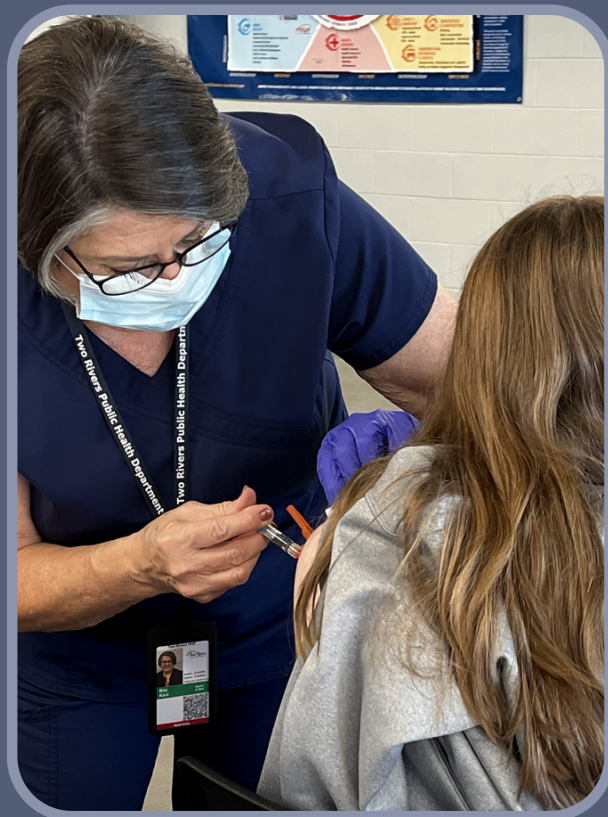




December  
2022





# MEET THE STAFF



Jeremy Eschliman, MBA, REHS  
Health Director



Katherine Mulligan  
Planning Section Supervisor



Jacki (Connery) Haley, BSN, RN  
Community Health Nurse Supervisor



Von Lutz, DSW  
Clinical Services Supervisor



Aravind Menon  
PHD, MPH, MBBS  
Epidemiologist



Jesse Valenti  
Finance Supervisor



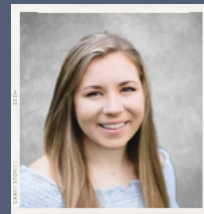
Misti Raburn  
Administrative Assistant



Julie Williams  
Administrative Assistant



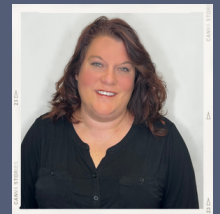
Hayley Jelinek  
Health Educator



Emily Beaver  
Health Educator



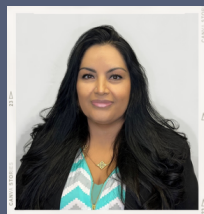
Akaela Lieth  
Marketing & Communications Coordinator



Erica Carpenter  
Emergency Response Coordinator



McKenzie Petersen  
Environmental Health Specialist



Rosa Pinon, LPN  
Program Nurse



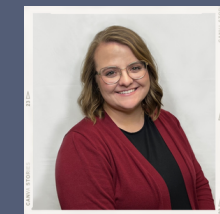
Rita Kaul  
BSN, RN  
Community Health Nurse



Marilyn Warnken, LPN  
Program Nurse



Elizabeth Wiens  
MS, RN, BSN  
Community Health Nurse



Jordan Anderson  
BSN, RN  
Community Health Nurse



Krista Pierce  
Health Educator



Maria Barocio  
Community Health Worker



Nazaria Mackins  
Community Health Worker



Cindy Redding  
Community Health Worker



Brent Roemmich  
Billing Specialist



Sally Heusinkvelt  
Billing Specialist





# Happy Holidays from the Director

2022 has been a year of tremendous change throughout the world. As we move forward, I want to thank our partners' and community's efforts to advance the public's health and well-being. It's a privilege and an honor to work with all of you. As Two Rivers Public Health Department looks toward 2023, one goal rises to the top. TRPHD will strive to create a healthy community for all.

