

**Two Rivers Public Health Department
10 Essential Services Board Report
April 2010**

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community.

We continue to do Influenza Like Illness with hospitals and clinics to monitor the status of H1N1 in our district. Minimal influenza is present at this time, but the CDC is requesting close monitoring of the situation to enable quick response if this status changes and we see an increase in cases. School surveillance is also an important component of our “first alert” network with weekly reporting from area participating schools.

In the past several months 30 investigations have been completed on reportable diseases in our area. These included; Campylobacter -7 giardiasis-5, hepatitis C-7, H1N1 influenza-1, salmonella-3, strep pneumoniae-1, cryptosporidiosis-3, pertussis-1 and shigella-1. Also there has been one animal case of rabies in our area resulting in no human or domestic pet exposures.

Mold fact sheets have been distributed to help residents with clean up in flooded areas.

2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards.

Two Rivers will continue to store H1N1 vaccine supplies as advised by the CDC. We want to have stocks of vaccine available to get out to our partners if we see an increase in the disease in our area. H1N1 crowded out other strains of influenza in this last year and this is expected to continue. H1N1 will be one of the three components included in next fall’s influenza vaccine, but exact timelines and amounts of vaccine availability are subject to many variables, so having a stock available will be added insurance for response.

Doses Administered through 3/06/2010:

26,444

As of March 6, 2010, the Two Rivers Public Health Department and their district partners have administered 26,444 doses of H1N1 vaccine, protecting about 25% of the Department’s population. Initially, rather than accumulating vaccine in the department as it slowly became available, we provided our medical community with vaccine to expedite immunization of the designated target groups. We believe that our “divide and conquer” paradigm, based on population, gave the priority groups access to vaccine in all seven counties. To date, our district medical **clinics, hospitals and University of Nebraska-Kearney**, have administered **19,342** doses.



In addition to medical clinics and hospitals, beginning in late October, as greater quantities of vaccine have become available, **81 school clinics** were held by Two Rivers throughout our seven county area. To date, **4,837 doses have been administered to students 18 years and under and 527 doses to students and staff members 19 and older** in school-based clinics.

Emergency response personnel were considered a priority, with **99** immunized by Department staff. **Department staff, their families, and Board of Health Members** were vaccinated according to priority guidelines, for a total of **28**.

In December, several nursing homes, specialty clinics, and retail pharmacies received vaccine. To date, **nursing homes and alternative living centers** have administered **365** doses. **Specialty medical clinics** have given **180** doses and **retail pharmacies** have provided **526** doses.



As of 3/6/09, **206** residents had been served in **Free Public Clinics** in Holdrege, Elwood, and Lexington. Several **businesses** have also signed agreements and have provided **334** doses to their employees and family. On March 9th, **59** residents were immunized at the Minden Public Clinic. Additional second doses have been administered to children under 10 at school clinics. **This is 25.2% of the population in our district.**

Amy continues to participate on the exercise planning committees for two large exercises. The first is a full scale exercise with the University of Nebraska in Kearney and many Buffalo County response partners which include the hospital, fire, EMS, Red Cross, public works and many others. This exercise will be conducted on April 15 and will be a mass casualty exercise. We will also be exercising the new Medical Table that is being implemented in Buffalo County. Amy is also on the exercise design team for the TRIMRS exercise to be conducted in June.

3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices.

NEW Website! Please see: www.tworiverspublichealth.com

KUVR Health Talks monthly

Press Releases – H1N1, rabies

Interviews – NTV, KRVN, Hastings, Tribune, Franklin Chronicle, KHAS

On January 28th, Two Rivers attended the Kearney YMCA Health Fair for Kearney Public School employees. We were able to provide information on a wide variety of topics and to answer many health related questions.

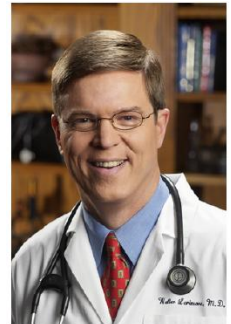
Two Rivers was contacted by the administrator of Bethany Homes in Minden to come and participate in the Home's Annual Health Fair. Informational brochures on healthy eating, West Nile Virus, safe sunning guidelines, and giveaways such as Two Rivers DEET wipes and chapstick with sunscreen were offered to participants. The Dermascan equipment was also used, and 77 individuals were screened for sun damage.

