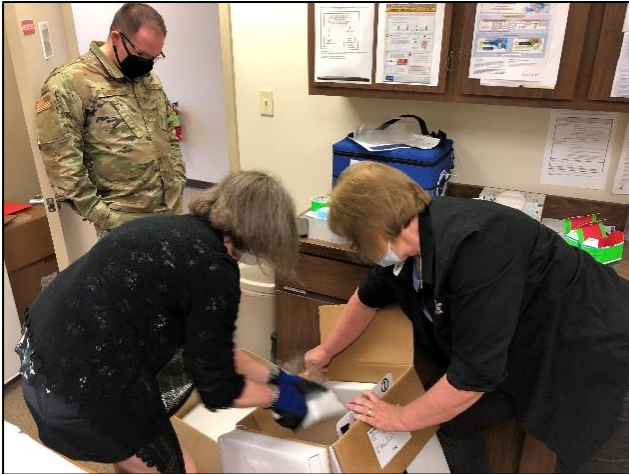


Unpacking SHDHD's first direct-shipped Pfizer Vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics at the west end of Allen's in Hastings



This volunteer congratulated each person as they received their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card.



Dr. Gary Anthonie, Nebraska's Chief Medical Officer, visited South Heartland on June 14 as part of a meet and greet trip to get to know local health departments.



Take a Stepping On workshop!

Stepping On can help you avoid a dangerous and costly fall so you can keep doing the things you love to do. In just seven weeks, you will learn:

- To identify and remove or avoid fall hazards in your home and outside
- How vision, hearing, medication, and footwear affect your risk of falling
- Strength and balance exercises you can adapt to your individual level
- To get back on your feet the right way if you do fall

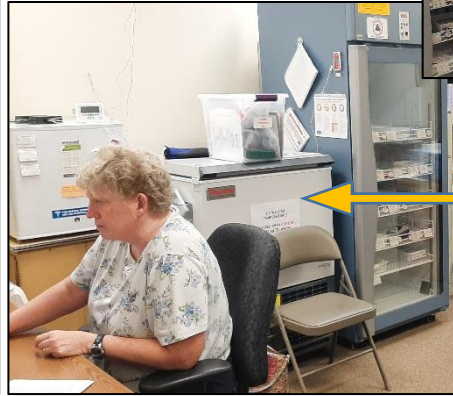
Stepping On has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 30%!

Falls are preventable. Don't wait until a fall injures more than your pride!



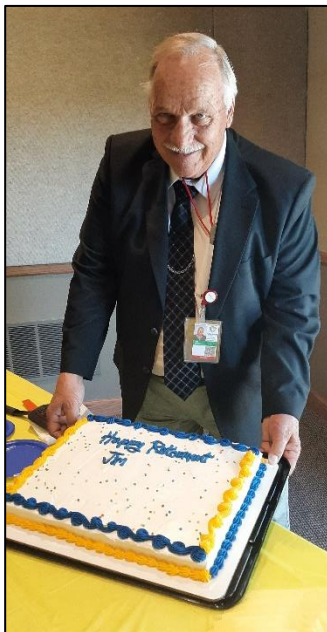
At July's Vaccine for Children (VFC) Immunization Clinic, we offered Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine along with other recommended childhood vaccinations.

July VFC Clinic



SHDHD's Ultracold Freezer for storing Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine finally arrived after 2 months of promises by the manufacturer/shipper. NE DHHS placed ultracold chest freezers with local health departments to expand our capacity for storing and managing the Pfizer vaccine.

July's immunization clinic team included clinic manager Dorrann Hultman, Leslie Anderson (nurse vaccinator), Samantha Martell (interpreter/community health worker), Liz Chamberlain (NESIIS data entry), and Aida Evans (interpreter – not shown)



On June 22 and June 24, respectively: Saying "Congratulations" to Jim Morgan on his retirement and "Best Wishes" to Alex Stogdill as he heads off to medical school (planning MD/MPH!)



Bi-monthly Report on the Ten Essential Services of Public Health

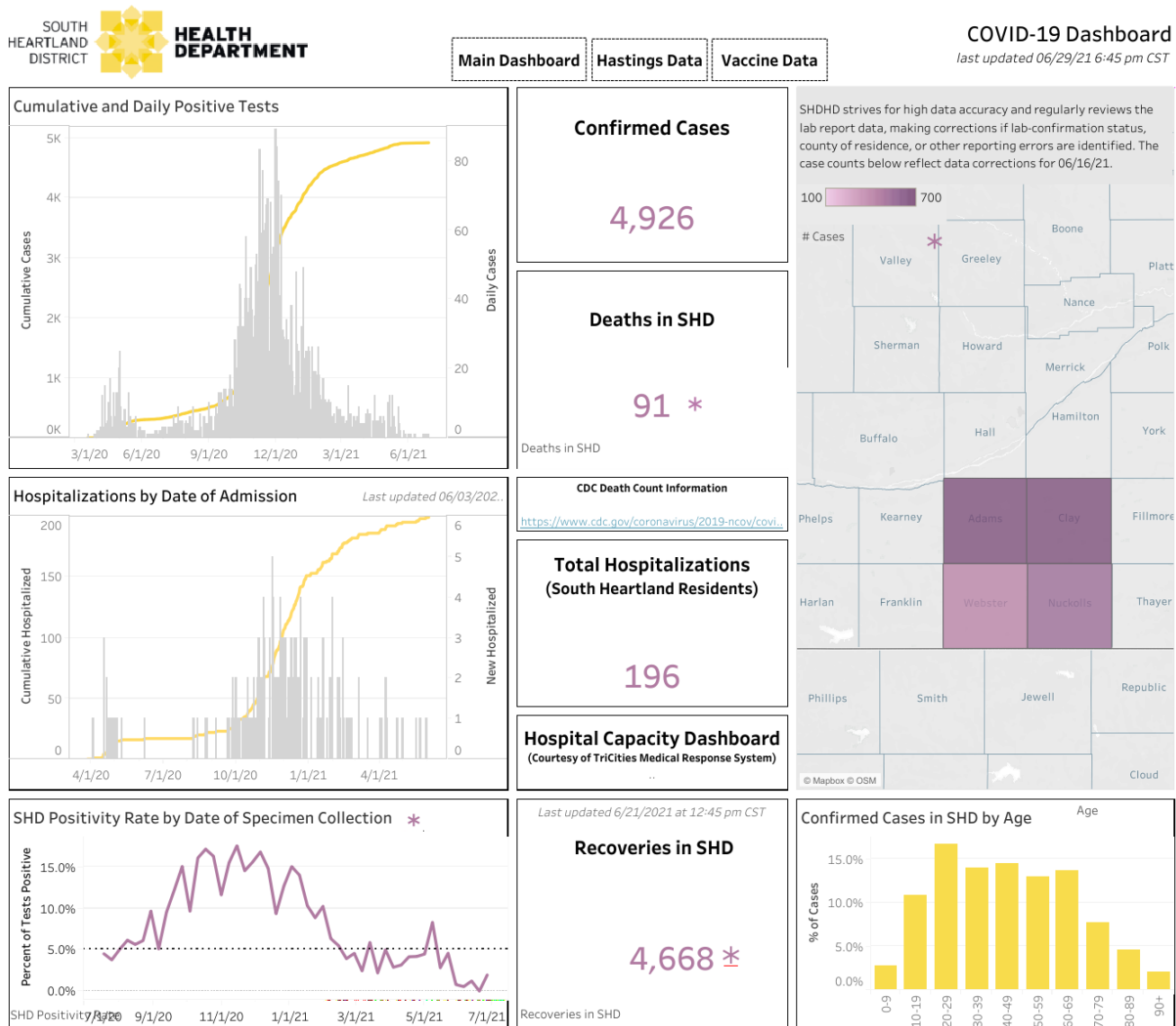
1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets *(What's going on in our district? Do we know how healthy we are?)*