Individually, the most common New Year's resolution is to get healthier. The New Year is a perfect time to make changes, and plan for a brighter future. The secret to developing a healthy habit lies in implementing small steps that are positive, specific, and achievable.

Ways to make resolutions stick:

- 1) Take Time to Reflect
- 2) Outline Your Goals – make SMART goals– Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, Time-based.
- 3) Create an Action Plan
- 4) Take Action – Choose one goal at a time to achieve. Not everything will change within a week or month.
- 5) Maintain Consistency – Progress isn't always measured in results; rather, it's measured in your actions.
- 6) Keep Yourself Accountable – Create a mindset that allows changes and adaptations to achieve goals.
- 7) Remember that change will not happen overnight, it will take time to develop new habits.

## Employee Highlight

Left: Akaela Lieth Right: Erica Carpenter



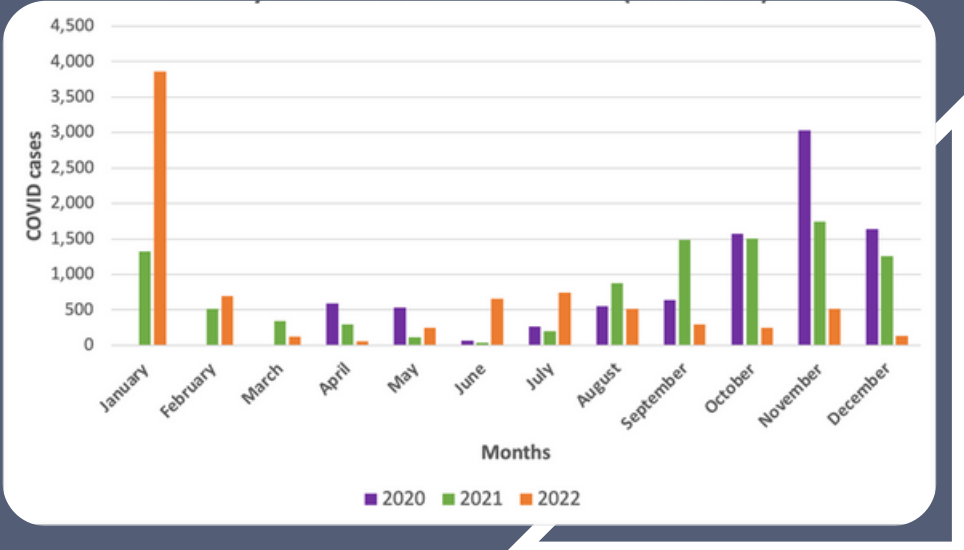
Akaela and Erica joined us in October of this year. They are filling the roles of Marketing and Communications Coordinator and Emergency Response Coordinator. They come to us from different backgrounds. Akaela was a Newscast Producer and Director at NTV for 4 years, while Erica spent 7 years working in social work, recruiting foster parents to help at risk children in foster care.

Akaela was born here in Kearney Nebraska and comes from a large family. She is one of 7 children, 4 boys and 3 girls. When the weather is nice she loves being outside, playing beach volleyball, and playing with her dogs Molly and TonTon. When the weather isn't so nice she loves court volleyball, hot cocoa, and spending time with her friends and family.

Erica was born and raised in Grand Island with 2 sisters to whom is she very close with. She married her best friend Josh in 2017 in sunny Jamaica and have they been foster parents since 2020. Their foster care journey has lead them to adopting their daughter this Spring. Erica has a passion for helping at risk kids, baking and being out side. When the weather is nice you will find her with her family at the lake fishing and camping or chasing her toddler and black lab at a park.

