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Board of Health
Monday, October 21, 2024

1. Quarterly Communicable Disease Report – Garfield County Public Health
Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response Team

Public Health

**Board of Health Report
Monday, October 21, 2024**

Communicable Disease Report:

Quarterly Communicable Disease Report – Garfield County Public Health Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response Team

Report: Contracts/Agreements signed by Public Health Director.

1. Signed the Colorado Mountain College Clinical Affiliation Agreement. CMC and Garfield County Public Health agree to work together to establish and maintain a quality clinical rotation program. Public Health agrees to take an active role in suggesting or establishing education policy, curriculum and course content.
2. Signed the 2024/2025 CCPD Program - Healthy Beverage contract. The contract is between Garfield County Public Health and Denver Health & Hospitals Authority (a subdivision of the State of Colorado). The purpose of the contract is to decrease the consumption of sugary drinks to prevent chronic diseases and address health inequities in Colorado, specifically in populations most burdened by too much weight for health, type II diabetes, heart disease, cancer and high blood pressure. The contract is in the amount of \$91,170.00
3. Signed the 2024/2025 Cooking Matters Agreement. Agreement is between Nourish Colorado and Garfield County Public Health. The purpose of the contract is to help end childhood hunger by inspiring families to make healthy, affordable food choices. Programs teach parents and caregivers with limited food budgets to shop for and cook healthy meals. The agreement is in the amount of \$42,802.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Williams,
Public Health Director

Garfield County Public Health Department – Working to Promote Health and Prevent Disease



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Communicable Diseases Report

8 Oct 2024

- I. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on October 5 [reported](#) a potential third human H5 avian influenza infection in a worker who had contact with sick cows at a Central Valley farm. Confirmation testing is underway at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If confirmed, the illness would mark the third recent H5 infection in a California dairy worker.

The Federal Government is spending \$72 million to prepare ready-to-use vials and syringes of vaccine that could help protect against the bird flu, though it's not recommending people get the shots.

Why it matters: As the virus spreads through dairy and poultry farms across parts of the U.S., officials emphasize risk to humans remains low but want to be ready if it were to mutate and become more transmissible.

- There have been 16 human cases of **H5N1** in the U.S. this year.

If confirmed by the CDC, the latest illness would push the nation's human H5 case count since the first of the year to 17. All but one—which involves a patient from Missouri—have been connected to contact with sick cows or poultry.

In related developments, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has [confirmed](#) 26 more H5N1 outbreaks in cows at California dairy farms, pushing the national total to 282 across 14 states.

First Marburg Virus Disease Outbreak in the Republic of Rwanda

- II. The health ministry in Rwanda has reported a steady rise in Marburg virus cases over the past few days, and in quickly evolving developments, the country received a shipment of investigational Marburg vaccine and began immunizing healthcare workers.
In updates over the last 3 days, Rwanda's health ministry announced the confirmation of 20 more cases and 1 more death, raising the [outbreak total](#) to 56 cases, which includes 12 people who have died from their infections.

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

III. [Mpox vaccine campaign launches in DRC, with first doses to healthcare workers](#)

The DRC has reported more than 30,000 suspected and laboratory-confirmed mpox cases this year.

IV. Kindergarten vaccination rates in the United States decreased in more than 30 states in the 2023-2024 school year, while the number of students exempted from one or more vaccines reached an all-time high, according to [new CDC data](#).

