

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

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

School surveillance continues to identify pockets of illness, often providing the early clues to the need for heightened awareness by school staff and the opportunity for education in healthy habits.

Surveillance efforts surrounding the Novel H1N1 began with the State requiring an investigation on every individual case; as the season progressed and the virus became widespread tactics changed and we were no longer required to follow-up on each case. However, after the virtual disappearance of cases in Nebraska now the virus has reemerged and again we are required to follow up with each individual case. We have not seen any cases in our area since early December.

Throughout the months of October-December Kerrey has conducted 42 disease surveillance investigations. We have also followed up on several rabies calls and questions.

We have continued to participate in a minimum of three weekly calls on H1N1 with the Nebraska DHHS and the CDC to keep abreast of the changing situation and vaccine supplies.

2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards.

We continue to receive varied phone calls from providers and from other sources regarding child protection concerns in our area. This quarter, however, a nurse called with concerns from a Kearney doctor for an ADULT Medicaid client regarding a, reportedly, medically fragile patient who was not following up with instructions, was confused, and may have unscrupulous friends. Luckily, we found that the situation had righted itself. Family has assumed power of attorney, follow up care is scheduled, and the "friend" has been removed from influencing the patient.

On December 9th, we were pleased to hear of the birth of a son, Grayson, to our Office Manager, Farren Nelson, and her husband Jason. We were glad that the snow storm was not a hazard to his birth!



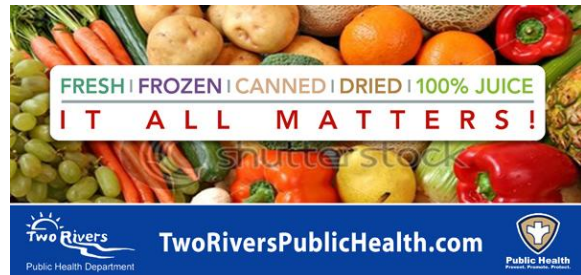
We held a Medication Take Back in conjunction with the Tri County Health Fair in Lexington on October 21-23, 2009. It was well received and many drugs were collected for incineration.



We have worked with Plum Creek Medical Clinic and DHHS to develop a real time ILI surveillance system which utilizes their Electronic Medical Record. The system is very close to being completed and will provide clinical data to monitor influenza in their patients automatically and transfer the aggregate data to the state and CDC for analysis.

Respirator fit testing was performed in early November for approximately 50 Security, Resident Life, Maintenance and Custodial staff members at UNK. Core Staff were trained by Two Rivers Staff in the use of the Portacount and the associated software. A new Portacount and software were purchased in December by the department which will reduce wait times experienced in the past related to the sharing of equipment between the various health departments. Yearly fit testing is scheduled to begin anew in mid March.

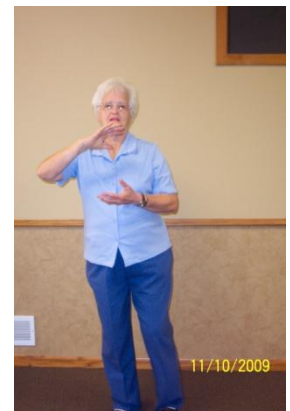
3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices.



There have been several opportunities to provide information on H1N1 vaccination through the media. For example, on December 15th, there was a radio interview with KRVN in Lexington and on December 16th, a phone interview with NTV. We have provided H1N1 updates to the media and our partners as well as interviews with Channel 5, NPR, KKPR, KUVR, the Kearney Hub, Omaha World Herald and other media sources.

Although we have enjoyed assisting clients with their Medicare D choices on site, it was a good thing we partnered with Area Agency on Aging for the 2009 open enrollments period, especially in light of our many H1N1 responsibilities. We were able to serve many area residents, in person, at the Holdrege Senior Center December 2nd and by referral to several nearby locations where the Area Agency on Aging was already conducting events.

An opportunity came in October to not only educate a group of seniors in Wilcox regarding health choices and explain the H1N1 vaccine priority groups, but to challenge them to become more active. Velma explained and demonstrated Tai Chi maneuvers to the seniors and allowed the seniors to participate in a series of simple moves. The beauty of Tai Chi is that you are able to vary the intensity and to engage in the moves whether standing or seated.



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

On November 4th, Kerrey and Marsha attended the Eyes of a Child meeting at the Phelps County Courthouse presided over by Judge Robert Ide. This meeting provides a forum for those working with foster children, especially, whether through the courts, schools, or in other

community situations, to brainstorm and plan ways to help the children and their families achieve a measure of success.

Terry is participating in a state-wide multidisciplinary committee to develop Health People 2020 objectives for Nebraska. This will be a year-long project and is headed by Dave Palm with the Office of Public Health.

The Region 3 Behavioral Health Coalition is continuing to meet quarterly to address mental health needs and assets in our area. The Coalition goals are: 1) Phone Access Accountability – 24 hour crisis line, 2) Building and Maintaining BH Workforce Capacity and 3) Healthcare System Education, Resources and Referral. Services provided by LB 603 which was passed during the 2009 Unicameral Session is providing the Nebraska Family Helpline (operated by Boys Town) 888-866-8660 which provides a 24/7 single point of contact operated by trained professionals. They also provide Family Helpline operators that connect eligible families to Family Navigator Services.