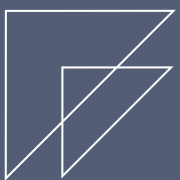
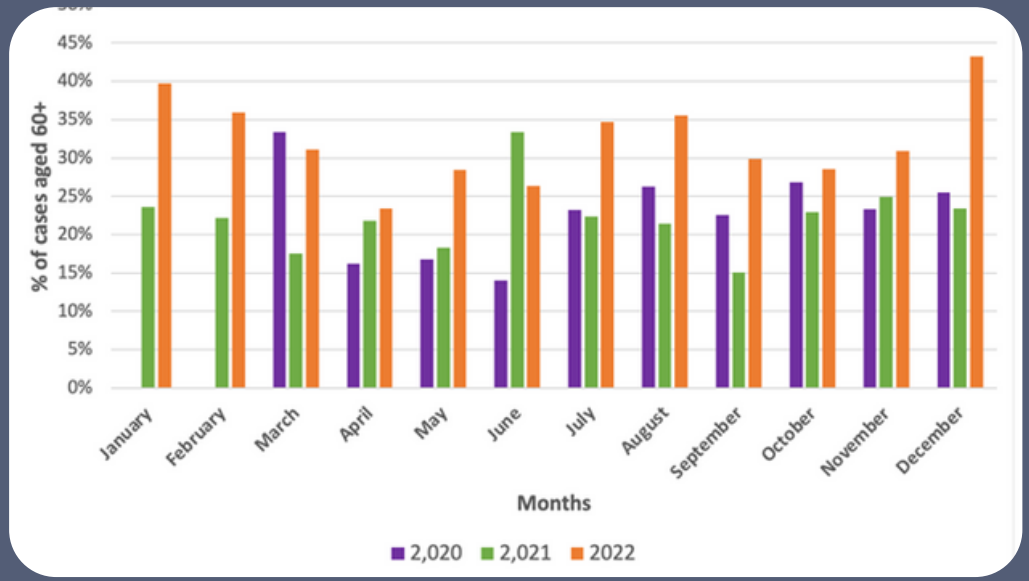
# COVID Update in the District Highlights

## • Monthly COVID Positive Cases (2020-2022)

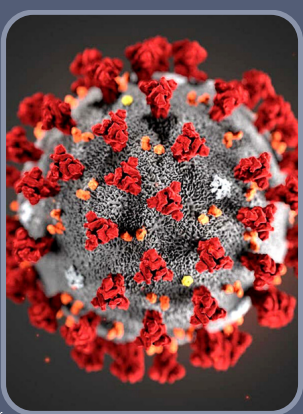


- Reported COVID cases are far less than what we saw in the previous two years.
- This year has trended below the 'historic average' of the previous two years .
- Past 4 weeks have seen a rise in reported cases as compared to Fall and late Summer 2022.

## • Proportion of 60+ year olds among all COVID cases by month (2020-2022)



- Higher proportion (35%) of those testing positive are 60+ years old.
- 60+ most at risk for severe complications
- 60+ most likely to be vaccinated and boosted.

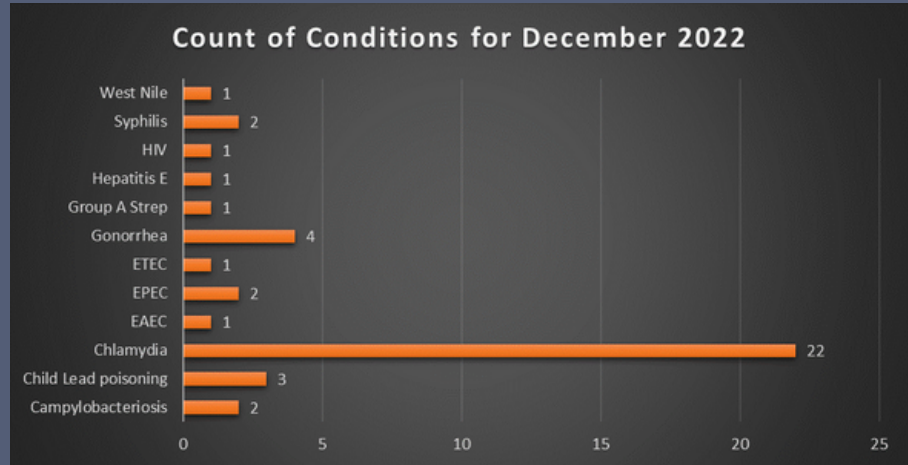


- Key insights for the COVID outlook for December 2022
- The rising share of positive cases among those aged 60+ is just another step towards COVID's eventual role as a seasonal respiratory infection, probably more virulent and as deadly as the flu.
- Data from the CDC seems to indicate that the more recently a booster was taken, the greater the protection from complications.

