

# TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2020 & 2021

### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Recently, Public Health has been in the spotlight for work around the COVID-19 pandemic. You have heard all about the testing sites, incidence rates, call centers, and vaccine clinics. Public Health professionals are also the ones answering your questions about the virus — How can I protect my family and myself? What should I do if I think I have COVID-19? Is the vaccine safe? Yes! It is safe and effective!

The reality is that public health tracks epidemics every day, and while this job is not always glamorous, as depicted in the movies (have you seen the movie Contagion?), it is an essential public health service. It is only 1 of 10, in fact. The 10 Essential Public Health Services, or tools, define public health and distinguish it from health care. Just as you have tools in your toolbox to keep you well and healthy, such as exercising, eating healthy, asking for help when you need it, avoiding unhealthy behaviors like smoking and, now, occasionally wearing a mask, public health uses these 10 essential tools to protect and promote the health of all people in our community. These provide a foundation for public health and distinguish it from health care, describing tools such as collecting data on the health of populations; engaging with community members to co-develop solutions to health problems; and ensuring clean air, water, and food. Not only does public health work to keep the community safe during times of crisis, it works to better us as individuals and as a community.

To achieve optimal health for all, these tools actually promote policies, systems and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being. When done well, public health can achieve something remarkable: nothing. No outbreaks; no health concerns; no lives lost prematurely. It is a lofty and likely unachievable goal, but encompasses the most important aspect of public health, prevention.

Here is a peek at what Summit County Public Health does every day for our community, pandemic or not.

Amy Wineland, RN, MSN, ND  
Director | Summit County Public Health Department



#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #1

Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #2

Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #3

Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #4

Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #5

Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #6

Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #7

Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #8

Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #9

Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

#### ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL #10

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Emergencies and disasters impact population health. Despite the importance of upstream readiness, a persistent challenge for public health practitioners is defining what it means to be prepared. All local public health agencies are required to prepare and respond to emergencies with a public health or environmental health implication in coordination with local, state and federal agencies, and public and private sector partners. We work with other government agencies, hospitals, health care providers, EMS, first responders and community partners to respond to – and recover from – events and emergencies that threaten the health and safety of our community.

- **FOSTER COLLABORATIVE NETWORKS:** Supports readiness, response and recovery across multiple levels of the system, and includes stakeholders outside the public health system, whether in clinical care, emergency management, government or the private sector
- **EDUCATION, EXERCISES AND PLANNING:** Builds capacity and expertise of staff; after-action reports and improvement plans implement the lessons learned for future events
- **SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING OF ALL REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:** Enables the identification of outbreaks and risk to the community
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Timely information provides situational awareness and guides action to those who need it
- **COORDINATION AND DISPENSING OF MEDICATION AND/OR IMMUNIZATIONS:** Limits the transmission of and premature death from novel communicable diseases



## COVID BY THE NUMBERS

**575**  
NUMBER OF VACCINE CLINIC VOLUNTEERS



**755**

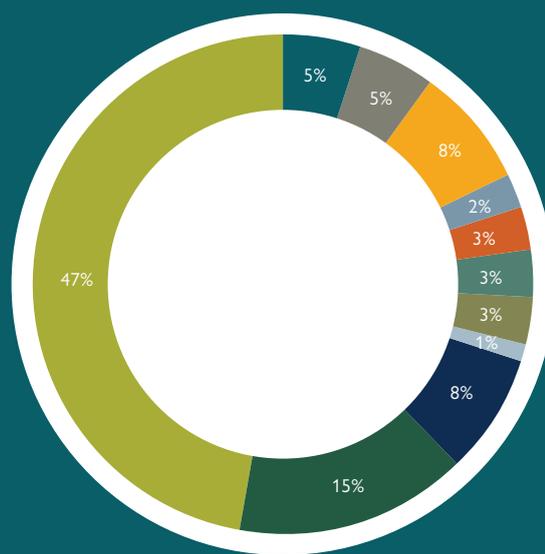
RESOURCE REFERRALS SENT



NUMBER OF SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH VACCINE CLINICS

**125**

### SUMMIT COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINES



THANK YOU TO OUR VACCINE PARTNERS!

