



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Annual Report 2020

Central Valley Health District

**TO BE THE
HEALTHIEST
COMMUNITY
IN WHICH TO
LIVE,
LEARN,
WORK,
AND PLAY.**

Staff



Marcia's retirement in March 2020

2020 Staff

Jenn Amundson - 4 years

Frank Balak - 9 years

Marcie Bata - 12 years

Anita Berland - 31 years

Tami Dillman - 18 years

Tonya Drenth - 17 years

Kara Falk - 5 years

Deb Fischer - 19 years

Karena Goehner - 11 years

Robin Iszler - 32 years

Shannon Klatt - 4 years

Kim Lee - 6 years

Sara Moser - 6 years

Nancy Neary - 19 years

Annette Niemeier - 29 years

Beth Schwartz - 19 years

Lynn Walden - 12 years

Jill Wald - 2 years

Erika Goff - 1 year

CVHD Board:

Dr. James Torrance

Medical Director/Chair

Darla Reed, Vice Chair

Heidi Larson

Laurel Haroldson

Cindy Schaar

Dennis Ova

Dean Entzminger

Fond Farwell

Angie Allmer - 9 years

- resigned in March 2020

Marcia Bollingberg - 36 years

- retired in March 2020

Lakken Paulsrud— 5 years

- resigned in September 2020

CVHD in the Spotlight



Jamestown Chamber of Commerce Awards

**Business of the Year 2020
Central Valley Health District**

**Above and Beyond Award 2020
Robin Iszler**



Executive Summary—Robin Iszler

I want to sincerely thank all of Central Valley Health District staff who worked tirelessly throughout 2020 to respond to the pandemic. We accomplished many things to keep the community safe. Our training and skills helped to prepare us but no one would have predicted we would dedicate a year of our lives to fighting a pandemic.

2020 was probably the most stressful and eventful year for Public Health across North Dakota. COVID response began in March 2020 and continued throughout the year. This report is an accounting of many of the accomplishments and challenges of the COVID Pandemic 2020.

- Robin Iszler

COVID Accomplishments by Numbers!

Fit Testing— **635** individuals were fit tested in the region during COVID. This included nursing home staff, Fire, Police, First Responders, and others. Shortages in testing solution and N95 masks led to some difficult times at the beginning of the pandemic.

COVID Testing— Stutsman **8,099** tests completed. Logan **204** tests completed. Testing was done as drive up and later moved to the Civic Center. PCR testing was completed through nasal or oral swabs. Later we received Binex rapid tests and we offered both tests depending on symptoms.

COVID Vaccinations — **300** in 2020 when the vaccine arrived on December 21, 2020.

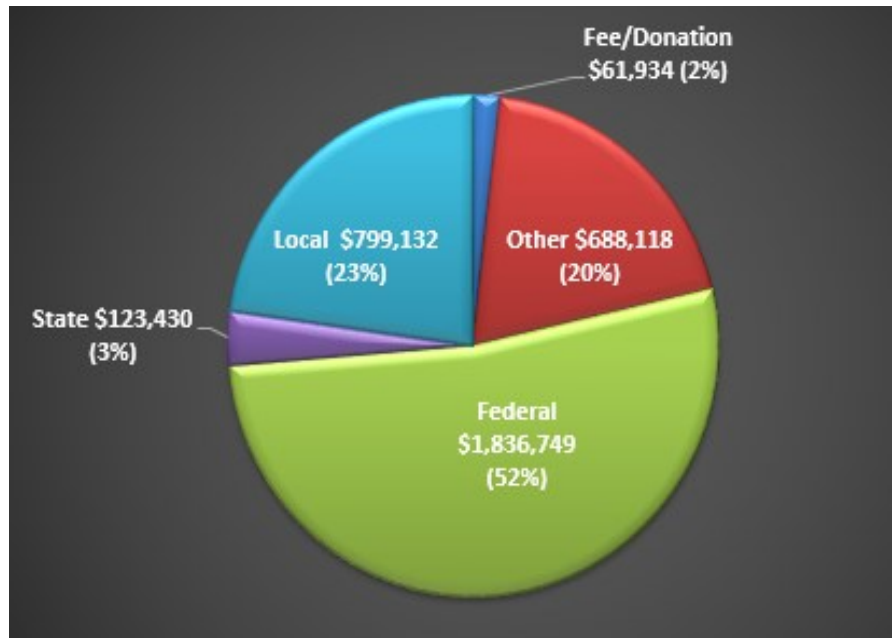
Social media reach — **663,780** — number of times posts were viewed on Facebook in 2020.

Press conferences — **26** live press conferences starting at City Hall and televised through CSI and Facebook Live. Switched to Zoom so speakers could connect remotely.

Media Releases — **41** releases were sent to local media sources regarding COVID response.