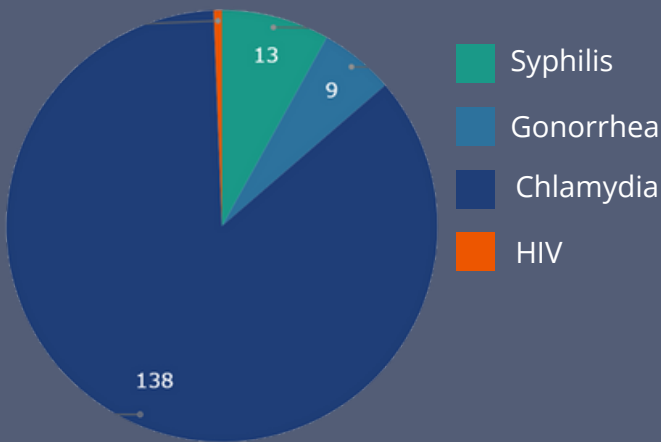


### Non-COVID reportable diseases for Monthly period:

By law, local public health departments are required to investigate diseases classified as reportable in Nebraska. These diseases are listed fully in Nebraska Administrative Code Title 173. There are a total of 143 reportable diseases in Nebraska, plus other diseases or poisonings that occur in clusters and outbreaks. Diseases are reported to TRPHD through an electronic disease investigation system. The graph at right shows all of the diseases reported to TRPHD during December 2022.



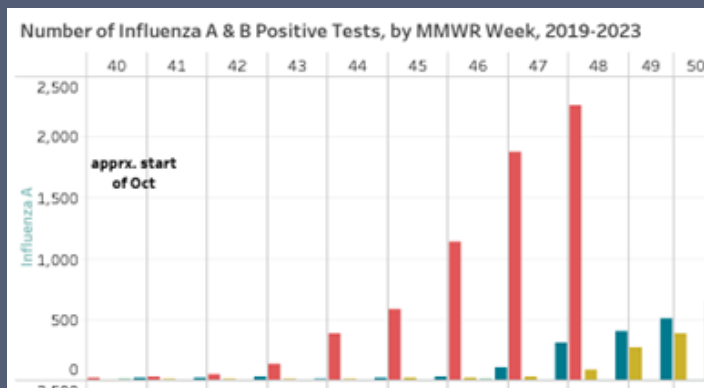
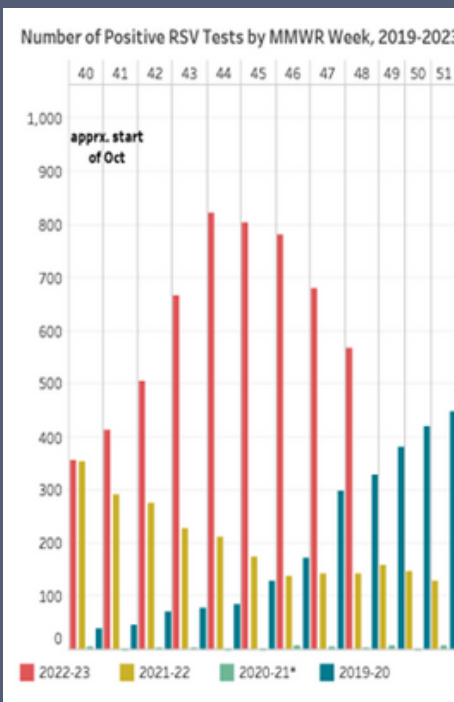
### Sexually Transmitted Infections within the TRPHD District



The community nurse section completed more than 24hrs of individual trainings and conferences. Since September 1st, TRPHD nurses have investigated 13 Syphilis cases, 9 Gonorrhea cases, 138 Chlamydia cases and 1 HIV case. The community health nurse team continues to develop skills and experience in sexually transmitted infection investigations in order to provide education to those experiencing infection.

### Influenza and RSV Disease Investigations

Although the Influenza and RSV "season" just started, the United States' positive cases are higher than usual, at this time of year. At the same time, Nebraska's Influenza and RSV positive cases are also unusually high for this time of year.