**56,357**

Total Administered

- Summit County Public Health • 26,237
- Summit County Community Care Clinic • 8,234
- CDPHE Mobile Vaccine Unit • 4,812
- Safeway • 4,430
- Centura • 2,929
- Walmart • 2,814
- City Market Dillon • 1,932
- City Market Breckenridge • 1,773
- CVS at Target • 1,582
- CDPHE Vaccine Support Team • 1,278
- Ebert Family Clinic • 336



**451**

EMPLOYERS CONTACTED FOR OUTREACH

CASE INTERVIEWS COMPLETED

**5387**

# SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH USES TOOLS IN EVERY FACET OF OUR WORK TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY HEALTHY

## POPULATION HEALTH

All programs within the Public Health department participate in key pieces to ensure our community has the tools that they need to stay healthy.

- **Community Health Needs Assessment** – identify key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis
- **Community Collaboration** – leverage strengths of different agencies to have the greatest impact on identified community health needs
- **Policy** – affect change in the community and improve the health of the population



## NURSING

Public Health nursing provides a wide range of interventions to reduce risks or threats to the health of the public and individuals.

- **Vaccines** – protect against harmful diseases
- **Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigations** – equip our community members with knowledge that they need to prevent the spread of illness
- **Routine Health Screenings for Children** – lead and hemoglobin testing along with hearing and vision screenings are used for early detection of health concerns
- **Reach Out and Read Colorado Program** – encourages early childhood literacy skills and strengthens the bond between parent and child

## NEW MOMS GROUP AND MOMS OF TOTS SUPPORT GROUPS

A partnership between Building Hope, Grit Therapy and Summit County WIC that provides free weekly virtual meetings and monthly in person gatherings.

- **Professional Facilitation** – groups are led by a maternal mental health specialist or a lactation consultant and registered dietitian to provide appropriate guidance and support
- **Community and Connection** – a safe place to share both the joys and challenges of motherhood

## WIC: WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

WIC is a free nutrition program that wants to see families happy, healthy and thriving. We serve income eligible pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to the age of five.

- **Healthy Food and Nutrition Education** – personalized nutrition education and monthly benefits to ensure healthy food is accessible for families
- **Breastfeeding Support** – prenatal education and guidance for nursing moms coupled with nursing aids such as breast pumps
- **Resource Referrals** – introductions to a network of healthcare professionals and community supports



**“** *New mom’s group participant: “This group has been a light during a very hard time in the world and I am so unbelievably grateful for this outlet of love and support. I appreciate the safety and space to be open with my struggles as a person and new mom with so many kind and loving people. I cannot say enough good things about this group, I have so much gratitude for you two [mental health professional and dietician/lactation consultant] and all the moms that join each week”.*

## GROW TO SHARE

A partnership between High Country Conservation Center (HC3) and WIC to provide fresh produce to qualified families coupled with nutrition education.

- **Community Garden** – hands on nutrition education where the food is grown
- **Fresh, Locally Grown Produce** – free healthy produce for families
- **Nutrition Education** – coloring books, recipe cards, and nutrition education resources to engage the whole family

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health (EH) is focused on controlling environmental factors that impact human health and environment (food, water and air). They enforce Public Health laws and regulations.

- **Permitting** – protects groundwater quality by only allowing onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) that are scientifically designed, taking into consideration the soils and hydrology of the property
- **Monitoring** – identifies unhealthy contaminants in air and water
- **Inspections** – ensure healthy practices are occurring in restaurants, schools and childcares
- **Investigations** – verify health concerns, such as suspected foodborne illness, and mitigate as appropriate
- **Environmental Emergency Response** – partner with other responders, such as the fire department or hazmat team if there is an environmental concern, to help protect the community
- **Honors and Awards** – recognize the safest restaurants with awards in Excellence in Food Safety during national food safety month

## COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE TEAM

A pandemic response team that conducts case investigations of reported COVID-19 cases, contact tracing of their close contacts, and data collection to aid in public policy and resource allocation. The team builds relationships with schools, childcares, businesses, and other community partners to both serve as a resource and effectively monitor outbreaks.