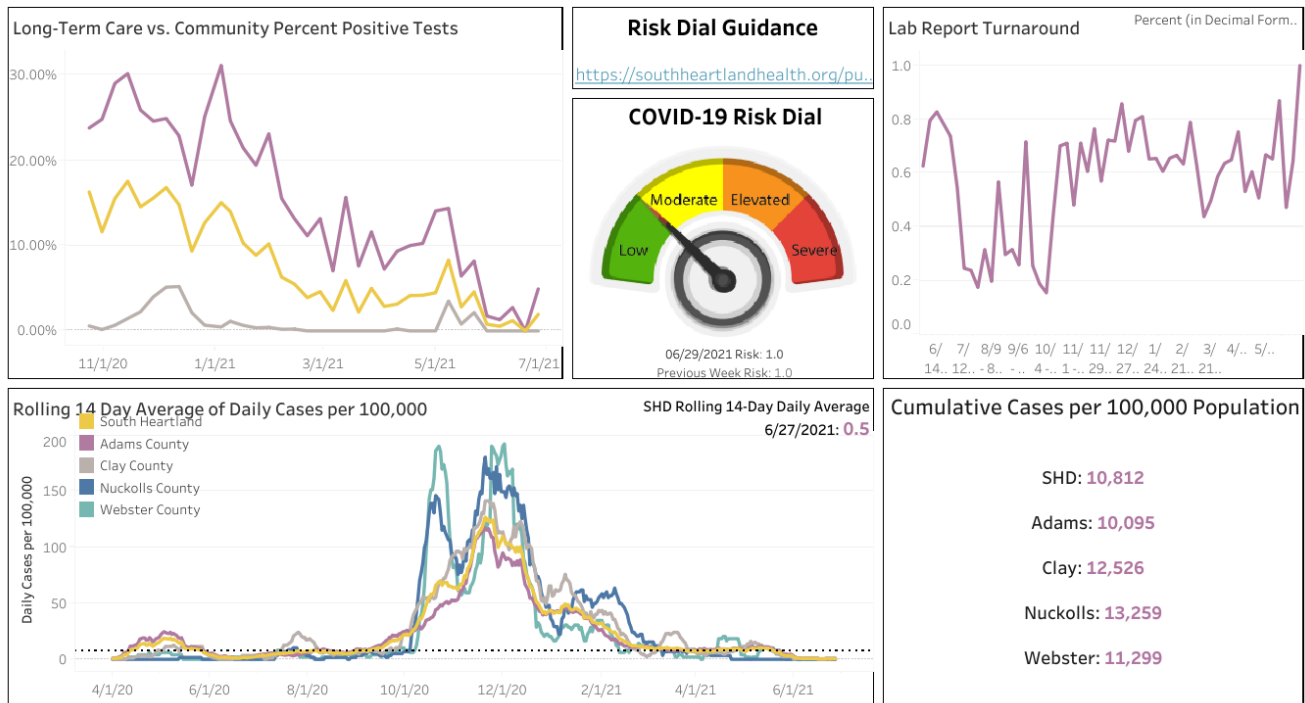
- *How do we collect and maintain data about conditions of public health importance and about the health status of the population, and how do we make it available to our partners and our community?*
- *What major problems or trends have we identified in the past 2 months?*

Local

➤ Surveillance data, water violations, and other [health information is made available](#) on our website, through links on our website, on SHDHD's Network of Care website, through news releases and interviews to various forms of media, and upon request from partners or others. A key role of the health department is to monitor what is going on in our communities and share data back to the community so residents can be aware and make their own informed decisions (Essential Public Health Services 1 and 3). Using Tableau as our data platform, SHDHD continues to share an immense amount of data. SH uses a COVID-19 risk dial as a tool to summarize several metrics we track to help others understand the potential risk of more spread of the virus and the potential for resurgence. The vaccine dashboard page shares progress on COVID-19 vaccine administration, percent of population partially/fully vaccinated and the demographic breakdown. While the Governor has lifted the State of Emergency and DHHS has taken down the State's COVID dashboard, SHDHD will continue to maintain our COVID and Vaccine dashboard pages for the foreseeable future so that South Heartland residents, local organizations and others have a source for information about pandemic status while our staff continue to investigate cases, monitor for variant, administer vaccine and implement other mitigation strategies.

