

To: Board of Health
From: Dan Martindale, M.P.A.
Public Health Director
Date: September 30, 2014 (Reflects August 2014)
Re: Director's Report

Acronyms

- EPCPH – El Paso County Public Health
- CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Disease Prevention and Control—*Dr. Bill Letson, M.D., Medical Director*

Communicable Disease (CD): 52 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated:

Campylobacter:	15	giardia	5	chronic hepatitis B	5
Salmonella:	6	shigella	1	STEC (shiga-toxin producing E. coli)	2
Varicella:	5	viral meningitis	1	strep pneumo invasive	2
Malaria	1	pertussis	5	Cryptosporidiosis	3
				Haemophilus influenzae	1

- Foodborne illness complaints: 4
- Outbreaks investigated: 1 (cryptosporidiosis related to contact with sick livestock)
- Responded to 46 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals and other rabies-related concerns. From those inquiries 23 animals were tested for rabies (15 bats, 2 raccoons, 6 skunks); Five bats tested positive for rabies.
- Persons recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) due to exposure to rabid bats: 2 adults

Tuberculosis (TB):

- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 1
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 2
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 39 , IZ - 22
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 1
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 10

Environmental Health (EH)—*Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Division Director*

Air Quality Control Program

- Reviewed and approved eight construction activity permits to assure contractors have adequate fugitive dust control plans.

- Reviewed and approved one open burning permit to evaluate air quality issues that may impact public health.

Animal and Vector (Mosquito) Surveillance

- Received nine inquiries regarding dead animals and mosquito breeding sites. Three dead wild rabbits were evaluated for possible plague and tularemia testing by our laboratory. One wild rabbit tested positive for plague and one tested positive for tularemia in eastern El Paso County. Staff went door-to-door to notify area residents, and distribute “public health alert” flyers to residents in the affected area to raise the level of awareness and ask people to take precautions to prevent plague and tularemia.

Body Art Safety Program

Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease at body art facilities:

- Regular inspections: 8
- Complaint investigated: 1

Black Forest Fire Recovery

- To date, 329 on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for review. System evaluations are conducted by either a Colorado Professional Engineer or EPCPH Licensed Installer, and are submitted electronically to EPCPH. Of the 329 OWTS evaluations, 79 have required a repair permit to either replace a damaged system, or relocate the system.

Child Care Inspection Program

Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in licensed child care facilities.

- Regular inspections: 16
- Follow up inspections to assure compliance: 4
- Pre-operational inspections: 4
- Complaint investigated: 1

Drinking Water Inspection Program

- To date, five of the seven Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment contracted non-community groundwater water systems have been surveyed. Sanitary surveys are conducted to assure that the water is properly treated and safe for drinking. The two remaining non-community groundwater systems will be surveyed before the end of the contract, September 30, 2014.

Land-Use and Planning

- Nine El Paso County Development Services Division projects were submitted for review and comment. One of the projects is a final plat review for a 28 lot residential subdivision in northern El Paso County. Review comments included a finding for sufficient water quality for the drinking water source proposed, adequate treatment capacity for the projected wastewater flow, and information on construction activity permits.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Groundwater Protection Program

Completed the following activities to promote proper design, siting and installation of OWTS to protect drinking water originating from groundwater:

- Final inspections: 30
- Soil and site evaluations: 28
- New permits issued: 17
- Repair permits issued: 18

- Application/design reviews: 14
- Pumper truck inspections: 7
- The OWTS technical advisory group (TAG) held their quarterly meeting in eastern El Paso County. Members observed a test pit being dug with a backhoe which allowed members an opportunity to see soil being classified by texture, shape, color, and structure. This is an example of how staff and industry are working together on the application of the new regulations.

Recreational Water Program

Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in public pools and hot tubs.

- Regular inspections: 42
- Follow up inspections to assure compliance: 5
- Complaints at public swimming pools investigated: 2

Retail Food Safety Program

Completed the following activities to promote food safety and prevent foodborne illness in our community:

- Routine inspections: 418
- Follow-up inspections: 90
- Plan reviews – new construction: 8
- Plan review – remodel: 1
- Pre-operational inspections: 31
- Complaint investigations: 19
- Students who took our online Basic Food Safety class: 19
- Students took our on-site Basic Food Safety class: 12

Emergency Preparedness and Response: -- *Lisa Powell, MPS*

- Completed the Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP) through FEMA and was awarded a certificate of completion. This year-long Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP) is a title certification program designed to improve the capabilities of emergency management exercise personnel in exercise program management and in every phase of the overall exercise.
- Participated in a Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center (OEM EOC) training/exercise in conjunction with the US Pro Challenge on Thursday, August 21, 2014.
- Appointed as a member of the Incident Management Workgroup with the National Association of City and County Health Officials. This is a national level workgroup that has been providing feedback to the National Emergency Management Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) regarding mission ready packages for public health.

