

## BOH, September 2024 EPI & EPR Updates:

The EPI Team has been very busy balancing a multitude of activities. These activities include:

- Outbreaks since the last BOH meeting:
  - We investigated 6 outbreaks in school, preschool, or childcare settings and 1 outbreak in a priority setting.
  - A statewide rabies investigation involving a rabies-positive puppy adopted from out of state required extensive and sensitive Epi engagement with families of adopted puppies and staff at an impacted veterinary clinic.
- Data:
  - We collaborated with IT to resume the Communicable Disease Dashboard after integrating data from EpiTrax, the new statewide communicable disease surveillance system.
- Disease Updates:
  - The West Nile season has been mild relative to last year.
  - We have had a busy summer with rabies exposure assessments following human or pet contact with bats and raccoons.
  - In preparation for the upcoming respiratory season, we have updated vaccine recommendations for Flu, RSV, and COVID on our website.
- Website: We continue to update the website with monthly community health topics and routine updates to keep the content current and accurate.
- Misc:
  - Two Epi staff participated in an all-day Cross-Sector Wastewater Surveillance Workshop hosted by CDPHE.
  - 3 Epi staff are participating in Public Health in the Rockies Conference this month.
  - 3 Epi staff will attend ICS 400 training, and 1 Epi will attend ICS 300 training in September.
  - 3 EPI staff are sitting in an Infection Preventionist certification testing process. This is a very comprehensive and challenging program. Course content will assist the EPIs interact at a higher level with our hospital partners, while enhancing our ability to serve our constituents.

EPR significant activities include:

- Deployments:
  - Recent Front Range Wildland and Wildland Interface activity provided the opportunity for us to assist a number of other agencies in their time of need. Preexisting quality relationships enhanced our effectiveness, while also validating our training and exercise efforts.
  - Since the last BOH meeting, we have used our department operations center, (DOC) four times to address necessary incidents or events.
  - 2 specialists are attending National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Commander (IC) training.
  - 1 specialist attended Local Emergency Planning Commission Conference.
  - 1 specialist has completed phase I of the State of Colorado's Emergency Manager Academy.
  - EPR and EPI staff have also spent a good deal of time providing material for accreditation.