➤ [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard: www.southheartlandhealth.org](http://www.southheartlandhealth.org)





South Heartland COVID-19 Dashboard, as of June 29, 2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Situation Update:

- As of June 28, 2021, 4,926 South Heartland residents have tested positive for COVID. Hospitalizations and cases continue to decrease and have been below our goal of <8 per 100,000 per day since May 20th. 91 Investigations have been initiated/completed by South Heartland staff during this reporting period.
- Twenty individuals in our jurisdiction have tested positive for a variant of concern (VOC). Four additional relatives of these individuals are presumed to have been infected by a variant due to a spouse, household member or other close relative being infected with a variant. Three variants have been identified: 18 individuals have tested positive for the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant, 1 individual (and presumably a vaccinated household member) has tested positive for the B.1.135 (South Africa) variant, and 1 resident is presumed to have been infected with the B.1.429 variant (California) variant. SHDHD continues to submit specimens for sequencing on individuals who meet criteria.
- COVID-19 variants continue to increase in the state. To date, a total of 1,721 variants of concern (VOC) have been identified. Of this total, there are 1,511 cases of the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant (U.K.), which is more contagious than the original strain of coronavirus and is still the most dominant strain in the U.S. Other variants present in Nebraska are 114 cases of the B.1.427/429 variant (CA), 25 of the B1.526 variant (NY), 16 cases of the B.1.351 variant (South Africa), 16 of the B1.617 Delta variant (India), and 38 cases of the P.1 variant (Brazil).
- SHDHD COVID weekly positivity (percent positive tests) rate has sustained below 5% for 7 weeks.
- The 14-day daily average of new cases per 100,000 was 0.5 as of 06/27 (Goal: sustained below 8/day/100K)
- The SHDHD’s COVID risk dial has remained in the yellow or “moderate” zone during this reporting period, but is now on the border of green “low risk” range and yellow “moderate” range.
- COVID testing through TestNebraska will end on July 18th. Testing levels are low; however, SHDHD staff are working on plans to make testing available when the Test Nebraska contracts with local providers end on July 31st.
- Monitoring and Tracking updates: Continuing to use dashboard created by TRIMRS for South Heartland district’s hospital capacity data (linked to it from SHDHD COVID-19 dashboard). Continuing to track Hastings-specific data on daily new cases, 7 day rolling average of new cases, and weekly positivity even after City of Hastings lifted their mask policy. Expanded the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard to track residents vaccinated (partially/fully) and

their demographics, in addition to tracking number of doses of vaccine administered in the South Heartland District.

- SHDHD Surveillance Staff worked with a LTC facility during this reporting period with 17 residents or staff including six individuals who were fully vaccinated. As of May 25th, no additional cases were reported, and none have been reported during the month of June. Individuals who were associated with this cluster were tested and found to have been infected with the B.1.1.7 variant.
- SHDHD's dashboard tracks deaths related to COVID. This process requires death certificates to be reviewed by DHHS and sent to each jurisdiction. We anticipate several additional confirmations as additional certificates are sent to us. Following the CDC practice, SHDHD includes confirmed (PCR positive) and probable (Antigen positive) COVID-related deaths in our counts. This information is important in understanding fatality rates related to illness. Current Case Fatality Rate: 1.8%

Community Health Assessment.

- Hospital and United Way are partnering with SH to complete the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) requirement for non-profit hospital IRS reporting every 3 years. This year's assessment will include data from an assessment conducted by United Way, health data from state and local sources, community themes and strengths survey of residents and focus group discussions about access to care, impact of pandemic, and health disparities.

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

(Are we ready to respond to health problems or threats? How quickly do we find out about problems? How effective is our response?)

- *Key activities in the past 2 months to prevent, minimize, and contain adverse health events and conditions resulting from communicable diseases; food-, water-, and vector-borne outbreaks; chronic diseases; environmental hazards; injuries; and health disparities*
- *Emergency preparedness (e.g., planning, exercises, and response activities)*
- COVID-19 Preparedness and Response: See COVID Outbreak Situation Update, above. In addition, SHDHD continues to be responsible for receipt, inventory, repackaging and dissemination of PPE for our jurisdiction. To help keep key partners informed, SHDHD sent 12 Alert Sense notifications (May/June) to over 140 individuals each time and issued 14 news releases to media and partners. Staff check the Nebraska Electronic Disease Surveillance System, DOMO (Test Nebraska reporting system), and fax machine output multiple times each day so that we can begin follow up on positive cases immediately by issuing isolation instructions and conducting contact investigations. Although there has been a decrease in demand since May, SHDHD vaccination efforts continue and we are enhancing messages on the safety and importance of vaccination. We continue to promote mask-wearing, social distancing, and prevention. With the Governor announcing the end of the State of Emergency in Nebraska effective July 1, 2021, SHDHD is reverting to our normal statutory authorities for disease investigation and mitigation.
- Tuberculosis Investigation: Over the past two months, surveillance staff have worked on assisting a TB patient with lab cultures, medications, and treatment. Follow up with close contacts has been completed as the initial contacts were tested a second time or offered retesting for their initial exposure.
- Plan Reviews: Effective May 6, 2021 COVID-related event plans were no longer required.
- PPE distribution totals: From the beginning of March 2020 through the June 2021 SH has distributed out: Masks – 206,475 Surgical Masks – 267,100, Cloth Masks – 50,500, Face Shields – 13,956, Goggles – 2,705, Hand Sanitizer – 1,338 containers, Wipes – 9,815 containers, Gloves – 788,000, Gowns – 191,851, Thermometers – 788, Bleach – 12 gal., Eco Lab Disinfectant – 3 containers.
- Phase II of the Little Blue Hazard Mitigation Plan: Currently the plan is in its Public Review Phase. This is the last opportunity to review and make any revisions to the plan before it is submitted to NEMA and FEMA for their formal review and approval process.
- Lead Testing in Drinking Water: SHDHD is continuing to recruit participants in the lead testing program offered by the State to test for lead in drinking water. Those eligible to take part in this program are elementary, preschools and day care centers. Testing has identified elevated lead levels in some facilities and they were referred for mitigation options.

