

# DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COLORADO

## Community Health Update – December 2024

### Activities:

- **Clinical Services:** During the period of September 1 – December 13, 2024, DCHD partnered with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and ColoVAX to host four community immunization events. In total, 72 individuals were served and more than 200 vaccines were administered.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, DCHD, the Catholic Medical Association, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and Julissa Soto partnered together to organize and carry out a Health Fair at the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Castle Rock.



This fair was a culmination of incredible efforts on behalf of each partner. 24 vendors attended, each offering a unique service to communities in need.

Some included Medicaid assistance from Doctors Care, health education from DCHD, and manipulative medicine treatments from Rocky Vista University students. The most



visited vendor was vaccine administration where, during the 4-hour clinic, 215 vaccines were administered. Many of the services provided remain inaccessible to the populations who attended this fair, due to insurance or residency status.

The highlight of this event for many attendees, however, was the pinata and clown – children who were about to receive vaccinations were smiling ear to ear and enjoying the company of others. This Health Fair was an incredible success for the population health of Douglas County, and we look forward to the next fair, which we are hopeful to host in spring 2025.

- **Healthy Families Partnership:** As has been shared previously, in December 2023, Douglas County Health Department and the Department of Human Services was charged with developing an initiative to get infant sleep sacks into the hands of all new birthing families in Douglas County. To make this the most meaningful



opportunity to support families through resources and education, DCHD and DCHS brought together 13 additional partner agencies to create the Health Families Partnership of Douglas County. Partner agencies include: AdventHealth Castle Rock, AdventHealth Parker, Advocates for Children CASA, Catholic Charities, Developmental Pathways, Douglas County Early Childhood Council, Douglas County Libraries, Douglas County Mental Health Initiative, Douglas County School District, HCA HealthONE Sky Ridge, Manna Resource Center, UCHealth Highlands Ranch Hospital, and You Are Not Alone.

Over the course of the year, this group of subject matter experts developed laminated educational cards on how to use a sleep sack, how to keep your infant safe while sleeping, and all babies cry - how to manage your emotions when caring for an infant. The cards are part of a Health Families Partnership bag that also includes a sleep sack, sticker with important phone numbers for families, Douglas County Library's Cuddle Up and Read care package, and visual



acuity cards from Developmental Pathways. Additionally, families can access a variety of resources on the new Health Families Partnership webpage: <https://yourhealthyfamily.org>.

The partnership launch began with HCA HealthONE Sky Ridge and AdventHealth Parker on September 18<sup>th</sup>, UCHealth Highlands Ranch Hospital joined on October 25<sup>th</sup>, and AdventHealth Castle Rock rounded out these efforts on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

- **Mental Health First Aid:** On October 16 – 18, 2024, Douglas County Health Department and Douglas County Libraries sent a total of six staff members to attend Mental Health First Aid Instructor Candidate Training through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. This three-day intensive prepared staff to deliver the eight-hour Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to businesses, organizations, and community partners throughout the County, beginning in 2025. Each instructor is required to deliver three MHFA classes per year, to keep their instructor credentials, and conversations are already occurring with churches, law enforcement, and probation to determine how to roll out training with



their teams. The instructor training was made possible through the ARPA grant awarded to the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative.

- WIC:** WIC began the new partnership with Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) on October 1, 2024. So far, the partnership has been going smoothly, with many opportunities to streamline approaches to create efficiencies with both programs. Through this funding, DCHD has hired a second Registered Dietician to support high risk families who are in NCHD’s WIC program who starts in early January 2025.

Through November 2024, WIC has served a total of 2,752 unduplicated individuals. 8% of participants are pregnant individuals, 15% are postpartum individuals, 20% are infants under the age of 12 months, and 56% are children under the age of 5 years. 85% of enrolled families are currently participating in Medicaid and 27% also participate in SNAP.

Douglas County WIC also received additional funding to put seven DCHD employees through Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) training. As CLCs, staff have expanded knowledge in lactation and can provide an enhanced level of support to families who may be struggling with breastfeeding or who just need extra encouragement to feel successful in their breastfeeding journeys.

- Community Partner Highlights:** The Community Health team participated in the following community presentations and events from September 2024 – December 2024:

Date	Event	Location
9/6/2024	Immunization Presentation to Seniors Council	Castle Pines
9/7/2024	Advocates for Children CASA Red Wagon Ball	Denver
9/14/2024	Bumps & Babies at HCA HealthONE Sky Ridge	Lone Tree
9/14/2024	Healthy Families Fun Fest	Parker
9/16/2024	Immunization Presentation and Blood Pressure Checks for Highlands Ranch Senior Center	Highlands Ranch
9/17/2024	Douglas County Healthy Youth Coalition	Lone Tree
9/18/2024	Healthy Families Partnership Launch at HCA HealthONE Sky Ridge	Lone Tree
9/18/2024	Healthy Families Partnership Launch at AdventHealth Parker	Parker
9/18/2024	Rally for Hope	Castle Rock
9/19/2024	Community Resource Fair for Older Adults	Parker
9/19/2024	Immunization Clinic with CDPHE	Lone Tree
9/21/2024	Cultivating Community Health & Wellness Event	Lone Tree
9/30/2024	Mobile Recovery Event	Castle Rock
10/9/2024	CBD Presentation to Castle Rock Senior Center	Castle Rock
10/10/2024	Immunization Presentation for Lincoln Meadows	Parker
10/12/2024	Mental Health Colorado Gala	Denver

10/14/2024	Flu Vaccine Clinic with Highlands Ranch Senior Center	Highlands Ranch
10/21/2024	Flu Vaccine Clinic with Highlands Ranch Senior Center	Highlands Ranch
10/23/2024		
10/24/2024	Thriving Together Event at Cresthill Middle School	Highlands Ranch
10/26/2024	National Drug Takeback with DCSO	Highlands Ranch
11/19/2024	Immunization Clinic with CDPHE	Castle Rock
11/23/2024	Community Health Fair with St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	Castle Rock
12/3/2024	Immunization Clinic at Bear Canyon Elementary	Highlands Ranch
12/6/2024	Resource Table at SECORCares	Parker