

**Emergency Preparedness and Response and Epidemiology
September 2025 Board of Health Updates**

Epidemiology:

- Outbreaks since the last BOH meeting report:
 - We investigated 12 outbreaks in school, preschool, or child care settings, 7 outbreaks in long-term care facilities, and 1 outbreaks in other priority settings.
- 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/>.
 - The public facing [data website](#) is now live.
- Disease Updates:
 - Viral respiratory disease cases (flu, COVID, and RSV) have remained low since June. We anticipate the seasonal increase in respiratory illness and associated outbreaks in the next quarter.
 - Douglas County has not had any confirmed measles cases, but we have provided contact follow-up and monitoring for exposed residents due to exposures in other counties or on flights.
 - We have investigated more bat exposures this summer than in previous years, and we have investigated far fewer raccoon exposures than last summer.
- Training:
 - 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 the use of AI in public health and generations in the workplace (hosted by the county).
 - One epidemiologist participated in the annual NACCHO 360 conference in July, including a wastewater surveillance workshop sponsored by NACCHO.
 - One epidemiologist will attend the Public Health in the Rockies Conference in September.
 - We hosted a full-time summer intern for June and July.
- Outreach:
 - The Epi team joined the EH team on a few summer camp inspections to provide education to camp nurses and reporting and measles preparedness.

EPR:

- Training:
 - Developed an introductory training class for Department staff that will serve as an intro to EPR function as well as basic ICS concepts related to Department Operation Center (DOC) jobs.
 - Developing Job Action Sheets for key positions within Incident Command.
- Partnership Building:
 - Participated in planning committees for multiple Metro regional exercises for Bioterrorism, Point of Dispensing, Plague + Zoonotic Response, etc.
 - Developing strategies with other local public health agencies to fill gaps left by the dismantled Healthcare Coalition.
- Internal Plans:
 - Rewrote Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the Health Department to accommodate the physical move to the Lansing building.

EPR and Epi Joint Activities:

- Training:
 - The EPR and Epi teams hosted an internal tabletop exercise in June to prepare for measles cases/outbreak.