



Community Health Update – September 2024

Activities:

- **Community Support:** DCHD partners with CDPHE to distribute Naloxone (Narcan) and Fentanyl Test Strips to businesses, organizations, and individuals in the community that may be at risk for opioid overdoses. Since January, we've distributed 2,250 Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS) and 225 Narcan kits to individuals and businesses in the community. A business partner sent an email in August, when requesting additional FTS for his employees and shared the following testimonial with DCHD which highlights the importance of this resource in the Douglas County community:

Thank you so much for your assistance in the past. We were able to distribute all tests to employees throughout a 3-month time frame. We now have a lot of new team members coming on board and want everyone to be safe.

I want to say it's very possible we saved some lives. I cannot legally ask anyone details, but I have had several employees directly advise they "turned something down because of the test results." This leads me to believe whatever it was tested positive for fentanyl. So, I couldn't be more satisfied with the help we're providing.

Regardless of it being opioids, or something else, the disease of addiction will always be present in our communities. Providing resources to "help" people suffering from this ailment is what I find to be so important. I cannot blame or judge individuals, since I know in many cases they do not want to use, every day is a struggle, and they certainly do not want to die. Utilizing testing strips can at least allow certain people to test for an extremely dangerous substance and prevent intake of whatever it is.

I do not believe we are fighting addiction but helping those "struggling" with addiction. I can only hope that they seek help and/or realize that the street supply of illegal substances can be "extremely" dangerous and tests such as this can prove that. Whether it saves someone's life or leads them to the greater understanding that the vast majority of illegal narcotics are now tainted/cut with fentanyl is my goal when providing tests for employees.

- **Clinical Services:** Multiple DCHD staff attended the Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Denver on June 5th and 6th, which was supported through core immunization grant funding. This course provided an in-depth understanding of vaccines and the most up-to-date information on vaccine availability and recommendations.

DCHD hosted three vaccine events, in partnership with STRIDE Community Health Center and CDPHE during June – August 2024. A total of 63 individuals (including three adults) were vaccinated and 128 vaccine doses were administered.

- Healthy Families Partnership:** The Healthy Families Partnership (HFP) launch with Douglas County hospital partners will begin in September and October with the first distribution of sleep sacks and safe sleep education materials!

At the end of July, members of the Health Families Partnership and representatives from Sky Ridge Medical Center came together at the Human Services Conference Center to assemble the bags that will be provided to birthing families in the County. A sample of the bag that will be distributed will be made available during the BOH meeting.



- WIC:** WIC was awarded the additional partnership funding that was requested to support a Registered Dietician for Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD). The Assistant Director for Community Health and WIC Manager have been meeting with NCHD leadership to begin the planning and implementation for this new partnership, effective 10/1/2024.

Through July 2024, WIC has served a total of 2,317 unduplicated individuals. 8% of participants are pregnant individuals, 15% are postpartum individuals, 21% 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.

August was **National Breastfeeding Month** (with the first week of August celebrating World Breastfeeding Week) and provided an opportunity for the WIC team to share information on promoting and supporting breastfeeding families through the celebration of cultures, communities, and the importance of a strong nutritional foundation. WIC's Lead WIC Educator put together bulletin board at both the Castle Rock and Lone Tree Health Department locations to highlight fun facts about breastfeeding and support families in their breastfeeding journeys.



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

Date	Event	Location
6/5/2024	Senior Life Expo - Booth	Castle Rock
6/7/2024	SECOR Cares Resource Table	Parker
6/8/2024	Elizabash – Booth with Elbert County Public Health (Tobacco Prevention)	Elizabeth
6/10/2024	Immunization Clinic with STRIDE CHC	Castle Rock
6/11/2024	WIC and Manna Care	Highlands Ranch
6/14 – 6/15/2024	Parker Days - Booth	Parker
6/18/2024	Douglas County Health Alliance – MCH Presentation	Castle Rock
6/27/2024	Fall Prevention Presentation	Lone Tree
7/6/2024	Elbert Days with Elbert County Public Health (Tobacco Prevention)	Elbert
7/6/2024	7 th Annual Vet Fest – Booth	Castle Rock
7/13/2024	Rock Your Wellness Health & Wellness Fair – Booth	Highlands Ranch
7/18/2024	SECOR Cares Resource Table	Parker
7/30/2024	Douglas County Strive to Thrive – Booth	Parker
7/31/2024	Immunization Clinic with STRIDE CHC	Castle Rock
8/2 – 8/3/2024	Elbert County Fair – Booth with Elbert County Public Health (Tobacco Prevention)	Kiowa
8/3/2024	Lone Tree PD Open House – Booth	Lone Tree
8/4/2024	Douglas County PrideFest	Parker
8/16/2024	SECOR Cares Resource Table	Parker
8/20/2024	Immunization Clinic with CDPHE	Lone Tree