

Douglas County Health Department

Executive Director's Report to the Board of Health

Date: December 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.

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
 - Working with Omni consulting group to complete a new Public Health Improvement Plan based on the recent Community Health Needs Assessment
- Community Health Collaboration
 - Continued partnership with Human Services on the Healthy Families Partnership, focusing first on infant safe sleep education.

3. Infectious Disease Update

- Seasonal Respiratory Illnesses
 - Flu and RSV: current hospitalization numbers are similar to the same period in 2024.
 - COVID-19: Data limited due to state-level reporting changes; data that is available suggests case levels similar to this time last year.
- 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.
 - Large numbers of potential animal exposures caused us to spend money on training and vaccinations for veterinary staff involved in send samples of potentially rabid animals to the state laboratory.

4. Strategic & Operational Planning

- Professional Development
 - Staff attended:
 - American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo – November
 - Staff to attend:
 - National Congress on Healthcare Leadership - March
- 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 three positions still paused while we monitor the ongoing state/federal fiscal issues, one may be filled in early 2026 due to expected new funding from the state.
- Vital Records
 - September - November performance:
 - 3,056 Birth Certificates
 - 2,566 Death Certificates
 - \$92,035 in revenue