

Douglas County Health Department

Executive Director's Report to the Board of Health

Date: September 2025

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1. Executive Summary

The Health Department continues to deliver high-quality services to Douglas County residents. Key developments over the past quarter include expanded interagency collaboration, strategic health assessments, infectious disease monitoring, and operational enhancements as the department completed its relocation.

2. Executive Director Activities

- Regional Engagement
 - Participated in Region 12 Opioid Council meetings: awarded additional opioid mitigation funding and began 2025 planning.
 - Ongoing involvement with the Douglas County Homeless Initiative and Metro Denver Partnership for Health.
- Department Initiatives
 - Weekly planning meetings held for the departmental relocation completed in July.
 - Working with Omni consulting group to complete a new Public Health Improvement Plan based on the recent Community Health Needs Assessment
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- Community Health Collaboration
 - Continued partnership with Human Services on the Healthy Families Partnership, focusing first on infant safe sleep education.
 - Joint Community Health Assessment completed with Advent Health hospitals to streamline data collection and foster collaboration at the executive level.

3. Infectious Disease Update

- Seasonal Respiratory Illnesses
 - Flu and RSV: Higher winter cases than previous year but summer numbers were low.
 - COVID-19: Data limited due to state-level reporting changes; national data suggests significantly reduced case levels.

- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
 - Doubling of cases earlier this year compared to 2024's numbers, primarily in school-aged children.
 - Declining trend observed; cases are back to baseline.
- Measles Surveillance
 - We have monitored ongoing outbreaks in Texas, New Mexico, and sporadic cases around Colorado. The Texas outbreak seems to have ended.
 - No confirmed cases in Douglas County yet; coordination with metro health departments on messaging and vaccination access continues.
- Epidemiology
 - Team continues to enhance public health communication and disease surveillance; further updates scheduled later in this meeting.
 - Large numbers of potential animal exposures requiring staff work and veterinarian assistance to send samples of potentially rabid animals to the state laboratory.

4. Strategic & Operational Planning

- Department Relocation
 - New central office opened July 7 for all DCHD functions.
 - New Address: 11045 E Lansing Circle, Suite 300, Englewood, CO 80112
 - Benefits: increased efficiency through centralization of staff, equipment, and materials.
- Professional Development
 - Staff attended:
 - National Association of County and City Health Officials Annual Meeting – July
 - National Environmental Health Association Annual Meeting – July
 - Public Health in the Rockies Conference – September
 - Staff to attend:
 - American Public Health Association Annual Conference – early November
- Future Initiatives
 - The department is beginning to include the use of Artificial Intelligence in our work, starting with instantaneous translation services using iPads.

5. Health Administration Update

- Finance & Administration

- Continued progress in streamlining accounting procedures.
- Strengthened coordination with County Finance and Budget teams.
- Filling of three positions currently paused while we monitor the ongoing state/federal fiscal issues.
- Vital Records
 - June - August performance:
 - 3,686 Birth Certificates
 - 2,615 Death Certificates
 - \$106,522 in revenue
 - Enhanced revenue through direct delivery partnerships with funeral homes continues to improve with our new geographic location.