



Larimer County Department of Health & Environment 2009 Annual Report

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Public Health

Director's Letter

Health isn't just something you get from your doctor's office.

Health begins in our homes and families, in our work and schools, in what we eat and drink, and in our habits and level of activity. Both our physical environment and our social environment—our friends and community organizations—influence our health and well-being.

The Department of Health and Environment helps protect all Larimer County residents by making sure the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the food you eat are as safe as possible.

Whether you get your food from a grocery store or from a restaurant, we've inspected it to reduce the chance of a food-borne outbreak.

From day care centers, to K-12 schools, to camps, we make sure your children have safe playgrounds, sanitary facilities and food service, non-toxic art supplies, and secure storage of lab chemicals.

We work hard to stop contagious diseases in our community by offering vaccines to those who might not be able to get them. We help sick people avoid spreading their infection to others.

We also promote healthy eating, active recreation, and a tobacco-free environment

to reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, and other chronic illnesses.

We've been there for you in times of public health emergencies, whether it's floods, hazardous spills, fires, or outbreaks.

The Health Department also offers special programs and services to children and families who don't have the same opportunities to be as healthy as others—people whose circumstances have made them vulnerable to poor health. We know we can have the most impact when we're involved as early as possible, so many of these services focus on women and families with young children who are having difficulties facing life's challenges.

We help them meet those challenges. We reinforce their skills as parents. We help them secure medical services they need. We offer vouchers for healthy foods and teach them about good nutrition. We connect them to resources to resolve addiction, abuse, and unemployment. We provide assistance, support, and referrals to parents raising a child with special health care needs.

We deliver many services that protect everyone, and other services that strengthen high-risk families, so we can help **all** Larimer County residents have the opportunity to make choices that allow them to live a long and healthy life.

Adrienne LeBailly, MD, MPH

Board of Health

By statute, the Board of Health serves as the governing board for the Health Department, administering and enforcing state and local health laws and regulations.

2009 Board of Health:

*Teri Olson, RN, MSN
Dr. Mark Richards, MD, MPH
Judy Robinson RN, MPH
Lee Thielen, MPA
Blair Trautwein, JD (thru 6/09)
Steve Yurash (beginning 7/09)*

Health Department Mission:

"To promote a healthy community and reduce unnecessary suffering caused by preventable disease, disability, or death."

2009 County Commissioners:

*Kathay Rennels, District I
Steve Johnson, District II
Tom Donnelly, District III*

Visit us on the web at www.larimer.org/health

2009 Highlights: H1N1 Vaccination Clinics Vaccinate Thousands

In the fall of 2009, as pandemic H1N1 flu vaccine was being distributed around the country, news stories described crowds of people waiting in long lines for their vaccine, sometimes in the rain and cold. Young children, pregnant women, and those under 65 with chronic illnesses were prioritized to receive the vaccines first, but even people in priority groups might be turned away after hours of waiting for lack of enough vaccine.

Dr. Adrienne LeBailly, director of the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, knew from past vaccine shortages that long, slow-moving lines can cause frustration. Lengthy waits could end with people being turned away when vaccine ran out or when someone wasn't eligible for vaccination. What was needed was a way to screen people in advance for eligibility, collect their basic registration information before the clinic started, allow them to select a convenient time slot to be vaccinated, and spread people evenly throughout the clinic so that wait times were minimized.

An on-line registration system (with a phone option for those without internet access) was a possible solution.

"It's like Ticketmaster or Fandango for a public health event," LeBailly explained. "People who registered on-line and were eligible for vaccines were e-mailed an admissions 'ticket.' They printed the ticket (their flu intake form), which gave them access to the clinic at their assigned time."

- An adequate supply of vaccine was available for each clinic, because registration slots were limited to amount of vaccine on-hand.
- Adequate numbers of staff and volunteers were present for each of the vaccination clinics

The Health Department recently received a national honor for the vaccine clinic registration system from the National Association of City and County Health Organizations (NACCHO). The award recognized the system as a "model practice" that can now be replicated by other health departments. The software for the registration system is being re-written as an open-source program so that it can be used in the future by local health agencies and other organizations throughout the country.



Dr. LeBailly at NACCHO awards ceremony



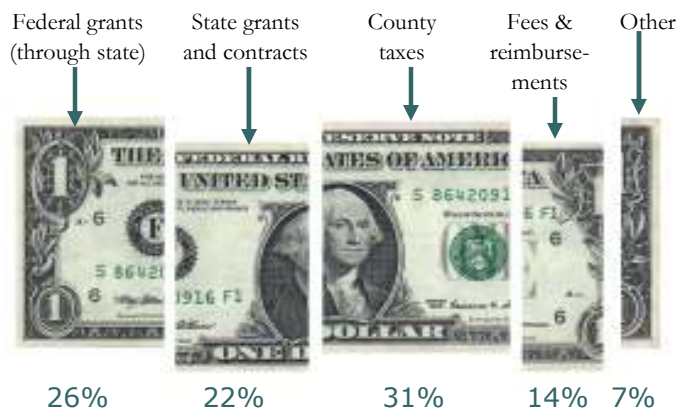
With the dedication of many Health Department staff, the involvement of key community partners, such as the Health District of Northern Larimer County, and the expertise of

county Information Technology staff, Larimer County's mass immunization clinics became a widely-praised example of efficiency for the 18,000 people who received H1N1 vaccine at the local clinics.