Wilcox and Franklin Schools conducted Middle School Health Fairs on March 16 and 19, respectively. Two Rivers had the opportunity to provide education on MRSA and Influenza, as

well as answer student's questions. Approximately 180 students participated in the two health fairs. Two Rivers also had the opportunity to participate in the Dawson County Career Fair for high school students.

As part of our strategic planning which includes addressing priority health issues identified in our District, Two Rivers staff will pursue a wellness theme targeting obesity, beginning with April 2010, Public Health Month. Rather than taking a negative approach to health, we have decided to take a more positive one. Our initial yearly theme, "Make Play Part of Your Day," will capitalize on healthy habits while making them fun, attainable, and inexpensive. While a "don't do" philosophy may work for some, a "can do" approach will provide positive approaches to wellness. We hope to partner with various community organizations and, throughout the year, visit each of our seven counties with special activities.

Through the WOW school employee wellness program we are pleased to announce that Dr. Walt Larimore, author of "Supersized Kids" will be doing TWO informational presentations in the Two Rivers Public Health district. Both presentations will be held on Wednesday, April 14. The first event will begin at 5:15 to 6:15 in Lexington at the Middle School auditorium, and the second will begin at 7:30 in Holdrege at the Tassel. Because the Lexington Community Foundation, the Phelps Memorial Health Center Foundation and our funding from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service have financially supported this educational event, we are able to offer this event free of charge to all who attend. Dr. Larimore will be speaking on the topic of childhood obesity and how to resolve this troubling epidemic in our society.



4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems.

As part of our strategic planning initiative and to receive some informal data from the "man on the street," the department will conduct convenience surveys in each of our county seats in April. The survey information will be compiled in categories that mirror those in the earlier Two Rivers Public Health Department Assessment Survey that was a part of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships Assessment process done in 2007.

5. Develop public health policies and plans.

Terry is participating in the Nebraska Healthy People 2020 Coalition meetings. The group is working on developing the objectives for Nebraska's Healthy People 2020. The goal is to develop an interactive website that details the health objectives for Nebraska and includes best practice program examples that can be utilized to address the objectives.

Terry attended the Public Health Proclamation signing at the Capitol on March 10, 2010. She also met with our four senators: Christensen, Carlson, Hadley and Wightman, to share information about Two Rivers and provide information about public health issues in the state.

RWJ and the University of Wisconsin released County Health Rankings in February for the nation. All of our counties, with the exception of Gosper, have been included in the Nebraska rankings and reports are available. Counties are ranked by Health Outcomes (morbidity and mortality) and Health Factors (behavioral, clinical, social and economic and environmental).

While this provides some good information for identifying gaps and developing priorities, it is important to remember that it is a snapshot at one point in time which utilizes specific data points to formulate the rankings. Copies of your counties rankings are available upon request.

Marsha has been privileged to serve on a State Subcommittee charged with developing the ten top priorities for the use of Nebraska's Maternal and Child Health Federal Block Grant for the next five years. She has worked on the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Subcommittee. To date, the committee has chosen three priorities that will be shared with the larger state-wide group on April 22nd. These three priorities include: Abuse and Neglect, Medical Home and Functional Limitations.

As the Emergency Response Coordinator Chairperson for Nebraska, Amy and the Executive Committee planned the annual two day workshop for the ERC group. It was held in Grand Island in March this year. The Department of Health and Human Services' representative presented the new Strategic National Stockpile template and updated chapters for our Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP) that must be completed by September. Amy will also be part of a committee to restructure the (PHERP) for the State to make it more usable and more like the Local Emergency Operations Plans created by the Emergency Managers.

Terry attended the SACCHO Midwinter Meeting in Washington, DC as the Nebraska Representative. The meeting was very informational and held during the week of the healthcare reform voting, some of the conversation centered around this legislation and how it might affect public health. There is funding for a Prevention and Public Health Fund in the bill and funding for Public Health Workforce Recruiting and Retention. It was very interesting to have the opportunity to speak with representatives from 30 different states and share resources and concerns with the group. Nebraska's multicounty system is very different than most states and many are looking at implementing a structure like ours to increase efficiency and decrease costs. We also have much better relationships with our local and state partners than many of the states. NACCHO, our national organization was instrumental in providing the local public health voice and story during H1N1 and interactions with the CDC. I was also able to attend the Nebraska Legislative Breakfast and had the opportunity to listen to all five of our representatives and the issues they are facing.