Health Services—*Kelley Christians, R.D. Division Director*

Clinical Services:

- Served 252 qualifying patients, for a total of 277 visits in August.
- Outreach Activity: Clinic manager attended the Older Women Reaching Back for the Younger Women conference in Colorado Springs. There were 26 different organizations providing resources and information to support young women, spiritually, socially, financially, and medically.

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- The ECOP Public Health Nurse facilitated the third in this series of the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) classes for 20 child care providers. After this class, individual mentoring visits were conducted.

- The ECOP Public Health Nurse facilitated a meeting with six child care nurse consultants and a diabetic educator.

ABCD (Assuring Better Child and Health Development) Developmental Screening:

- The Public Health Nurse organized and facilitated a taskforce meeting with 22 participants during which time community spotlights were done.

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP):

- Our current caseload is 56. We acquired 24 new referrals this month and provided information and referrals to an additional 13 clients.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP): There are 206 first time mothers enrolled in the program.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF): The program received 24 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. 13 enrolled in class.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC has a client caseload of 15,081.

Laboratory –Jean Hurd, M.T., Public Health Laboratory Director

The laboratory tested 629 water samples, of which 308 came from Public Water Systems (PWSIDs).

Staff member attended the Colorado Laboratory Forum meeting hosted by the CDPHE, which addressed “Adapting to Culture-Independent Diagnostic Testing-Public Health and Clinical Laboratories.”

The El Paso County Public Health Laboratory co-hosted a Sentinel Lab Wet Workshop for clinical laboratory workers in the southern Colorado area. Participants were given information on the epidemiology, lab identification and safe handling of *Y. pestis* (plague) and *F. tularensis* (tularemia) specimens.

Office of Communication—Susan Wheelan, MBA, Communication Director

Communication Support

Healthinfo requests:

The Office of Communication receives and refers e-mails that come to our website each day and tracks our responses. These e-mails reveal information needs that could be addressed through creation of print or website material. Between August 1-31, 2014, our office received and answered/referred approximately 60 emails through our website.

Print News Media

08.01.14 – The Gazette, “Peak Facts: Overweight Kids” Information from the EPCPH 2013 Annual Report, Estimated daily circulation, 77,000.

08.22.14 – The Gazette, [Plague found in wild rabbit in eastern El Paso County](#), Information provided by provided by Tom Gonzales, By Matt Steiner, Estimated daily circulation, 77,000.

- Outbreak News today: Wild rabbit found in El Paso County positive for plague, Posted by [Robert Herriman](#) on August 22, 2014 <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/wild-rabbit-found-in-el-paso-county-positive-for-plague-37515/>

Radio News

West Nile virus (WNV), *Clear Channel Radio's 24/7 News*, Phone interview was provided. The story ran 8/1/14 on more than a dozen Colorado radio stations. New service sent story to over 800 radio stations around the country.

Social Media/Online digital media

Facebook: 474 “likes”; Twitter: 1,146 current followers.

- KKTV website: Plague Found In Rabbit In El Paso County, Friday August 21, 2014 <http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/Plague-Found-In-Rabbit-In-El-Paso-County-272327481.html>
- Fox21 website: [Plague found in eastern El Paso County](#) by [Travis Ruiz](#), Posted: 08.22.2014 at 10:56

Television News Media

The Office of Communication has implemented a measurement tool that captures and places a market value on TV news coverage. Media value dollar figures reflect equivalent costs for 30-second spot advertising during the respective newscasts and times. Multiple newscasts/times are noted, when applicable, and included in value totals. There are other stories, as well as coverage and video on local news media outlets’ websites that are not included in this news media value report.