Outcomes reported :

- 60% of people were vaccinated in 10 min. or less; 94% vaccinated in 20 min. or less
- 99.6% of attendees were satisfied/very satisfied with the clinics, based on client surveys.

DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL REPORT: REVENUES



2009 Highlights: Camp Inspections Keep Children Safe

In 2009, the Health Department’s Environmental Health staff conducted a total of 26 inspections of 18 children’s camps in the county which open their doors to hundreds of children and young adults from across the country.

“Inspecting a camp is like inspecting a little city,” said Larimer County Health Department epidemiologist, Kim Meyer-Lee

Camp inspections include evaluation of the their kitchens, water systems, sewage disposal systems as well as housing, bathing facilities, sleeping areas, and provisions for health care. Inspectors ensure that safety measures are in place during activities such as woodworking, ropes courses, climbing walls, and horse activities. They even check on how food and water are provided for backpacking trips. General sanitation in the facilities is also important, as is a properly equipped and sanitary nurses’ station.

Camps inspected by the Health Department must be in compliance with:

- State regulations which protect campers from food-borne illnesses and set standards for sanitation and general housekeeping.
- Communicable disease guidelines that protect campers from illnesses transmitted by animal (rabies, plague, etc.)
- Injury control guidelines that keep campers safe from preventable, serious injuries
- Safe drinking water standards

Sky Ranch, one of Larimer County’s children’s camps



“A case of diarrhea in a camp could quickly become 400 cases if a camp doesn’t implement the proper controls,” said Chris Manley, environmental health specialist in Estes Park. “With a lot of people in a limited space, it’s important that the camps do everything they can to prevent the spread of illness. Since the campers will be on-site from a week to 6 weeks, and travel from over the world to camp, it’s difficult to just send them home when they’re sick.”

During the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak a small number of campers became ill during the summer.

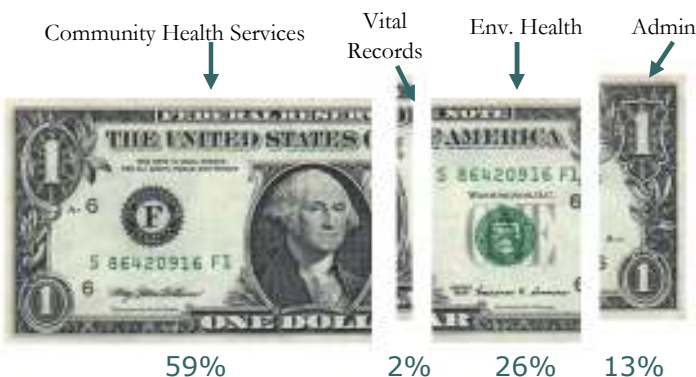
“The camps did an incredible job of controlling the spread of H1N1 during the summer of 2009,” said Manley. “The Health Department provided guidance and information to camp administrators, parents, and local health care providers throughout the summer without having to close camps or send large numbers of children home.”

The work of the Larimer County environmental health specialists pays off when campers return to their homes happy and healthy with wonderful memories of a summer in our high country.

“Outcomes are so much better if we can lessen the possibilities for an outbreak before one happens,” said Meyer-Lee.

“It’s hard to measure the value of prevention, but knowing your children are in a safe and healthy environment when they’re away from home is priceless.”

DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL REPORT: EXPENSES



2009 Actual Expenditures: \$9,102,010

Reach and Impact of the Health Department Services:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Food service inspections | 2,839 |
| Childcare, camp, and school inspections | 500 |
| Solid and hazardous waste inspections | 123 |
| Well water samples and inspections | 1,544 |
| Septic system inspections and permits | 726 |
| Land use plan reviews and inspections | 299 |
| Outdoor air quality samples | 154 |
| Air permit compliance | 423 |

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Persons with medical conditions that by law must be reported | 797 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

COMMUNITY HEALTH

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Adult immunizations | 4,853 |
| Child immunizations | 9,659 |
| Seasonal Flu shots | 1,129 |
| Pandemic H1N1 vaccinations | 18,000 |
| Family Planning clinic visits | 4,300 |
| Family Planning outreach presentations | 137 |
| Persons treated for sexually transmitted infections | 610 |
| Clients served by Nurse Family Partnership program | 238 |
| Home visits provided to high-risk mothers by maternal health nurses | 994 |
| Tuberculin skin tests | 1,259 |

VITAL RECORDS

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Birth certificates | 10,191 |
| Death certificates issued | 15,407 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Service providers and landlords receiving tobacco, Quitline, and secondhand smoke resources | 3,400 |
| Food vouchers issued through Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program | 59,397 |
| Value of WIC food vouchers used at Larimer County grocery stores | \$2.4 million |
| Parents and children assisted in accessing Medicaid services | 5,979 |
| Care coordination, information, and referrals for families of children with special health care needs | 383 |
| People exercising at the Northside Aztlan Community Center in Vida Sana-sponsored events | 1,001 |



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Public health services protect our air, water, soil, and food, prevent chronic and communicable diseases, and offer high-risk families an opportunity for better health. This protection costs less than 3 cents a day in county taxes per Larimer resident .