3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it (*How well do we keep all people in our district informed about health issues?*)

- *Examples of key information related to physical, behavioral, environmental, social, economic, and other issues affecting health that we provided to the public.*
- *Examples of health promotion programs that we implemented to address identified health problems.*
- **Community sign boards:** Education to encourage COVID vaccination and to talk to your doctor for check-ups and screenings (“Avoid Medical Distancing”).
- **News releases, public health columns, ads and interviews:** Although COVID activities have slowed these last two months, it has continued to be the dominate topic of news releases and communications. In May-June, SHDHD put out 14 press releases and granted phone interviews for TV and radio media requests, focusing primarily on COVID-19-related issues, but also on West Nile virus and sun safety. News releases are posted on the website and can be viewed in English, Spanish, or Vietnamese.
- **Radio Advertising:** SHDHD is ran a PSA on KHAS Platte River radio network and KRFS in Superior to promote getting the COVID vaccine and practicing prevention. On May 20,2021 first two community members recorded a PSA thanking those that have received their COVID-19 vaccine and challenging those that have not to get vaccinated. In total there will be at least nine different recordings of the message playing on the Platte River radio network.
- **SHDHD Facebook:** These past two months SHDHD’s Facebook/Twitter posts have been primarily focused around COVID-19 information and vaccination with promotion of cancer prevention, smoking awareness, heat safety, Give Hastings, and Nebraska Health Dept Birthday! During the months of May and June, the total number of people reached through FB posts was 1,478. This is still an increase from “pre-COVID” months. Spanish FB page: 5 different posts of COVID-19 information.
- **Website:** Our website “views” decreased for May (4,135 views) and June (2,103), compared to January (19,204 views). Website views continue to be higher than our pre- COVID-19 (~450 views/mo). Many staff have worked to update and improve our website pages.
- **COVID-19 Information:** Call volume from the public and providers has decreased, but remains a priority for SHDHD staff to answer all calls/triage messages accurately, timely, professionally and transparently.

4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health (*How well do we really get people and organizations engaged in health issues?*)

- *Process for developing SHDHDs community health improvement plan (CHIP) and/or implementing our work plan.*
- *Examples where we engaged the public health system and community to address health problems collaboratively.*
- **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) implementation:** Due to COVID, the steering committees for each priority area did not meet in 2020 (April/October), but in April, a survey for data input was sent to all the members of each committee. The Substance Misuse Steering Committee met June 17th with strong attendance and interaction!
- **Substance Misuse CHIP Priority:** SHDHD continues to carry out our drug overdose prevention workplan with the substance misuse steering committee. As part of this project, we have collected data from area pharmacies and local ERs on drug takeback opportunities and pain med prescription policies. These data were analyzed during the month of May and shared (along with other data) at the Steering committee meeting in June. Additionally, SHDHD is planning for the next round of funds which will be released in September.
- **Mental Health CHIP Priority:**
 - **Rural Behavior Health (BH) Network:** The Rural BH Network continues to meet on schedule, but virtually. The network continues to implement their strategic plan by collecting surveys for providers to help us understand the current referral environment. The network is continuing to utilize a no-cost extension from the original planning grant (funds unable to be used due to COVID responsibilities January-June 2021) and now, in June, has requested a 2nd extension for the funds to continue planning with the network. We are hoping, if extension of funds is approved, we will be able to implement a pilot project using the evidence-based behavioral health screening tools the network has prioritized (e.g., screening tools for depression, substance use, suicide, etc.), so that more residents can be appropriately referred to treatment and resources.

- Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) QPR Suicide Prevention Training: Provided QPR training to 7 LTCFs in the SHDHD district during the month of May 2021, with 83 LTCF staff participating in the training and 72/83 participants (or 87%) completing the pre/post surveys.
- VetSET/Making Connections: Military Family Fun Day August 21, 2021 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at Timberlake Ranch Camp. Currently have 11 families with 52 participants signed up for the event. Activities include High Rope Course, Blob (water activity), Trail Rides, Hiking Trails, Petting Zoo, Obstacle Course, Disc Golf, Swimming, Canoes/Paddle Boats, Fishing and Sand Volleyball. Meal Included: Hamburger/Hotdog, Chips, Salad, Cookie, and Drink. Need to register for event by August 14, 2021 @ <http://southhearlandhealth.org> and click on the flag.
- Obesity & Related Health Conditions CHIP Priority:
 - CS-CASH: Using the no-cost extension of funds SHDHD has received, the team (SHDHD staff, Rural EMS, Blue Hill Clinic and UNL extension) have met twice during May/June to discuss and plan activities. The Clinic is implementing a rural Ag risks screening and providing educational materials. SHDHD is planning community outreach on Ag health and safety at the BH clinic's health fair and at Webster County Fair, while the UNL Extension has set a date for a training on Stress in Farmers in Blue Hill in August. The Rural EMS members will be assisting in promotion of educational events and attending them.
 - SHDHD Healthy Kids Workgroup, HKW: The nine grant participants have made over \$19,000 in purchases toward their goals to reduce childhood obesity through physical activity and nutrition. The Yoga Pretzel cards, "Let's Get Moving" Activity Mats and Quads of Fun Tunnel have been favorites from the toolkit participants received at the beginning of the grant. Participants are currently submitting success stories and completing final evaluations.
 - Building Healthy Families: SHDHD has led the implementation team through several meetings and has launched the program. We have 2 of the 5 families still attending the classes regularly. They have completed 10 of the 12 sessions. The core team (SHDHD, Mary Lanning, UNL Extension and Hastings YMCA) that applied for program dollars to support staff time and increase sustainability has received those funds!
 - Improving Health through changes in Built Environment and Social Supports: SHDHD continues to work with Sutton and Hastings to improve the built environment and social supports to increase health. Sutton is moving forward with a trail expansion project through their local park. They will be raising the funds through local supports and community foundations.
 - Prevention Connection: Smart Moves, Diabetes Prevention Class (DPP): Superior started a new Smart Moves class in January 2021 with 13 participants that have lost 134 lbs. or 4.61% weight loss since the start of the program. 8 participants have lost more than the 5% weight lost target.
 - Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC): SHDHD wrapped up working with Harvard (meeting monthly with their wellness team) and HPS (meeting quarterly with their team) during the month of May/June. Each of the schools saw at least one success this year, but both are excited to see what the next school year will bring in terms of wellness. In addition, SHDHD wrapped up activities with the 3 additional schools (those that just came on this year). Again, each of the schools saw at least one success and have at least one of the implemented activities has a sustainability plan.
- Cancer Priority:
 - Mary Lanning Healthcare Cancer Committee: Meets quarterly. No meeting in May/June. We participated in a small workgroup to plan community cancer prevention activities to reduce rates of lung cancer and screening event to reduce the higher rates of late staged lung cancer that is present in the district.
 - Colon Cancer: FOBT Colon Cancer Screening kits continue to be distributed by mail as requested via phone or through the website. During May/June SHDHD distributed 6 kits through the online survey process. Community Health Center continues to distribute kits to their uninsured population.
 - Cancer Grant: Provider MOU to support cancer risk factor assessment policy development as well as a provider toolkit is completed and ready for meetings with 3 partnering clinics in Adams, Webster and Nuckolls Co. Clinics were chosen based on their readiness indicated on a previous provider survey. American Cancer Society resources have been ordered for all clinics in the district to support providers in counselling and educating patients.
- Schools Collaboration: Area schools are planning for the coming year and SHDHD will continue to collaborate with schools, ESU, NE local health directors and the Nebraska Department of Education on guidance for Safe Return to Learn during 2021-22 school year.

