

## Emergency Response

Emergency Response activities include developing and testing plans for responding to disasters in an effort to protect the TRPHD district from health threats. Emergency Response also involves working closely with other agencies and organizations to best serve the citizens living in the TRPHD district. Preparedness activities can inform the response time of the community to provide lifesaving help and resources to individuals who are in need. Through collaboration with community partners, clinics, hospitals, agencies, and organizations Two Rivers Public Health Department has the ability to assist with coordinating a collaborative response to emergencies.

### C.O.A.D Drill

On Thursday, September 6, 2018 Two Rivers Public Health Department in collaboration with the Phelps County C.O.A.D. (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) conducted a full-scale tornado exercise that involved multiple agencies and responders. The exercise was attended by nearly 100 individuals and was a tremendous success thanks to months of planning and meetings that Two Rivers Public Health Department contributed to.

### Moving Forward

Two Rivers Public Health Department in combination with Phelps County Emergency Management will be using lessons learned during the exercise, participant feedback, evaluator feedback, among other sources of information to formulate an after action report. That report will be used to generate action items related to areas of improvement which will in turn provide all responders involved with areas that can be focused on to better response to future incidents as well as future exercises.

---

*"The recent tornado exercise in Phelps County illustrates the strength of our communities-partnerships."*

*- Jeremy Eschliman, Director*

---



Pictured from the C.O.A.D. exercise: Cody Samuelson, Emergency Response Coordinator

## C.O.A.D

- . COMMUNITY
- . ORGANIZATIONS
- . ACTIVE IN
- . DISASTERS



# DISRUPTING THE PATHWAY TO VIOLENCE

Targeted violence can happen anywhere. Disrupting the Pathway to Violence aims to create safer communities by reducing barriers to reporting potential violence. There are a variety of reasons why behaviors of potential violence may go unreported, including fear, intimidation, language barriers, and trust. Utilizing a public health based approach, the program intends to address the potential barriers to reporting violence by training front-line organizations and community leaders on how to identify the signs of violence.

Awareness plays a pivotal role in understanding and recognizing potential signs of violence. TRPHD has utilized media platforms for education on the pathway to violence. During September, TRPHD facilitated a Violence Prevention Stakeholder Meeting that was attended by 37 people and distributed training conference information to those that attended

## National Statistics of Domestic Violence

- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the US. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of [some form of] physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime.
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.



# Preparing For Flu Season

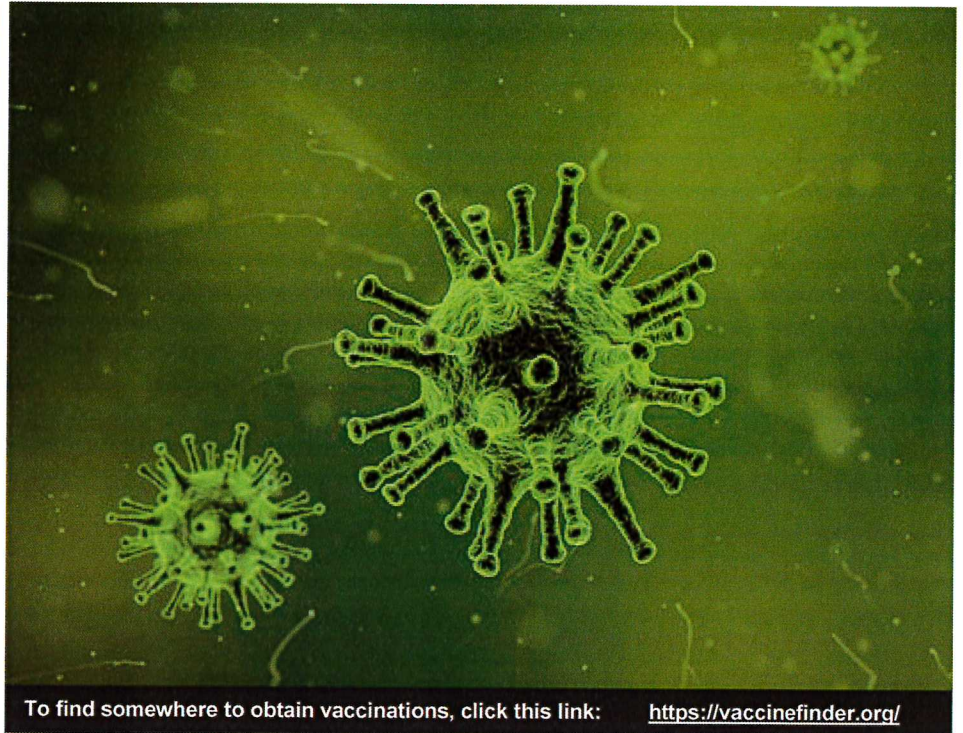
District schools began reporting on absenteeism on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, and TRPHD began gearing up for a busy flu surveillance season.

