

Douglas County Health Department

Executive Director's Report to the Board of Health

Date: March 2026

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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.

2. Executive Director Activities

- Regional Engagement
 - Participated in Region 12 Opioid Council meetings: the council awarded additional opioid mitigation funding and began 2026 planning.
 - Ongoing involvement with the Douglas County Homeless Initiative and Metro Denver Partnership for Health.
- Department Initiatives
 - Published completed Public Health Improvement Plan based and Community Health Needs Assessment to the web for public information.
 - Completed a 2025 Annual Report, which will be presented for your board's review later in tonight's agenda.
- Community Health Collaboration
 - Continued partnership with Human Services on the Healthy Families Partnership, focusing first on infant safe sleep education.
 - Initiated meetings with local hospital partners to encourage their participation in health-related initiatives to benefit Douglas County.

3. Infectious Disease Update

- Seasonal Respiratory Illnesses
 - Flu and RSV: current hospitalization numbers are similar to the same period in 2025, Flu numbers increased in the Fall and are back near baseline, RSV numbers remain slightly elevated.
 - COVID-19: Data that is available suggests case levels slightly lower than last year.
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

- Numbers are very low this year.
- Measles Surveillance
 - We have monitored ongoing outbreaks around the country and sporadic cases around Colorado.
 - While there have been some reported exposures, 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.
 - We are starting to make more use of available hospitalization data, including in the areas of Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Chronic Disease.

4. Strategic & Operational Planning

- Professional Development
 - Staff attended:
 - National Congress on Healthcare Leadership – March
 - Abstracts submitted:
 - National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Meeting,
 - American Public Health Association Annual Meeting.
 - Healthy Families Partnership program submitted NACCHO for a Model Practice Award.
- Future Initiatives
 - The department is expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence in our work, starting with instantaneous translation services using iPads and document editing for clarity, readability and grammar.

5. Health Administration Update

- Finance & Administration
 - Continued progress in streamlining accounting procedures.
 - Strengthened coordination with County Finance and Budget teams.
 - Filling of two positions still paused while we monitor the ongoing state/federal fiscal issues and the possible impact of the county's early retirement program.
- Vital Records
 - December - February performance:

- 3,078 Birth Certificates
- 2,614 Death Certificates
- \$120,223 in revenue