

June 2026 Board of Health Report for the EPI/EPR Division

The Douglas County Health Department epidemiologists have attended several conferences in Q2 including the Colorado One Health and Zoonoses Conference, and the Colorado Epidemiology Conference. Two of the epidemiologists gave a presentation about partnerships between the health department, animal control agencies, veterinarians, and wildlife rehabilitation facilities. The presentation was well received by the audience and led to several discussions with epidemiologists and nurses in other jurisdictions who want to learn about Douglas County's animal bite protocols in an effort to improve their own. Two epidemiologists are also representing the DCHD epidemiology team in Boston this month at the 2026 Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists conference, where one of them is giving a presentation on a salmonella outbreak at a catered event in Colorado.

In addition to conferences, the epidemiologists have also been networking and convening with colleagues from surrounding jurisdictions at several events including the bi-annual EIP meeting at CDPHE headquarters, and a multi-jurisdictional bioterrorism training event hosted by Douglas County.

Finally, in addition to routine disease investigation, the epidemiology team has been responding to more rare disease events including hantavirus and Ebola. The epidemiology team fielded multiple calls from concerned Douglas County citizens in the wake of the cruise ship hantavirus outbreak. One DCHD epidemiologist and a zoonoses expert from CDPHE were activated to investigate a domicile and other facilities in the aftermath of a hantavirus death.

Meanwhile, the EPR Team has been focused on:

POD Planning, which is a continuing process, due to various internal and external stimuli and associated changes.

COOP revisions - remaining agile, and situationally aware of operational realities.

Collaborative effort for joint criminal epidemiology workshop with DCSO/FBI, & Arapahoe County to improve public health law enforcement interface cross-jurisdictionally.

Closed out PHEP Grant deliverables, and associated reporting.

Collaboration with EH to create all-hazards recovery materials to enhance continuity.

Strengthening internal awareness and ambient capacity via EPR 101 educational delivery.

Continued participation and training efforts with regional partners via committees and workshops including the HCC, FRPHC, Community of Care, LEPC, and RETAC.

Completed annual PHEOP Revisions

Supported Epi with Incident Management (ICS) for hantavirus, and other outbreak investigation efforts. This support includes continuing cross-training within the ICS structure.