TRPHD (and the CDC) recommend that you get your flu shot in the fall, preferably in October. This is most effective because at this point, the flu is not yet circulating in the environment, which gives your vaccination time to become effective.

It takes approximately two weeks for your vaccination to become completely effective.

However, it is still effective to obtain your vaccination later in the season. TRPHD also recommends obtaining a flu shot every year, due to the evolving nature of the influenza virus.

All those who are over 6 months old should have a flu shot every year.



To find somewhere to obtain vaccinations, click this link: <https://vaccinefinder.org/>

## Disease Surveillance and Investigations

- TRPHD is committed to promoting healthy communities, families and individuals through communicable disease surveillance.
- The intention of surveillance is to identify, promptly investigate, and monitor each incident of a reported communicable disease.
- Timely recognition of the disease within the community enables the proper implementation of prevention and control activities. This action can contain the spread of the disease before the illness
- 34 investigations were reported in September 2018. The illness with the most cases was *enteropathogenic e.coli*, this is a gastrointestinal disease that can cause stomach cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting.
- The next most common illnesses were lead poisoning and non-neuroinvasive West Nile Virus. Non-neuroinvasive West Nile Virus does not affect the brain but can still cause fatigue, abdominal cramping, headaches, and rashes.





Move Kearney is an advocacy group based in Kearney NE. This group advocates for active transportation and complete streets policies. A complete streets policy requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for the users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. Active transportation encourages community members to commute in a way other than using a car, for example; biking to work, walking to the grocery store, and skateboarding to meet friends.

### Recent activity in Move Kearney includes:

- the circulation of a survey to community members in Kearney, an appearance at the Night Market in Kearney, and the purchase of promotional items for the group.
- Move Kearney is looking for ways to more actively engage the community of Kearney and to begin obtaining data to support the need for complete streets in Kearney. If you live or work in Kearney, please fill out this form (<https://goo.gl/forms/YleswJMOC62Cj2wB3>).
- Active transport is not only better for the environment, it can improve your health.

As of 9/4/18 There were 23 responses to the Move Kearney survey. Of those responses, 21 people would feel most comfortable walking or riding bikes on a designated trail. Only 5 respondents used active transportation daily. 21 of those surveyed would consider using active transportation. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being very unsafe and 10 being very safe), the average of the responses was 6.4.



# LIFESMILES DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

1

Oral diseases are the most common of the chronic diseases and are important public health problems because of their prevalence, their impact on individuals and society, and the expense of their treatment. The LifeSmiles Dental Health Program continually strides to address oral disease existence in the Two Rivers Public Health Department District. Bringing prevention services to our most vulnerable can impact improving total health for many.

2

In September LifeSmiles delivered regular dental prevention services at long-term care facilities, WIC clinics, and school services began throughout the district. The LifeSmiles' Program Coordinator attended the CVE project meeting held at Kearney's Public Library on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Often established programs, such as LifeSmiles, can provide an opportunity for participants to have access to other valuable resources such as the violence intervention education that CVE project can provide. LifeSmiles also participated in Nebraska's DHHS – Office of Oral Health and Dentistry's meeting to discuss the future state-wide Oral Health Survey of Older Adults. Outcomes from this survey could benefit LifeSmiles with valuable data. September also provided an opportunity for participation in the Collective Impact for Well Being meeting held in Kearney on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Information learned at this event offered a new approach to being more effective as agencies and programs to those we serve.

3

LifeSmiles services provided at partnering preschools and schools offer wonderful opportunities for reaching children where it is most convenient for families. Also, services provided in school settings can contribute to better health outcomes resulting in better education experiences for our youth. Helping our school nurses in identifying children with dental needs is another collaborative we value. In September, LifeSmiles provided services in 7 preschools and 3 schools covering 5 counties in our district. Children registering with the program receive screenings, risk assessments, homecare supplies, fluoride treatments, and sealants as needed. All children are encouraged to visit their dental home and we work to connect children to a dental home if needed utilizing our Community Health Worker.



TRIMRS

The TRIMRS/Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) is a federally funded program which is overseen by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, (ASPR). The HPP was put in place to help hospitals, county emergency managers, public health departments, and emergency medical services with their preparedness planning.

The current goals from the 2017-2022 guidance are:

- Help patients receive the care they need at the right place, at the right time, and with the right resources during emergencies
- Decrease deaths, injuries, and illnesses resulting from emergencies
- Promote health care delivery system resilience in the aftermath of emergencies

With the goal of engaging these members and assisting these members to improve their overall preparedness not only as individual groups but as communities the coordinator has been making on site visits as well as making phone calls as well as sharing information such as templates for planning exercises as well as real life events.