5. Develop public health policies and plans.

In November, Marsha began work on a state committee for Nebraska's Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment. She is serving on the Medically Handicapped Children's Subgroup. This group works to develop policy for the optimal use of Nebraska's Federal Maternal and Child Funds.

6. Enforce public health laws and regulations.

Clean Indoor Air complaints so far have been few, but Heather has received a few complaints recently. One was in Harlan County at a Mechanic shop, and the other two were in Buffalo County, provided by the same person! One was from his place of work and the other was a bar that he visited. I phoned both of the Buffalo County establishments and informed them of the law, asked them if they had any questions, and then sent them a packet of literature to inform the business owners of the policy, tips on how to enforce it and smoking cessation information as well. Both individuals I spoke with seemed very receptive and genuine to what I had to say, so we will see if any more violations come in for them. We have asked for and received funding from DHHS to respond to complaints, review plans or drawings of proposed outdoor smoking areas, and determine follow up communication.

7. Help people receive health services.

The novel H1N1 vaccine campaign permeated most of what we accomplished in the past quarter. Whether planning and distributing in a population based manner, explaining our scientific based method, determining the appropriate type of vaccine for a particular clinic, or welcoming those who came to pick up vaccine, it has definitely been a team effort.

In addition, beginning in November, as greater quantities of vaccine have become available, school clinics have been held by the department in several locations. Through January 14th, 2,638 doses of vaccine have been administered to children in 28 schools within our coverage area. Besides children, many staff also took advantage of the clinics to receive their own vaccinations.



As of January 16th, 2010, the Two Rivers Public Health Department Seven County Area has received 33,245 doses of vaccine and has administered 20,857 doses. Rather than holding the vaccine in house, we acted on the decision to provide our medical community with the vaccine and empower them to make the priority decisions. We believe that our “divide and conquer” paradigm, based on population, gave the most people access to vaccine.



Antiviral Medications released from the Strategic National Stockpile in 2009 were distributed to 10 providers in the Two Rivers district with the express objective of providing treatment for H1N1 influenza to patients of limited means. The department receives weekly reports from providers on usage which are then relayed to the state and on to CDC.

In addition to school based clinics department staff provided the opportunity for H1N1 immunization to first responders (Volunteer Fire Departments, Law Enforcement and EMS) in 5 communities within the district.

From October 1st through December 31st, 2009, the Public Health Nursing Program followed up on 129 dental, medical or vision problem appointments. We also provided education to 10 Medicaid recipients with inappropriate Emergency Room visits. In addition, we assisted providers with 17 case management referrals.

We have submitted a proposal for continuation funding to DHHS for our Young Children-Priority One Dental Program and have been advised that we will receive funding for 2010. We have not been notified of the amount as of yet, but the program is continuing to be provided in Kearney and Lexington.

We held our seventh dental screening with Drs. Mandelko and Fagot on December 11 for Lexington children that had been identified by the school nurses. We plan to take 44 students and 5 sponsors to UNMC Dental Day in Lincoln on February 5th. This is our 7th trip to Lincoln for Dental Day activities and treatment.

8. Maintain a competent public health workforce.

Since mental health concerns plague many in our area, Marsha attended a seminar entitled Insomnia, Depression, and Anxiety conducted at the Ramada Inn at Kearney October 22nd. While the seminar contained medication information and research based strategies, it also promoted common sense strategies of sound nutrition, restful sleep, and exercise.

On November 13, Marsha attended Medicare D update training at the Area Agency on Aging in Kearney. The training offered the opportunity to be apprised of changes for the upcoming enrollment period and to network with others in our area that we might refer seniors to for help.

Throughout the fall, we were privileged to have, Lindsey Wendt, a student at UNK, assisting us with several projects as part of her internship. Then in November, Amanda Luth, a Creighton pharmacy student provided her input and assistance. We are hopeful that we have impacted their future careers in a positive manner, as they learned more about the many facets of public health.

Changes in staff have also been an important part of recent department function. Kim Ryan, RN began in November to capably assist with many Emergency Response activities, and Mareesa Lee and now Samantha Tilson have assisted with many of Farren's duties while she is on maternity leave.

During the months of November and December Kim Ryan successfully completed FEMA/National Incident Command System training for 3 levels. IS-00100.a, Introduction to the Incident Command system, IS-00200.a, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, IS-00700.a, National Incident Management System, an Introduction.

9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions.

On December 7th, we participated in a strategic planning session with Dave and Laura. Although planning can be painful, it can also uncover hidden opportunities for growth. We are excited about some of our plans for the coming year. We will be presenting our proposed plan to you when we have completed it and asking for your suggestions and approval.

A meeting was scheduled for January 25th between Two Rivers Clinic Staff and Kearney Public School Nurses to evaluate H1N1 primary School Based Clinic outcomes and procedures before secondary clinics take place in February. Update to follow.

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

The WOW program is well into its second year, and the participating schools (Holdrege, Lexington and this year also Alma) have recently finished their first round of Wellness Training sessions required by the grant. Trainees learned about the many facets of wellness, including how to write a work plan, obtain management buy in, and sustainability. The WOW grant is also helping to fund the "Supersized Kids" author Dr. Walt Larimore to come to Lexington and Holdrege for presentations on obese children. This event will be April 14th, 2010 at the Tassel in Holdrege, and the Lexington Middle School Auditorium. Please put it on your calendars! It will be an informative and exciting evening!