair OWTS permits
 - Issued 144 OWTS Use permits
- Reviewed 42 Land Use referrals