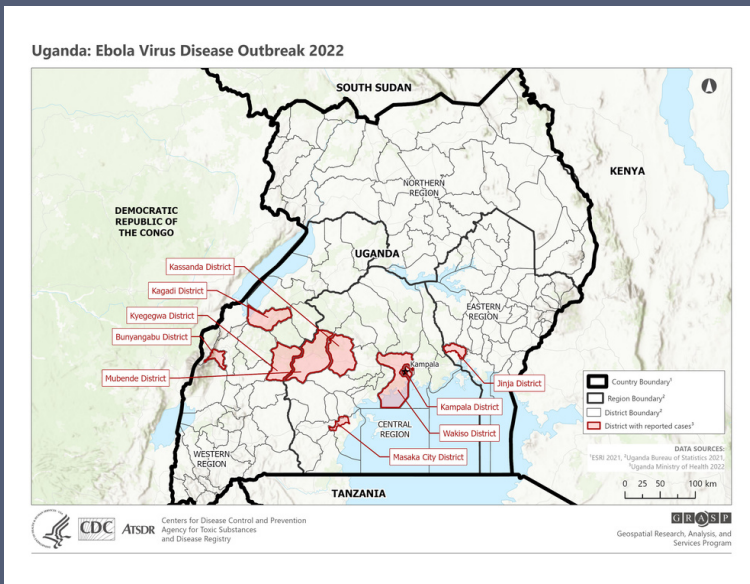
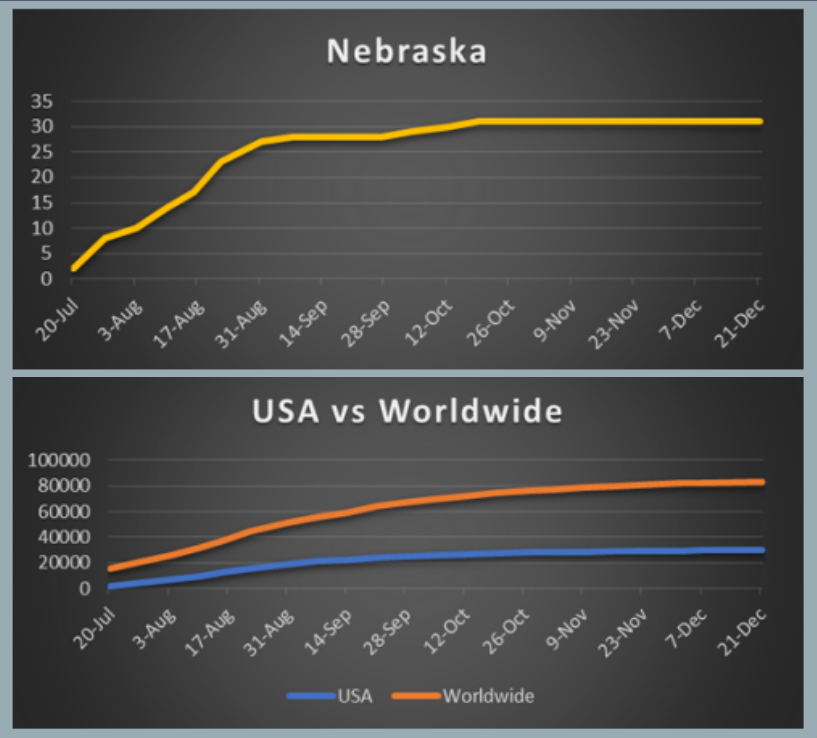


Local health departments monitor disease outbreaks to prevent further spread of disease. Prevention efforts can include educational messaging, offering vaccinations, and sharing data.

CDC is updating webpages to the term "mpox", formerly known as Monkeypox, to reduce stigma and other issues associated with prior terminology. This change is aligned with the recent [World Health Organization](#) decision.

MPOX update:

- Global Cases: 82,99
- Global Deaths: 106
- Cases in the U.S: 29,740
- Deaths in U.S: 20
- Cases in NE: 31
- Deaths in NE: 0
- Vaccines Administered:
  - 1,152,073



Two Rivers Public Health department has been monitoring the outbreak of Ebola in Uganda. TRPHD works with Nebraska DHHS to monitor individuals who have recently travelled to Uganda to identify any symptoms of concern.

