



## **Executive Director's Update – June 2025**

### Introduction:

The department continues to perform at a high level, serving the needs of the residents of Douglas County.

### Executive Director Activities:

Participated in additional meetings of the Region 12 Opioid Council, to award additional Opioid funding and begin to develop plans for 2025.

Continue to participate in the Douglas County Homeless Initiative monthly meetings.

Participated in regular meetings of the Metro Denver Partnership for Health.

Participate in weekly project meetings related to the department's move coming up in July.

Attended the 2025 Congress on Healthcare Leadership sponsored by the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Health Department staff continues to work with Human Services staff on the Healthy Families Partnership, a program to give new parents information to get children's lives off to a good start, the first focus being on safe sleep for infants.

Our department continues to work with the two Advent Health hospitals in our county to perform our respective Community Health Assessment processes at the same time to increase effectiveness and reduce the frequency of asking our residents and partner organizations for data. This process has already led to increased interest by the CEOs of both hospitals in finding more ways that our organizations can work together.

### Infectious Disease Update:

Respiratory diseases such as Flu, RSV and COVID-19 are decreasing as expected for the season, numbers for Flu and RSV were a bit higher this past winter than in the previous winter but have come down quickly. Numbers for COVID-19 remain a bit elusive due to changes in data recording at the state level, nationally the numbers appear to be significantly lower than last year.

There were a higher number of cases of Pertussis than expected this past winter (double the number of cases seen in the 6-month period of September to February last year), mostly among elementary and high school age children, the risk here being transmission to younger siblings. This number has also been falling off, with only 3 cases reported in April.

We continue watching the Measles outbreak in Texas and New Mexico closely to try to head off any cases that make it to our area. There have been several suspect cases in our county but so far, none have turned out to be positive. Recent cases and exposures in Arapahoe County mean that this disease is on our doorstep, but our epi staff are working hard to make sure we keep the situation under control.

We are still collaborating with the other Metro health departments to coordinate messaging around Measles and to publicize the availability of vaccine clinics.

Our epidemiology team is doing great work and is continually looking for ways to better serve the county. You will hear an update on some of their efforts to provide information to the public later in tonight's agenda.

#### Future Plans:

The new office space for the health department is nearing completion and the plan is for all Castle Rock staff to move to the new location on July 7<sup>th</sup> and the Lone Tree staff to move on July 8<sup>th</sup>. This will generate efficiencies by locating staff, equipment and materials in one place. Our new address will be 11045 E Lansing Circle, Suite 300, Englewood, CO 80112.

Executive Director and a few staff will be attending the annual meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials in mid-July as well as the Public Health in the Rockies Conference in early September.

Our department is being considered to take the lead in applying with several other organizations in Colorado for a multi-year grant to improve population health using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML).

#### Health Administration Update:

Our accounting staff continues to streamline procedures and build solid working relationships with the county's finance and budget staff.

Our Vital Records staff continue to produce an impressive amount of work. During the period of December through February, our Vital Records Office sold 3,775 Birth Certificates and 2,847 Death Certificates for total revenue of \$111,171. Our arrangements with various funeral homes to deliver death certificates to them continue to enhance our revenues.