

Environmental Health Division Update – June 2025

During the last quarter, Environmental Health (EH) has hired and continued to and upskill Environmental Health Specialists. The team is focused on training the newest hires in the various EH programs and expanding our depth and breadth of knowledge amongst our senior staff. We currently have one EH Specialist position open on the Water Team. Recruitment efforts are ongoing. We continue to collaborate with CDPHE for training and the official signoffs needed for new inspectors to conduct independent inspections.

- 1 EH Specialist has started their training in the Retail Food Program.
- 2 EH Specialists have been signed off in the Retail Food Program.
- 2 EH Specialists have started their training in the Child Care Program.

Our Water Team has reviewed the proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment System regulations (Reg. 43) which set the minimum standards for how OWTS systems are regulated statewide. These updated regulations are anticipated to go into effect June 15, 2025. DCHD anticipates the need for adopting a local regulation and will have up to one year from the effective date to adopt local regulations. A proposed timeline for adoption of local regulations will be completed following the *Procedures to Adopt or Revise Regulations by the Local Board of Health* in the upcoming months.

House Bill 24-1362 Concerning Measures to Promote the Use of Grey Water has been monitored by the EH Division. Periodic check-ins are held with Building Department regarding the installation and use of grey water in new construction in the county. Douglas County will automatically be opted-in on January 1, 2026 and will need to meet the full requirements of Reg. 86, unless the Board of County Commissioners or Municipalities choose to opt-out, in full or in part. Counties or Municipalities can choose to opt-in later if they so choose.

Our Consumer Protection Team is gearing up for a busy summer season with outdoor festivals that sell food moving into the spotlight. The EH Team works with event coordinators to identify food vendors and their business operations. People that are selling food are required to meet certain parameters to ensure that food is stored safely and that proper hygiene is maintained. In 2025, mobile food trucks must have a yellow sticker from any county in Colorado (except for Denver) displayed on their unit showing that they hold a current food license. Those operating on tabletops and booths must have a pink license issued by DCHD that outlines what foods they have been evaluated for and approved to sell.

Senate Bill 25-285 was a collective effort regarding the retail food establishment inspection program across the state. It updated the annual fee schedule that is assessed to retail food establishments and supplements the inspection and new business implementation work that the Consumer Protection team provides.

House Bill 25-1295 Food Truck Operations also passed. This bill established a definition of what a mobile food establishment is and allows for reciprocity of various food truck licenses between jurisdictions across the state. The largest impact for local health departments will be the acceptance of Denver Licenses starting January 1, 2026.

Since March, EH has:

- Conducted 335 inspections
 - 5 Body Art inspections
 - 40 Childcare facility inspections
 - 21 Recreational Water inspections
 - 269 Retail Food Establishment inspections
 - Licensed 35 Special Event Vendors
- Assisted restaurant owners and builders with 31 plan reviews
- Responded to 40 complaints

- Issued 175 permits
 - Issued 28 New Installation OWTS permits
 - Issued 8 Major Repair OWTS permits
 - Issued 32 Minor Repair OWTS permits
 - Issued 105 OWTS Use permits
- Reviewed 23 Land Use referrals