TRPHD also communicates with hospitals to ensure that each hospital is prepared to treat any person who shows up with symptoms similar Ebola. Some hospitals might choose to complete a tabletop exercise to ensure they are adequately prepared for potential patients.

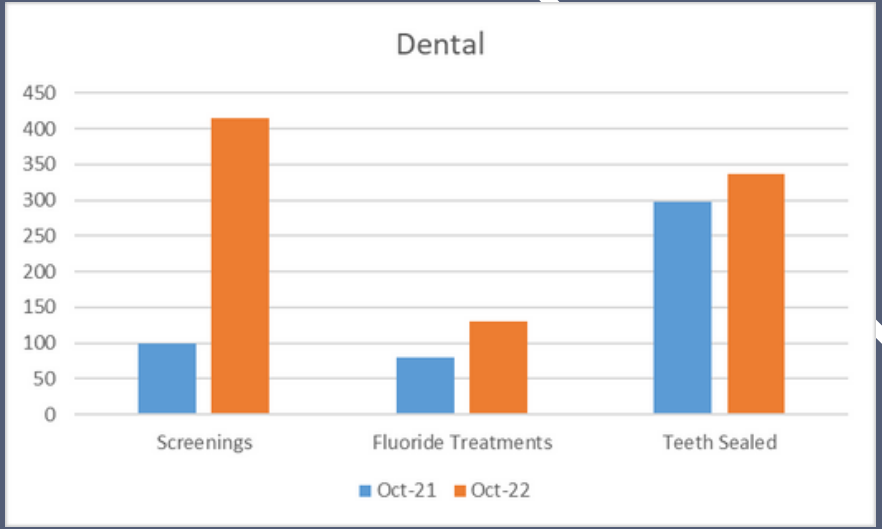
When an outbreak slows or stops, the health department continues monitoring without sending messaging or sharing data. Both the MPOX and Ebola (Uganda) outbreaks have decreased in transmission enough to allow health organizations to monitor disease while decreasing educational information and data about the diseases.





## Dental

The Dental program has finished up 1st round dental clinics at 27 area schools. Beginning in December, the team will start 2nd round clinics with January being full steam ahead.



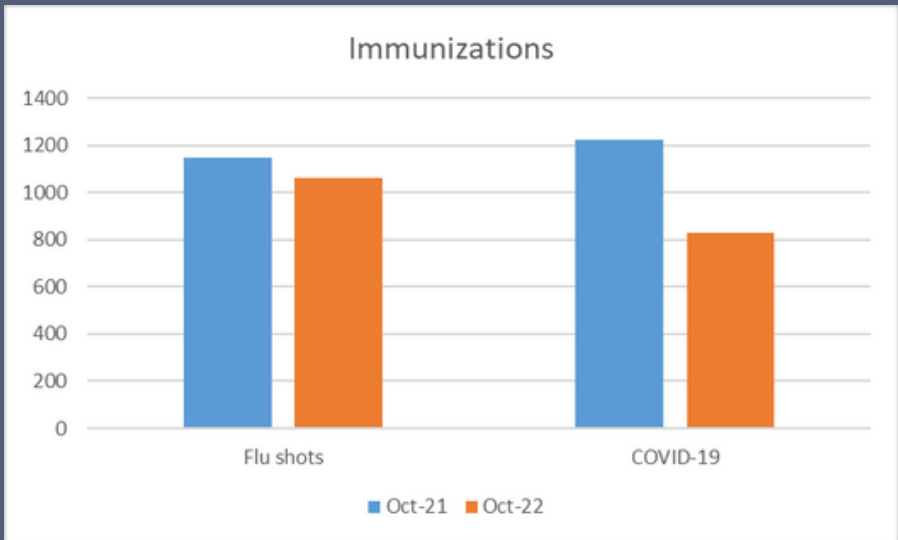
## COVID in Animals

According to the CDC, an estimated 6+ out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals. 3 out of every 4 new or emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals.

Clinical Services worked with DHHS research on Saturday November 19th to collect nasal swabs and lymph nodes of harvested deer at the Game and Parks office in Kearney. They are researching COVID-19 in animals. Last season, they found 17% of deer samples collected were positive for COVID-19.