Business and Finance Report

**2020 Budget by
Category—
\$3,509,363**



Year	Local	State	Federal	Fees/ Donations	Other	Total
2020	\$ 799,132	\$ 123,430	\$1,836,749	\$ 61,934	\$ 688,118	\$3,509,363

Program	2020 Budget
Stutsman (with Environmental Health)	\$ 1,280,741
CARES (COVID-19)	881,999
Family Planning	315,766
PHEP	219,596
WIC	147,827
Logan	146,919
Title III	134,821
Women's Way	126,252
Tobacco	114,603
Substance Abuse	62,500
Opioid Prevention	58,800
Regional Network	10,000
Immunizations	9,539
Total	\$ 3,509,363

COVID-19 Response Communications

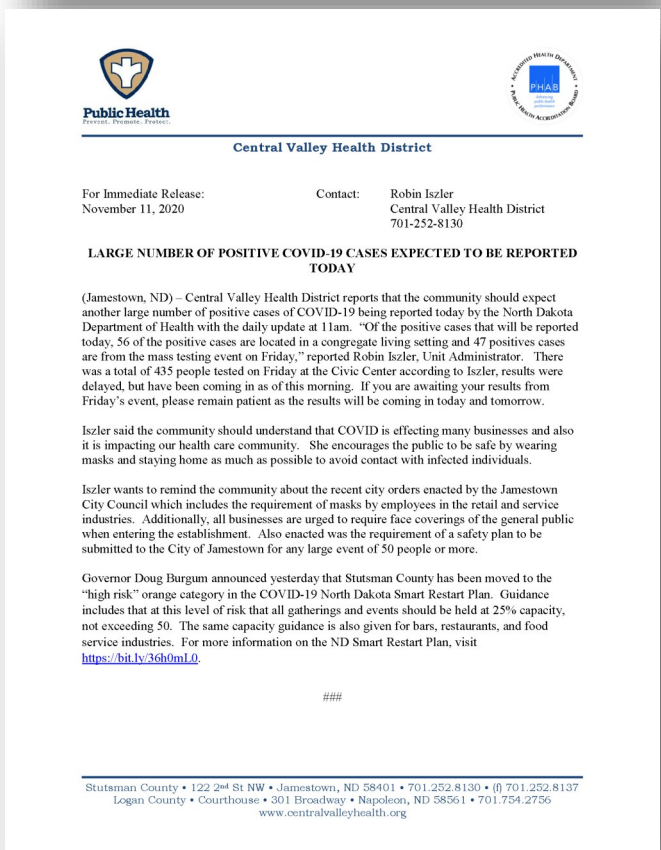
Constant information communication and health updates to the community were vital in the COVID-19 pandemic response. Central Valley Health used a variety of methods to distribute information in the community.

Press Conferences

Community briefings were held live at the Jamestown City Hall and streamed live on Facebook and CSI cable. They were later moved to online streaming platform through Zoom.

26

Live press conferences



Press Releases

Media releases were sent to local media sources to provide updates on COVID-19 response. Releases were also posted on social media.

41

Press releases

Social Media

Our Facebook reach and following increased exponentially during the pandemic. We found social media to be a very effective way to quickly reach the community.

663,780

People reached on Facebook

How?

Live community briefings (press conferences), press releases and social media posts.

Why?

To best reach the community with up-to-date, local COVID-19 response information.

Who?

Many health and safety community partners were featured in COVID-19 response communications including:

- Public Health
- Department of Health
- Medical - Hospital and Clinics
- Jamestown Ambulance
- Social Services
- Human Services
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Department
- Schools
- Churches



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Central Valley Health District

**STUTSMAN COUNTY
COVID-19 DRIVE-UP TESTING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

10:00AM - 12:00PM | GENERAL PUBLIC
12:00PM - 1:00PM | UJ STUDENTS + STAFF

JAMESTOWN CIVIC CENTER
OF THE EVENT IS CLOSE CONTACT & SYMPTOMATIC*

<https://testreg.nd.gov/> **TO REGISTER.**

Public Health
Central Valley Health District

**603
TESTS COMPLETED.**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE
THAT PARTICIPATED!**

COVID-19 Response Timeline 2020

February 24 – No reported COVID cases in North Dakota

March 9th – several opioid overdoses occur in Jamestown

March 9th - Businesses start to close, limits on large gatherings, travel restrictions are put in place schools close in North Dakota

March 11 – ND has first Death due to COVID 19 and Nursing homes start to limit visitors

March 15 – all schools close in ND – ordered by Governor.

March 16 – some CVHD staff are instructed to work from home, CVHD prepares for working from home environment by assigning computers and log me in accounts.

March 17 – Encouraged to practice social distancing – 4 people test positive in ND. Schools still serving lunches to go for students even though schools are not in session in order to assist those unable to have healthy food. At the staff meeting – assign CVHD staff person to reach out to funeral homes to see if they have needs or concerns.

March 18 – CVHD closed its office to the public – CVHD is meeting with regional partners, State LPH, Staff and Fit Testing is occurring in our region there is a shortage of fit test solution. We are also accounting for supplies and ordering supplies including PPE. We find that NAPA has gloves, we purchase gloves to keep a supply. We purchase hand sanitizer from Proof Distillery in Fargo.

March 19 – Governor orders all restaurants to close except for takeout etc.

