



## **Executive Director's Update – September 2024**

### Introduction:

The department continues to perform at a high level, serving the needs of the residents of Douglas County.

### Executive Director Activities:

Participated in additional meetings of the Region 12 Opioid Council, to award first-year Opioid funding and begin to develop ideas for second-year funding.

Continue to participate in the Douglas County Homeless Initiative monthly meetings.

Participated in regular meetings of the Metro Denver Partnership for Health.

I attended the National Association of County and City Health Officials annual meeting in July, in Detroit.

Health Department staff continues to work with Human Services staff on a program to give new parents information to get children's lives off to a good start, the first focus being on safe sleep for infants.

Several staff attended the Public Health in the Rockies conference in Keystone in late September.

Our department continues to work with the two Advent Health hospitals in our county to try and perform our respective Community Health Assessment processes at the same time in order to increase effectiveness and reduce the frequency of asking our residents and partner organizations for data.

### Infectious Disease Update:

COVID-19 cases have been a bit elevated over the summer but appear to be leveling off, Influenza and RSV cases also remain low at this time. We continue to recommend that all people eligible for vaccines receive them as their best protection against respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

There is continuing national coverage of H5N1 (bird flu) being passed to people. There have been cases in Colorado associated with employees who work to cull poultry at farms identified with exposure to the disease. There have also been some 'hits' in wastewater systems in our county indicating the presence of Influenza A, H5. This indicates there may have been H5N1 present, most likely from wild birds or possibly from raw milk. No human exposures are known in Douglas County.

### Future Plans:

The county appears to be close to agreeing on a lease for a building in Meridian that would house our department as well as other departments such as the Human Services and Community Justice Services.

I will be participating in the American Public Health Association annual conference in Minneapolis in October.

### Health Administration Update:

Our Vital Records staff continue to produce a truly impressive amount of work. During the period of June through August, our Vital Records Office sold 3,536 Birth Certificates and 383 Death Certificates for total revenue of \$71,921.

We have formally announced our interest in accreditation to the Public Health Accreditation Board and paid the initial fee which will provide us with training opportunities and an assigned support person.