- Injury Prevention: Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance & Stepping On Classes: Next Stepping On class is set for July 20th from 9:30 – 11:00 am at the Golden Friendship Center in Hastings. Stepping On meets once a week for seven weeks for 1 ½ hours with guest experts talking about fall related topics

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

(What policies promote health in our district? How effective are we in planning and in setting health policies?)

- *What policies have we proposed and implemented that improve population health and/or reduce disparities?*
- *Describe how our department engaged in agency-specific strategic planning to develop a vision, mission, and guiding principles that reflect the community's public health needs, and to prioritize services and programs.*
- *What plans are we developing and implementing to improve our department's quality and effectiveness (plans for quality improvement, workforce development, branding, communication, and performance management)?*
- New Plans (Grant Proposals, Subawards and Contract Projects):
 - COVID Funding / COVID Planning: ONGOING... We are continuing to develop or revise plans and budgets to use the various revenue streams for general COVID response and COVID Immunization activities. These (mostly federal pass through) funds include: COVID Capacity Building (supports disease investigation), Mass Flu Vaccination (can also be used for COVID), COVID Vaccination, LB 1008 (state funds to LHDs for COVID activities), Federal pass through COVID Funds reimbursed through NEMA, and FEMA COVID Vaccination reimbursement funds. Plans/budgets include space rental (e.g., Adams Co Fairgrounds), staffing (SHDHD and contracted), transportation (e.g., vehicle rental), supplies (e.g., vaccination supplies), equipment (e.g., vaccine storage/handling/transport equipment).
 - Work plans for other grants and subawards:
 - Drug Overdose Prevention (through August 31, 2021; \$24,849) – implement strategic plan for substance misuse
 - CDC COVID Equity (through June 2023; \$155,200) - used to assess, strengthen, educate and enhance access to COVID needs (testing, contact tracing and vaccination).
 - Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Funds (through June 2022; \$83,913.82) - used to assess minority health needs and create an action plan to improve them.
- SHDHD COVID-19 AAR: nearing completion of the review and after action report for August 2020 - May 2021.
- COVID-19 Response Plans: SHDHD continues to follow and promote evidence-based guidance from the CDC, NE DHHS, Professional Associations, UNMC Specialty Teams and other sources for all of the COVID-19 response activities. New data and evidence-based practices are shared by UNMC Global Center for Health Security and other partners at weekly briefings. Policies and recommendations are data-driven, based on current evidence. Currently working on response plans with an eye on safe return to school for K-12 and colleges.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan: During May/June SHDHD has managed 6077 doses of COVID-19 vaccine: administering 1275 doses and transferring and delivering 4103 doses out to providers in all four counties for administration in local areas.
- Vaccine EUA, Emergency Use Authorization: SHDHD continues following and promoting to partners the CDC, FDA, and Emergency Use Authorization guidance for COVID-19 vaccination procedures, VAERS (vaccine adverse event reporting system), and stringent adherence to vaccine management and handling procedures.

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

(When we enforce health regulations are we up-to-date, technically competent, fair and effective?)

- *Describe efforts to educate members of our community on public health laws, policies, regulations, and ordinances and how to comply with them.*
- *What laws and regulations have we helped enforce to protect the public's health?*
- Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act: None this period.
- NE Directed Health Measures: The DHM ended on May 6 and the Governor ended the emergency declaration on June 30 at 11:59 PM. Three executive orders remain, 1 for telehealth and 2 for the labor department. TestNE ends on 7/31 with the last tests on 7/18. The State will take down their public-facing COVID and Vaccine data dashboards, but continue to update and monitor.
- Limitations on Gatherings: The DHM effective May 6th removed all restrictions limiting gathering sizes.
- SHDHD's Quarantine and Isolation Authorities: SHDHD continues to provide education and instruction on isolation or quarantine for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to individuals who tested positive. Staff provide education over the phone, and provide letters for entities to contact groups who may have been exposed, e.g., parents in a daycare. When the State Directed Health Measures

ended in May, the authority for these actions remains in the statutory authorities outlined in TITLE 173 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CHAPTER 1 REPORTING AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy *(Are people receiving the medical care they need?)*