The Coordinator has been meeting with the following communities on their overall preparedness:

- Kearney
- Phelps County
- Hastings
- Custer County
- Gothenburg
- Lexington

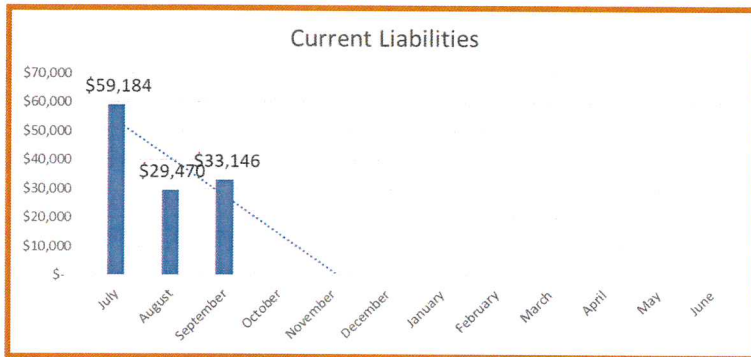
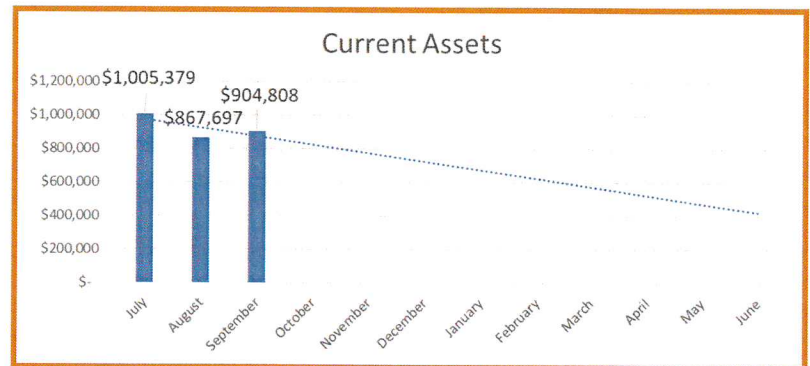
At this time the Phelps County Tornado Exercise is the only one that has been completed. TRIMRS did perform a mass call down to ask outside agencies including the Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps, (CNMRC). This exercise was executed very well. All local groups to include rural EMS units were on hand and learned a lot about working as a group in a mass casualty event. There were over 100 participants in this exercise.

TRI-CITIES MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM



# SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Current assets are at an estimate of \$904,808; an increase of \$37,111 from August. This is due to receiving revenue from NE Children & Family Foundation for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the fiscal year (\$83,105).



Current Liabilities have increased in the month of September by about \$3,676. This is due to a higher amount in accruals for the end of September.

A/R and A/P this month are both operating efficiently. We are awaiting payment from DHHS for the Radon 2018 program of \$3000 that is over 90+ days past due. We have sent in our documentation for the period of this grant towards the end of September, so we will see when the payment will be processed for the past due amount.

## Closeout and decreased revenue:

1422 Chronic Disease has come to an end, and will not be continuing for the new fiscal year.

Accreditation Support 2017 has come to an end.

Lead Poisoning 2018 has come to an end

Making Connections has come to an end.

Health Hub Oct 2017 has come to an end.

## Community Health Worker

Maria, the community Health Worker has been busy in the month of September interpreting for the Life Smile Dental Program in Lexington and Holdrege. She also helped the dental team at Lexington Early Learning Academy providing fluoride treatment to 210 children, as well as attending the violence prevention meeting at Kearney. Maria also has been partnering with Dr. Carranza, a dentist in Shelton, Dr. Hohman. Good Samaritan Clinic, Hastings Central Community College, Phelps Memorial Hospital, Phelps Family Clinic, reminding the clients of their appointment, rescheduling Lexington. Our Life Smiles Dental program is from Tuesdays to Wednesdays, looking for funds for children with no resources to see a dentist. Maria also installed a car seat and provided a safety car seat education.

## A Healthy Community For All

### Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

#### Two Rivers Public Health Department

##### Holdrege Office:

701 4th Ave., Suite 1  
Holdrege, NE 68949

##### Kearney Office:

3715 29th Ave., Suite A2  
Kearney, NE 68845

##### Phone Number:

(888) 669-7154

Visit us on the web at  
[www.trphd.org](http://www.trphd.org)

Two Rivers Public Health Department  
September 2018  
Monthly Newsletter



---

Jeremy Eschliman, Director