## Vaccinations

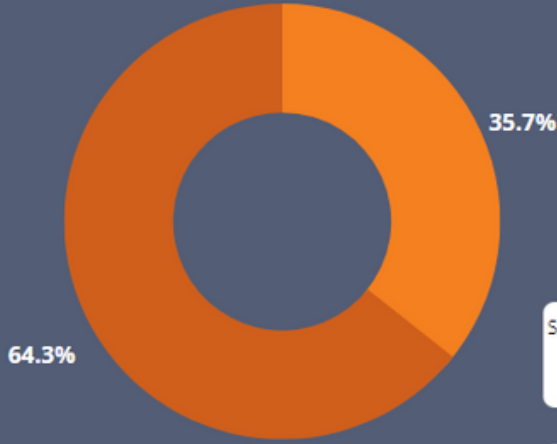


The immunization team recently held a flu/COVID vaccination clinic at the Viero Center in November during the hockey game.

It has been noted that vaccination against COVID and influenza has decreased compared to previous years. The table to the left shows the decrease of vaccinations administered by TRPHD from 2021 to 2022.



# 2022-2025 Strategic Planning



**Completed Goals**  
TRPHD staff have completed 77 goals toward the strategic plan.

**Goals in Progress**  
TRPHD staff have made a total of 139 goals toward the strategic plan priorities.

### TRPHD Strategic Goals

- Strengthen collaboration and increase service availability
- Improved access to care for underserved populations
- Enable sustainable organizational systems and infrastructure
- Become a trusted resource for local data



TRPHD conducted a quarterly strategic planning meeting and ugly sweater competition. This meeting allowed TRPHD to effectively plan 20 new goals steps toward strategic goals. We also enjoyed our time together and appreciated all the ugly sweaters.

The ugly sweater contest happened to fall one of the twice weekly interviews TRPHD conducts with NTV. Pictured below you can see Sara Kirkley interview Jeremy Eschliman and his unique fashion sense.

TRPHD has ensured that the internal strategic plan reflects some of the goals in the 2020-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). TRPHD addresses the goal of becoming 'THE data resource for our district by working with local media outlets. Both plans focus heavily on access to care and equity.

## 2020-2024 CHIP Priorities







### Job Opportunities

We are excited to announce the position of Billing Specialist is open. This role is to be the primary backup for the Finance Supervisor.

Job Description: Responsible for functions related to program participant management, support, and billing .

This includes:

- Assuring program registrations are distributed and completed.
- Manage content of program participant electronic health systems, data input and inquiry into electronic filing system.
- Complete initial, follow up, and ultimate resolution of unpaid claims with insurance companies, government agencies, and patients.
- Establish and maintain insurance contracts for reimbursement of program services.

We are working on first round interviews for the candidates that meet the qualifications. We plan on beginning second-round interviews in January 2023.

TRPHD added 3 new positions in 2022, a Marketing and Communications Coordinator, an Environmental Health Specialist, and a Community Health Worker.

This brought TRPHD's Full Time Equivalent (FTE) up to 20.90.

### Staffing up: Investing to improve public health services and protections

A lack of consistent investment in state and local governmental public health has resulted in a

**15%**

decrease in staffing, leaving the nation unable to provide basic public health protections.



According to a new analysis by the de Beaumont Foundation and the Public Health National Center for Innovations, the nation needs

**80,000**

more full-time-equivalent positions in state and local health departments to provide basic community services.



● CURRENT POSITIONS = 103,500    ● TOTAL POSITIONS NEEDED = 183,500

**80%**

That's an increase just to provide a minimal set of services that every community needs.



Now is the time to invest in our nation's public health workforce.

To see the full analysis, visit [staffingup.org](http://staffingup.org)

de Beaumont  
BOLD SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

phnci\*



We have reserved for a Honda CR-V. This vehicle will primarily be used to transport employees as TRPHD staff travel to mobile clinics, meetings with partners, and supplies as needed.



# Fun Health Fact of the Month.

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In some parts of the world, parents protect their babies from disease by bathing them in beer.