- *Describe the gaps that our department has identified in personal health services.*
- *Describe the strategies and services that we have supported and implemented to increase access to health care and establish systems of personal health services, including preventive and health promotion services, in partnership with the community.*
- **Immunization: Vaccine for Children Program:** SH's immunization team continues to implement safeguards in the delivery of clinics to protect patients, family members and staff from COVID-19. Immunization clinics were held in May and June. Staff delivered 54 vaccinations to 23 patients at the combined clinics. Of the 23 patients, 16 (70%) were uninsured and 7 (30%) had Medicaid. 6 (26%) were new patients to the clinic with referrals coming from local providers, Head Start family support workers and SHDHD CHW. Nine (39%) families were provided Spanish interpretation throughout their visit. Donations totaling \$120 were collected during the May and June clinics.
- **Immunization: Adult Immunization Program:** 0 adults were vaccinated for Tdap during the May and June clinics.
- **Reminder/Recall to improve vaccination rates:** 20 reminder/recall contacts were made in May and June. 8 (40%) scheduled appointments. 3 (15%) were not interested in scheduling at this time. Several have moved, were getting shots through a health care provider, phones were disconnected or we were not able to reach them.
- **Community Health Worker (English Only) / Every Woman Matters (EWM) and Health Coaching:** Health Coaching EWM clients for May 2021: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 3 participants, 2nd Health Coaching call with 0 participants, 3rd Health Coaching call and Every Woman Matters assessment with 3 participants. June 2021: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 0 participants (left messages for 2 participants), 2nd Health Coaching call with 3 participants, 3rd Health Coaching call and Every Woman Matters assessment with 0 participants.
- **COVID-19 Testing:** SHDHD TestNebraska testing sites ongoing for access to testing includes Hastings Convenient Care (Sat and Wed), and Webster County Hospital (Tu)
- **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** COVID-19 vaccine has been readily available to all residents 16+ across the district since March 29th. Weekly public clinics were held in the space at the west end of Allen's. On May 12, 2021 Pfizer BioNTech was granted EUA for ages 12+ and Nebraska Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Gary Anthonie, signed a standing order to begin administration of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. SHDHD received shipment of Pfizer vaccine on May 17th and held three walk-in clinics for ages 12+ the first week of availability followed by one weekly clinic in the three weeks following. Seeing a significant decrease in people coming to the public site for vaccination and increased vaccine availability in pharmacies (Federal Pharmacy Program) and clinics in the district, SHDHD transitioned to supporting areas with barriers to vaccination (minority population, worksites migrant workers, homebound residents). Vaccination rates: 48% of eligible (12+) SH Residents with at least 1 dose, 45% of eligible SH Residents completed 2 doses. Of the total population: 40% with at least one shot, 38% fully vaccinated.

8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

- *Efforts to evaluate LHD staff members' public health competencies. How have we addressed these deficiencies?*
- *Describe the strategies we have used to develop, train, and retain a diverse staff.*
- *Provide examples of training experiences that were provided for staff.*
- *Describe the activities that we have completed to establish a workforce development plan.*
- **The Workforce Development Plan:** We continue to work on processes for professional development (evaluation) for all staff including revised job descriptions with core competencies.
- **Qualtrics:** Several staff are trained in Qualtrics survey software which is used to create surveys, collect/analyze data and provide/send reports, and translate the press releases into three different languages.
- **SalesForce:** SHDHD staff trained in and are using DHHS's web-based system for disease surveillance.
- **VRAS:** Staff were trained in Nebraska's Vaccine Registration and Administration System and used by SHDHD for scheduling and for all activities in the COVID vaccine clinics and we have trained and supported other providers in using VRAS. VRAS interfaces with both NESIIS (State Immunization System) and providers' EMRs (Electronic Medical Records) which reduced the workload of manual data entry.

- **Statewide COVID Updates:** The ED, at least, participates in 2X weekly statewide COVID briefings and shares with staff and other stakeholders current status updates or other relevant information along with links to the recorded COVID updates from Dr. James Lawler, Global Center for Health Security.
- **18th Annual Immunize Nebraska Conference, 2021:** The 2 nurses attended the virtual conference, May 21.
- **Tai Chi:** Eight Tai Chi Instructors from the SHDHD district attended the yearly Tai Chi refresher training in Hastings (April 30, 2021). Two new Tai Chi Instructors from the SHDHD district (1- Adams County and 1- Webster County) attend New Tai Chi instructor training at CCC-Hastings on May 5-6.
- **Surveillance briefings:** The SH Health Surveillance Coordinator provides weekly briefings/updates for surveillance staff.
- **Staff COVID Briefings:** Conducted 3X weekly (1 Zoom and 2 emailed Staff Bullets) through May 7 and reduced the week of May 10 to 1 Zoom and 1 emailed Staff Bullets. This facilitated the sharing current situational status, evidence-based practices, updates on DHMs, etc.
- **Staff Roles for COVID Response Activities:** We continue to analyze our staffing needs and cross-train staff specifically to support the COVID workload and meet the changing needs. Support staff is also assisting with completing non-COVID work. We are beginning to ramp up plans & processes that had been overshadowed with COVID responsibilities.
- **New Hires:** Samantha Martell, who was hired last fall for receptionist responsibilities, is training/transitioning as our new bi-lingual community health worker. Pamela Stromer began with SHDHD on May 3 as an Administrative and Technology Assistant. She brings with her a strong background in information technology. Lauren Shackelford began her orientation on June 14 as a new disease investigator under the COVID Capacity funding intended for that purpose.

9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement (*Are we doing any good? Are we doing things right?*).