- KOAA, News Channel 5. [Video: Larkspur Peace Corps trainee evacuated from Ebola zone](#); Interview provided by Dr. Bill Letson, Medical Director, Local Viewership: 54,804; estimated value: \$13,749.48 August 8, 2014 – KOAA News 5 at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- KOAA News Channel5: Your Healthy Family with Annie Snead – Effects of Marijuana on the Teenage Brain. Interview provided by Dr. Bill Letson, Medical Director. Local Viewership: 72,471; estimated value: \$8,977.50 August 11, 2014 – KOAA News 5 at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- KOAA, News Channel 5. [Second case of human rabbit fever found in Colorado](#). Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, Environmental Health Director, Local Viewership: 78,528; estimated value: \$6,057.03 August 13, 2014 – KOAA News 5 at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- KRDO, News Channel 13: [Plague in El Paso County](#). Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, Environmental Health Director, KRDO News 13 at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and [10:00 p.m. and 6 a.m.](#) Local Viewership: 25,445; estimated value: \$1,840.22 August 24, 2014 – KRDO News 13 at 5 p.m., 6p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- KOAA, News Channel 5: [Plague in El Paso County](#), KOAA Morning News Local Viewership: 54,804; estimated value: \$13,749.48 August 8, 2014 – KOAA News 5 at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- KKTV, News Channel 11: [Plague in El Paso County](#) KOAA News 11 at noon. Local Viewership: 33,575; estimated value: \$2,177.12 August 24, 2014 – KKTV News.
- KXRM, Fox21 News: [Plague in El Paso County](#), Fox21 News 11 at 5:30 p.m. Local Viewership: 37,426; estimated value: \$2827.49 August 24 and 25, 2014 – Fox 21 News at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- KKTV, News at 5:30: [Plague in El Paso County](#). Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, Environmental Health Director, KKTV News Channel 11, Local Viewership: 33,575; estimated value: \$6,532 August 25, 2014 – KKTV News 5 at 5 p.m., 6p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- KOAA News Channel 5: [El Paso County has new Public Health Director](#) KOAA News 5 at 6 p.m. Local Viewership: 12,503; estimated value: \$352.54 August 28, 2014

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,307 unique visitors to the site with 21,788 pageviews (from August 1 to August 31, 2014). The top five most visited pages were birth and death records, home page, inspection reports, WIC and immunizations.

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- Coordinated a tobacco retailer stakeholder meeting with four Colorado Springs retailers to obtain additional feedback on youth tobacco access policy efforts.
- Facilitated the Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC) meeting to provide updates related to policy, youth coalition development and a presentation on alternatives to traditional tobacco: the rise of the electronic cigarette. Electronic cigarettes are a rapidly growing industry and state and federal regulations are lagging behind. E-cigarette manufacturers are using the same marketing tactics that were previously used by traditional cigarettes to increase use rates, especially among youth.
- Met with Commander of the Colorado Springs Police Department, Metro Vice, Narcotics, and Intelligence Division (VNI) to discuss youth tobacco prevention policy efforts in Colorado Springs. VNI commander offered support for our youth tobacco prevention efforts, and approved our Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (CCIAA) protocol.
- TEPP staff continues to offer assistance and technical support to administration and enforcement staff in the City of Fountain to support the Non-Cigarette Tobacco Retailer License Ordinance.
- Met with Department of Human Services (DHS) leadership to discuss integration of tobacco cessation resources and protocols into their program work flow.
- As part of the “Ask, Advise, Refer” tobacco cessation EPCPH policy, 22 clients were referred to the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program for tobacco cessation assistance.
- Attended the final presentation to support the Leading Edge Teen Program offered through Leadership Pikes Peak. The presentation was initiated and driven by TEPP. Multiple student groups, including one that focused on youth tobacco prevention as their community problem, presented the projects they researched and developed over the 2014 summer. TEPP plans to continue working with the students from this group to further youth tobacco prevention efforts.
- TEPP staff and volunteers supported back to school events at Deerfield and Hillside Community Centers, which are operated by the City of Colorado Springs. Attendance at the events was 250 at Deerfield and 300 at Hillside. TEPP provided information about the dangers of tobacco use and promoted free cessation resources such as the Colorado QuitLine and COQuitMobile.
- EPCPH staff attended the Teddy Bear Days event at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and provided tobacco cessation and giveaways at the agency’s booth. The event drew 4,000 attendees over the weekend.
- TEPP’s media campaign continued through July. These efforts are targeted to reach 18-24 year olds and the low-SES populations to educate them about free tobacco cessation resources through the Colorado QuitLine.
- Television media reach during August included

Station	Number of Spots	Impressions	Reach
Fox 21	191	766,428	67,274
KRDO	30	34,000	31,200
KOAA	103	95,000	176,982
Telemundo	74	n/a	n/a

- A highlight of the TEPP television media plan was that 83.1% of Adults 18-24 were reached during the month of August.