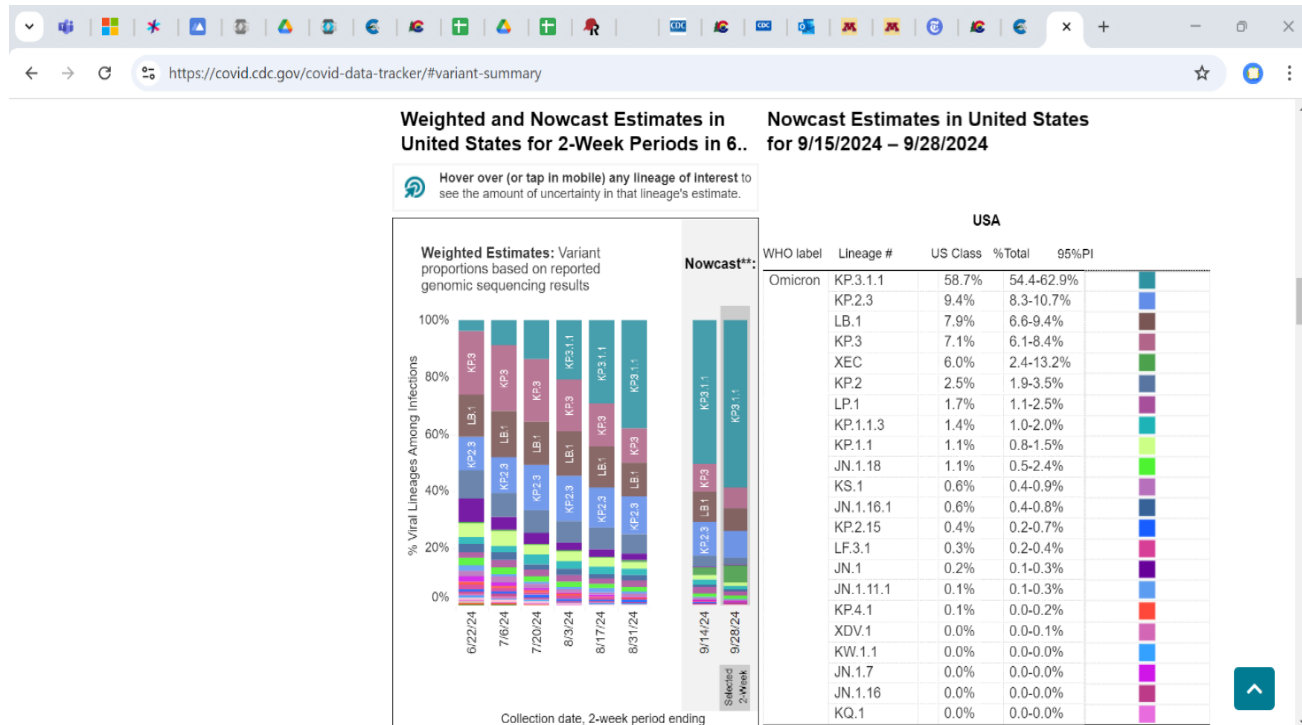
V. **Last updated October 2, 2024**

Wastewater treatment facilities participating in the [CDPHE Wastewater Surveillance Program](#) submit two samples per week. A statistical time series model is used to determine the trend of SARS-CoV-2 viral concentrations for each individual facility for the date each sample is collected. We review these trends and determine their trend category each week based on the following criteria:

Steady Increase - 2

VI. A **steady increase** means the viral concentrations of the two most recent samples reflect a statistically significant increase relative to earlier samples from that facility.

Glenwood Springs
Pueblo



VII. On October 16, 2024, CDPHE will launch a new, combined Viral Respiratory Disease Dashboard that includes data for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. The CDPHE COVID-19 data dashboard data will be included on the new Viral Respiratory Dashboard.

VIII. CDPHE reporting **hospitalizations** thru EpiTrax on dashboard page w/ outbreaks (OB)s
EpiTrax measuring hospitalizations: In Garfield County we have had Sept. **4** hospitalizations

1 OB in residential living facilities

XI. Get Your Free-At-Home COVID Test

X. Of Note: Per Cidrap / *September 26, 2024 Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy*

"Oral Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir-ritonavir) is highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19, yet it has been remarkably underused, even by patients at highest risk from COVID-19, since its December 2021 introduction in the US," the researchers wrote. "The reasons behind this underuse are still unclear."

They found that, even among respondents who were aware of Paxlovid, many misunderstood its effectiveness (39%), adverse effects (86%), and the need to take the drug within 5 days of symptom onset (61%), all of which may contribute to underuse.

Lower awareness and misbeliefs were more common among medically vulnerable and disadvantaged groups who stand to benefit most from Paxlovid, including those not vaccinated against COVID-19 and those of lower educational attainment or Black or Hispanic race.

"Despite media coverage, direct-to-consumer advertisements, and messaging by public health and health care institutions during COVID-19, these results indicate that a majority of the American public has no or low awareness of Paxlovid," the authors wrote.

Per Cidrap *September 26, 2024*

Produced by: Mercedes M. Wilson

Garfield County Public Health

8 October 2024