- *Examples of our evaluation activities related to evidence-based public health programs.*
- *Examples of QI projects that we have completed or are in process.*
- **Accreditation Annual Report:** Due to COVID, the report is modified this year and PHAB granted a 90-day extension for the submission date for the Year 1 Annual Report to July 21, 2021. SH continues to implement plans and processes to achieve compliance with accreditation evidence-based standards and measures.
- **QI-PM Plan: Goal 6:** Establish SHDHD internal departmental processes and policies to accommodate funding fluctuations. SHDHD revised department operational policies and organized with tracking process for review schedule.
- **Quality Improvement Projects:** Review/revision/reformatting of SHDHD's Policy & Procedures Handbook is completed and was approved at the May BOH meeting. This QI project is being used for the Accreditation (PHAB) annual report.
- **Strategic Plan action plan and dashboard: Goal 1: Maintain PHAB Accreditation:** Completing and submitting 1st accreditation annual report by July 21, 2021. **Goal 2: Secure Financial Stability: 2A.** Explore alternative funding avenues: Local health directors are developing a relationship with United Health Care, which is reaching out to utilize (and reimburse) LHDs to promote flu and COVID vaccinations and other wellness activities to benefit their members, but also the broader community. Also, will be requesting City/County support with ARPA funds. **2B.** Finance & Operations Manager is improving financial processes to manage the various COVID funding sources. **Goal 3: Prioritize Services and Programs:** "Restarting" and providing leadership for CHIP Steering Committees – Substance Misuse met in June, Access to Care and Cancer will meet in July. **Goal 4: Optimize human resources:** contract staff, volunteers, and new hires are continuing to help SHDHD meet the increase in workload due to COVID-19. Cross-training of staff to increase/prepare a competent workforce for ongoing COVID response and for pivot back to other health priorities. **Goal 4: Advocate the "Why" of Public Health:** Working with Board President and county board members on the Board of Health for process/communications/advocacy to secure federal ARPA funds.
- **Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Implementation:** We are "restarting" the steering committees leading each of the 5 priorities after a gap in activities due to COVID-19 response. We are also working on mini-community health assessment during 2021 which will be used for mid-point corrections and adjustments to the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- **COVID19 Response QI/PM:** Continuing process improvement (policies and procedures) and assessing how we can improve as we progress through the pandemic. The focus is on data analysis and process documentation to identify opportunities and successes for quality improvement.

- **Performance Management (PM):** Maintaining current processes for COVID-19 mitigation and planning for strong contact tracing processes to support any future outbreaks of COVID or other diseases.
- **Data Sharing:** Using Tableau as our data platform, SHDHD continues to share an immense amount of data – updating some daily and some weekly, and striving to improve every day. SHDHD reviews data for accuracy and makes corrections as needed. We conduct continuous review of the dashboard metrics and data presentation updating the chart format and explanations as needed, and adding new pages of data as new analysis is completed and making adjustments as case definitions or best practices change.

10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

- **Reminder: This is a new essential service,** launched with the revised 10 Essential Public Health Services in September 2020. It replaces the “contribute to the evidence-base,” which was incorporated elsewhere, and provides focus on a domain that is important to accreditation. This service includes seven components, but only two highlighted for this reporting period:
 - Managing financial and human resources effectively
 - Reviewing SHDHD’s organizational chart to determine whether changes are needed to support our foundational capabilities and program priorities. A leadership and quality improvement team is meeting individually with staff for input.
 - Having robust information technology services that are current and meet privacy and security standards
 - SHDHD utilizes and maintains a variety of IT services and platforms: Tableau, Qualtrics, NESIS, VRAS, Sharefile, FireSpring Website Management, FaceBook, SurveyMonkey, Sensaphone, GoogleDocs, MedIT, NEDSS, and MARTTI language line.
 - We reviewed our cyber security risks which resulted in implementing some additional risk mitigation and we added cyber security our insurance coverage.
 - We hired an Administrative and Technology Assistant for front desk/reception and to provide in-house support for our growing technology needs.

Success stories: How we made a difference....

Improving the Health of Children in our District through Physical Activity and Nutrition

This year we had the privilege of partnering with two schools, one after school program, one pre-school, one child care center and four in-home daycares across our four-county district for our Healthy Kids Initiative funded through the DHHS Maternal and Child Health program. All nine partners identified goals unique to their programs including addition of music motion and stretching to their daily routines to increase PE time and by incorporating technology into the physical education curriculum. Each partner then purchased items to support their goals.

This is just one of the success stories we received from our partners:

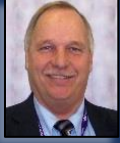





The Children's Ark is a child care center located at Good Samaritan Village in Hastings working with children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 13 years. There is a bike track in the outdoor play area and, prior to partnering with SHDHD on this grant, the bikes available were the size for children three and under. The Children's Ark was able to purchase four bigger bikes for the older children, greatly increasing their physical activity. According to the Director, *"When the older kids are doing outside time the bikes are always out and constantly in use."* She also added that the bikes have helped kids to develop their bike riding skills and begin to learn how to ride a bike without training wheels.

In addition to purchasing the bikes, the Children's Ark planned a family physical activity challenge. Twenty-five families signed up for the month-long event. The families were excited by the challenge and kids and parents would come in daily to report to the director how they were doing and what different activities they are doing to stay active. The director had parents thank her for doing the challenge and told her it helped to motivate them to make healthier life choices for them and their children.