- **Direct Outreach** – conducting case interviews to provide resource coordination, housing, and connection with other support services
- **Public Messaging** – informing the community on policy changes, guidance, outbreak information, testing and treatment, along with vaccination information
- **Community Support** – partnerships with employers and healthcare providers on policy guidance

## EARLY INTERVENTION

Colorado’s Early Intervention program provides supports and services to children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families from birth until the child’s third birthday.

- **Virtual or At-Home Service Delivery** – family-centered, coordinated, and integrated services in the family’s natural environment to address the needs of children
- **Connection Within Community** – a safe place to share the concerns of your child with professional service providers



**“** *Early Intervention parent of participant: “I wish to express and manifest the deep gratitude I have for the professionalism and above all the humane treatment that both [the therapist and interpreter] had all this time and the dedication with which they carried out their work for the well-being and improve the quality of life of my son, there is only gratitude to both for the love and patience with which both do their work day by day”*

## NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Nurse Family Partnership is a free program for low-income, first time expecting mothers with an experienced nurse home visitor from early pregnancy until the infant is 2 years of age.

- **Home Visits with a Registered Nurse** – provides a reliable and trusted resource that improves pregnancy outcomes by partnering with moms to engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets and reducing any use of habit-forming substances; and improves child health and development by assisting families provide responsible and competent care
- **Evidence-Based Program** – provides consistent outcomes
- **Goal Setting** – improves the economic self-sufficiency of the family by supporting parents to develop a vision for their own future, plan additional pregnancies, continue their education and find work

# 2020 & 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Intermountain  
Nurse-Family  
Partnership Visits

2020 | 2021  
**1844** | **1614**

2020 | 2021  
**175** | **174**

Intermountain  
Nurse-Family  
Partnership Clients

Breast Feeding  
Support Clients

2020 | 2021  
**186** | **288**

Summit County  
WIC Visits

2020  
**1493**

2021  
**1448**

Routine Vaccines  
Administered

2020 | 2021  
**615** | **274**

2020 | 2021  
**75** | **85**

Early Intervention  
Average  
Monthly Caseload

Pounds of Produce  
Distributed Through  
Grow to Share

2020 | 2021  
**1160** | **1459**

Summit County  
WIC Clients

2020  
**406**

2021  
**449**

Flu Vaccines  
Administered

2020 | 2021  
**323** | **920**

New Moms Group  
Groups Hosted

2020 | 2021  
**41** | **52**

2021  
**30**

Moms of Tots  
Groups Hosted

Families Enrolled in  
Grow to Share Program

2020 | 2021  
**84** | **182**

2020 | 2021  
**88** | **96**  
Environmental Health  
Complaints Responded To

2020 | 2021  
**80** | **50**

Private Wells  
Tested

Radon Kits  
Dispensed

2020 | 2021  
**340** | **520**

Childcare  
Inspections

2020 | 2021  
**32** | **22**

Septic System  
Construction  
Permits

2020  
**76**

2021  
**81**

Operational  
Septic System  
Inspections

2020  
**211**

2021  
**190**

Restaurant Complaints  
Investigated

2020 | 2021  
**27** | **43**

2020 | 2021  
**326** | **498**

Restaurant  
Inspections

2020 | 2021  
**11** | **20**

Foodborne Illness  
Investigations

2020 | 2021  
**16** | **22**

Temp Food  
Events Permitted

Temp Food  
Vendors Permitted

2020 | 2021  
**34** | **68**

Septic System  
Construction  
Inspections

2020 | 2021  
**305** | **289**

Failing  
Septic Systems  
Repaired

2020 | 2021  
**9** | **14**