We continue to monitor LB1110 – the prenatal care bill through the Friends of Public Health. Testimony and documentation has been provided on the importance of prenatal care in increasing the opportunity for a healthy child and the savings in the cost of complications and long term problems that can arise when prenatal care does not occur. Friends is part of a coalition that includes the Nebraska Medical Association, the Nebraska Hospital Association, Voices for Children, Right to Life and other similar organizations in the state. This has been a very difficult issue for the Unicameral to deal with in this short session.

6. Enforce public health laws and regulations.

Two Rivers has received funding from DHHS to fund the enforcement aspect of the Clean Indoor Air Act. This funding enables Heather to conduct on site consultations when a complaint is logged, as well as providing educational literature to business, and follow up when a subsequent complaint is made. As to date, Two Rivers has received 11 complaints and conducted 6 on site visits.

We disseminated the CDC's new post exposure prophylaxis vaccine schedule for rabies to our medical partners. The new recommendations require four doses of vaccine instead of the five that were previously recommended.

7. Help people receive health services.



Two Rivers participated in UNMC College of Dentistry Dental Day XVII on February 5, 2010. This was our 7th trip to Lincoln with students from Lexington. 38 children made the trip along with 5 sponsors in spite of ice covered roads and inclement weather. Drs. Fagot and Mandelko and their staff worked with the Lexington school nurses to identify students, perform exams and xrays and develop treatment plans for the children before the trip.

Two Rivers is receiving a second year of funding from DHHS for our Young Children Priority One Dental Program in Buffalo and Dawson Counties. This program focuses on preventive education and services for young children and their parents including iodine and fluoride varnish applications, supplies of toothbrushes and toothpaste, education and xylitol gum for new mothers to prevent transmission of decay to their babies.

From January 1st through March 22nd, the Public Health Nursing Program followed up on 104 dental, medical or vision problem appointments. In addition, we assisted providers with 15 case management referrals. Often, Medicaid recipients, themselves, call for our assistance. Here is an example:

An adult called the health department one day for help finding a dentist. She had worked hard all of her life, but now was disabled. She seemed embarrassed that SHE was one who now needed help. She shared her calls to several dental offices, even one she had formerly been a patient at, with no success. She said she felt that the clinics treated her badly, simply because she has Medicaid. We explained that since some clients with Medicaid do not show up for appointments or call to cancel in a timely manner, some dentists are hesitant to treat Medicaid patients. We gave her names of two offices that do treat adults with Medicaid, cautioned her to keep appointments, and be a model patient. Before she hung up, she thanked us for treating her with so much respect, something she said she has not felt for a long time.

8. Maintain a competent public health workforce.

Two Rivers staff participated in website training with Intellicom to enable us to utilize our new website to more effectively share information with the public and other health professionals.

Two Rivers staff participated in a Data 101 videoconference with NDHHS and health departments across the state. This is the first of a series of videoconferences that will be held to improve data use, program development and evaluation for the local health departments and their partners.

Amy and had the opportunity to present with the Center for Preparedness Education at the Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, Georgia in February. The Center wrote the proposal to highlight the meetings that we conducted with our medical communities and other partners for pandemic planning. It was a 90 minute session and we had a great crowd and lots of good feedback.

Two Rivers continues to partner with the School Health Telehealth system which provides continuing education and information targeted at School Nurses and Public Health Nurses. The topic for the March 9th program was Tuberculosis and the nuances of Tuberculosis in children.

9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions.

Terry attended a DHHS meeting highlighting the Nebraska SEARCH assessment program which has been developed. This program, which will be facilitated by the sociology department at UNL, will simplify and combine the administration of three health surveys that are directed at school age children. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Youth Tobacco Survey and Risk and Protective Factor Survey all provide important information about children's behaviors and beliefs that can be utilized to develop programs and education to encourage healthy behaviors and improve health. Obtaining this information is often problematic because of the difficulty of schools finding time for administration. All of the surveys will now be administered in the fall semester of even numbered years, rather than at multiple times throughout years. This will allow schools more control and understanding of the surveys and the data that is available as well as hopefully providing better participation across the state in completing the surveys.

10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health.

As part of Marsha's work on the MCH Subcommittee, she, along with other committee members, are applying research in public health interventions to proposed projects at the state level.