South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates, May-June 2021

<p>Jim Morgan</p>  <p>Public Health Risk Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health:</u> <i>Jim managed the PPE operations transition away from Adams County Fairgrounds, worked on the After Action Review/Report, and provided National Incident Management System training for 2 board members and 5 staff members. Jim retired on June 25.</i></p>
<p>Dorrann Hultman</p>  <p>Community Health Services Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Every Woman Matters Health Hub (EWM) Cancer Prevention /Immunization Program / Cancer Grant /CS-CASH:</u> <u>COVID-19 response:</u> My focus continues to be on COVID-19 vaccine management, communicating with and making vaccine and ancillary supply transfers to providers, coordinating COVID-19 vaccine clinics/opportunities, promoting Pfizer vaccine availability in primary care clinics so that we aren't missing vaccination opportunities during summer physicals and supporting clinics as they get started. Vaccine for Children (VFC) clinics continue the first Thursday of each month in Hastings.</p>
<p>Liz Chamberlain</p>  <p>Community Health Worker</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> Continue to distribute PPE to agencies one day/week, complete PPE inventory and update PPE spreadsheets. Middle of June moved PPE from Fairgrounds to the office basement for distribution and developed a new Jot Form for ordering PPE, since the state Jot Form is done at the end of June. Most of my time is spent scheduling Vaccine appointments for SHDHD and making sure everyone gets scheduled for 2nd doses if they are unable to make their original appointment. <u>LTCF (Long Term Care Facilities) QPR (Suicide Prevention):</u> Provided virtual QPR Training to 7 LTCF in the SHDHD district during the month of May 2021 with 83 LTCF staff attending the training.</p>
<p>Brooke Wolfe</p>  <p>Public Health Promotions and Prevention Coordinator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> I continue to assist as the point person for the transition to using Nebraska's vaccine registration system. I have been working closely with Michele on our staffing plan as our COVID response continuously changes. <u>Opioid/Rural Behavioral Health Network/ School Wellness:</u> Our Rural Behavioral Health Network continues collecting surveys to understand behavioral health referral barriers and looking at options for a community resource guide. As part of the Opioid project, we successfully held our first CHIP steering committee meeting since 2019 with 10 members in attendance! Lastly, I continue to work with 5 area schools as they wrapped up their implementation goals around the Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community WSCC model through COVID safe practices.</p>
<p>Jessica Warner</p>  <p>Health Surveillance Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Disease Surveillance:</u> SHDHD continues to have increasing numbers of variants of concern (VOC's). I have been working with individuals and facilities to order sequencing to identify the variants that are circulating in our communities. I worked with a large preschool exposure and a LTC outbreak during this reporting period. I have been working with Heidi Davis for cross training with investigations for other diseases. The school year ended, but surveillance staff continued to work with school exposures until the end of the year. We are in the early stages of planning for this upcoming school year.</p>
<p>Alex Stogdill</p>  <p>Program Assistant</p>	<p><u>Immunization:</u> Data entry for the VFC clinics. <u>COVID-19 response:</u> My COVID-19 responsibilities have shifted to focus more on vaccine distribution/data entry and analysis. I also worked to calculate and track positivity data, COVID-19-related deaths for the South Heartland Health District, and our district's vaccination progress. <i>Alex will begin Medical School at UNMC in August and complete a dual degree in Public Health!! His last day with SHDHD was June 25.</i></p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Janis Johnson</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Standards and Performance Manager / Public Health Nurse</p>	<p><u>Immunizations</u>: Back up coordinator, VFC Vaccinator, administering COVID-19 vaccination for homebound and strike teams.</p> <p><u>COVID-19 Response</u>: Training & supervision of new staff & logistics for staff assignments. Keeping documents, guidance and messaging current.</p> <p><u>Standards and Performance Management/Accreditation</u>: Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Annual Report, Year 1 nearing completion & due 07.21.21.</p> <p><u>Interim Assistant Director</u>: timesheets, orientation, staffing, staff performance management, assist Michele as needed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jean Korth</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Chronic Disease Prevention Program Assistant</p>	<p><u>COVID 19 response</u>: I continue to work on case investigations/contact tracing, however, as the number of positive cases decrease, my focus has now changed to work on vaccination promotion with community members from our health district voicing public service announcement on the Platte River Radio stations. I am also working on requesting local businesses to consider providing incentives as we reach our COVID-19 vaccination milestones.</p> <p>I assist in entering vaccination information into the Nebraska State Immunization Information System and work alongside the vaccinator during our VRAS-based clinics (Vaccine Registration & Administration System)</p> <p><u>Maternal Child Health</u>: All school and childcare partners have made purchases to support their goals and are now completing final evaluations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Samantha Martell</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Bi-Lingual Community Health Worker</p>	<p><u>Bilingual Community Health Worker (CHW)</u>: Contact tracing and investigations to assist with interpretation. Monthly VFC clinic: I promote and schedule all of our clients, as well as interpret and translate for both VFC and COVID-19 clinics as needed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Heidi Davis</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Disease Investigator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response</u>: I continue to work on case investigations and contact tracing. I was able to assist as needed at COVID-19 vaccine clinics. I became familiar in our new Data computer program to track and record positive cases and their contacts. As COVID-19 cases have decreased, I have been working on general EPI cases for reportable diseases. In addition I have been trained to provide support on data analysis reports of COVID-19 for weekly reporting.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lauren Shackelford</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Disease Investigator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response</u>: I have been onboarding and working on COVID-19 case investigation contact tracing training. In addition I will be helping with other projects including Pool Cool and sun safety.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pam Stromer</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Administrative & Technology Assistant</p>	<p><u>Administrative Assistant</u>: Provide office support by answering the phone, mail service, receiving guests and providing various office duties, as requested.</p> <p><u>Technology Assistant</u>: Working to help maintain and update the South Heartland District web pages, develop on-line surveys as requested, work on getting familiar with the many software programs SHDHD uses and providing support with the Microsoft Office programs, as needed.</p>

**South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates,
May-June 2021**

Support Staff for COVID-19 Response:

Part-time Hire:

Lucy Nielsen	Data Analysis, Dashboard
Aida Evans	Interpretation, Monitoring, Minority Outreach
Jessica Struss	Epi Team/Vaccine Clinic Support (resigned end of June)
Saylor Pershing	Data, Epi Team support
Garry Steele	PPE Management (position ended w/ reduced PPE management needs)
Hannah Langer	Intern
Emma Severson	Intern

Contract (Mary Lanning):

Leslie Anderson, RN	VFC & COVID Clinic Support
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Agency:

Sam Coutts	Clerical Assistant, Epi Team Support, Phones, Vaccine Clinic Support
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Volunteer:

Sue Rutt	Phones, Information
John Bohmfalk	Disease Investigation follow up

National Guard:

The National Guard are no longer deployed in the state and our last guard member left on June 10th.

Vaccine Clinic Staffing Support:

Mary Lanning is providing some staffing for clinics, including pharmacy to draw up vaccine, vaccinators, and clerical/health information support.

SH moved to Wednesdays (starting May 5) from the Fairgrounds to the west end of Allen's to take the lead for vaccination clinics. The ML Collaborative finished their 2nd doses for their patients and the public and were phased out from the Allen's location by 5/14. They continue to support the vaccination effort with staffing when needed.

On June 9th, South Heartland finished up the last scheduled large clinic at Allen's and we are developing alternative approaches including possible collaboration with businesses and other entities to vaccinate their employees. This may include business's offering incentives to their employees. The Allen's space remains available, if needed, through the end of July.