March 20 – CVHD holds the first live press conference to the public at City Hall

March 23 – first daily EOC meeting is conducted, scheduled for 1 pm each day

March 24, March 27, March 31, April 3 and April 7 – Press Conferences are held to the public in Jamestown and Stutsman County and continue to be held twice a week.

March 25 – We advise people to journal where they have been in order to help with trace contacts 6 feet for 15 minutes

April 1 – Governor extends closures of businesses including hair salons etc.

April 2 & 3 – Concern over local funeral where many high school kids might attend locally. Whistle blowers are contacted as health department and City encourage the funeral to be canceled. Family cancels the funeral but ends up holding the funeral outside and high school kids attend.

April 6 – Homemade Masks are recommended – CVHD starts to receive masks made by community members. CVHD provides masks to those who need them.

April 8 – Care 19 app is released to help you track where you go

April 8th – 1st positive case in Stutsman County – 6 deaths statewide

April 13 – Announcement of minimal care hospitals plans for 8 regions, planning for mass fatalities, mass testing events are happening statewide.

April 16 – announcement about plan for Homeless and Domestic Violence sheltering. Governor extends closures of businesses another 10 days.

April 18 – testing occurring at nursing homes across ND – plan to do all nursing homes. Public testing is limited due to lack of supplies to do testing. Testing is done with PCR. State Lab has limited capacity.

April 28—We assist with the first COVID testing event at Anne Carlsen. Staff are learning what to do for testing.

May 8 – Alpha Opportunities testing event 169 tested. Drive through clinic with JPMC, Ambulance and JPD assisting with Foster county and Wells county staff. – One positive. First event conducted by CVHD.

May 24 – Graduation in Jamestown High Schools

May 26 - final live press conference.

June 1 – changes in state with smart restart guidelines.

June 12 – Mass testing in McIntosh and Logan Counties. Testing supplies start to increase with more availability.

June 15 – numbers of positives increase in Stutsman County

June 18 – 1st Mass-testing event in Stutsman County Fair Grounds– 500 Tests available – 2 positives reported – National Guard assisted.

June 22 – First Death in Stutsman County due to COVID

July 23 – Drive up testing event at the Stutsman County fairgrounds with 600 tests available

August – University of Jamestown testing events begin as students return to college. National Guard Unit Assigned to SE Central Region to assist with testing.

August - Back to School and Schools debate in-school learning or virtual. Kids required to wear masks in school and CVHD assists with contact tracing in schools. Schools need to submit plans for restarting school that must be reviewed by CVHD prior to students returning to school

September – Weekly testing events begin at Jamestown Civic Center – Drive up and we move to indoor testing – Cases start to rise in Stutsman County

September 26 – 35 highest active positive cases of COVID in Logan County are reported.

October - 40 positives out of 251 tests detected at the testing event in Jamestown, October 28 - Mayor issues mask requirements.

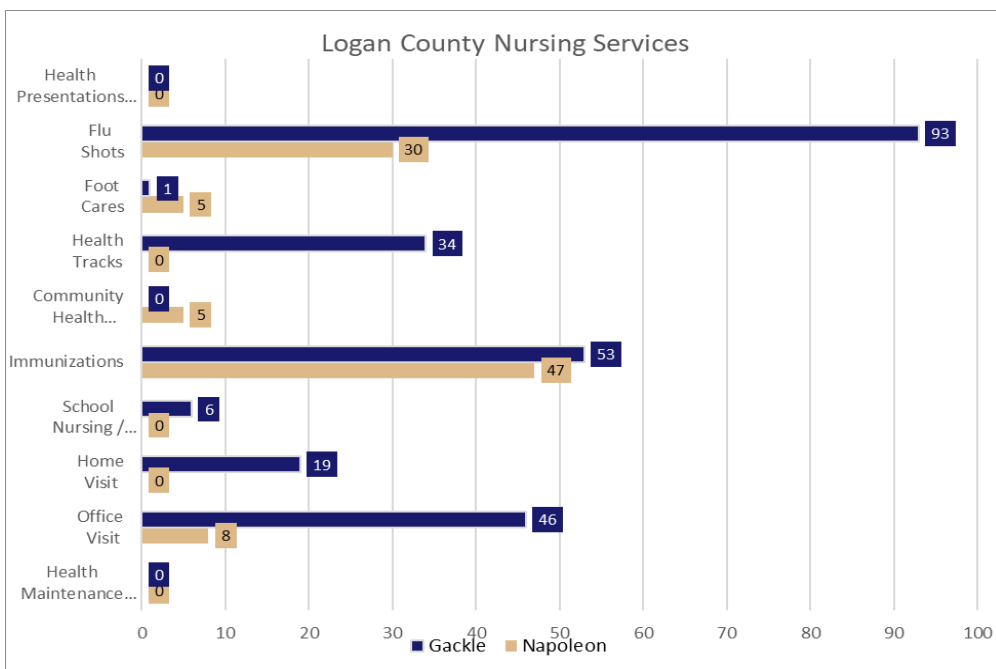
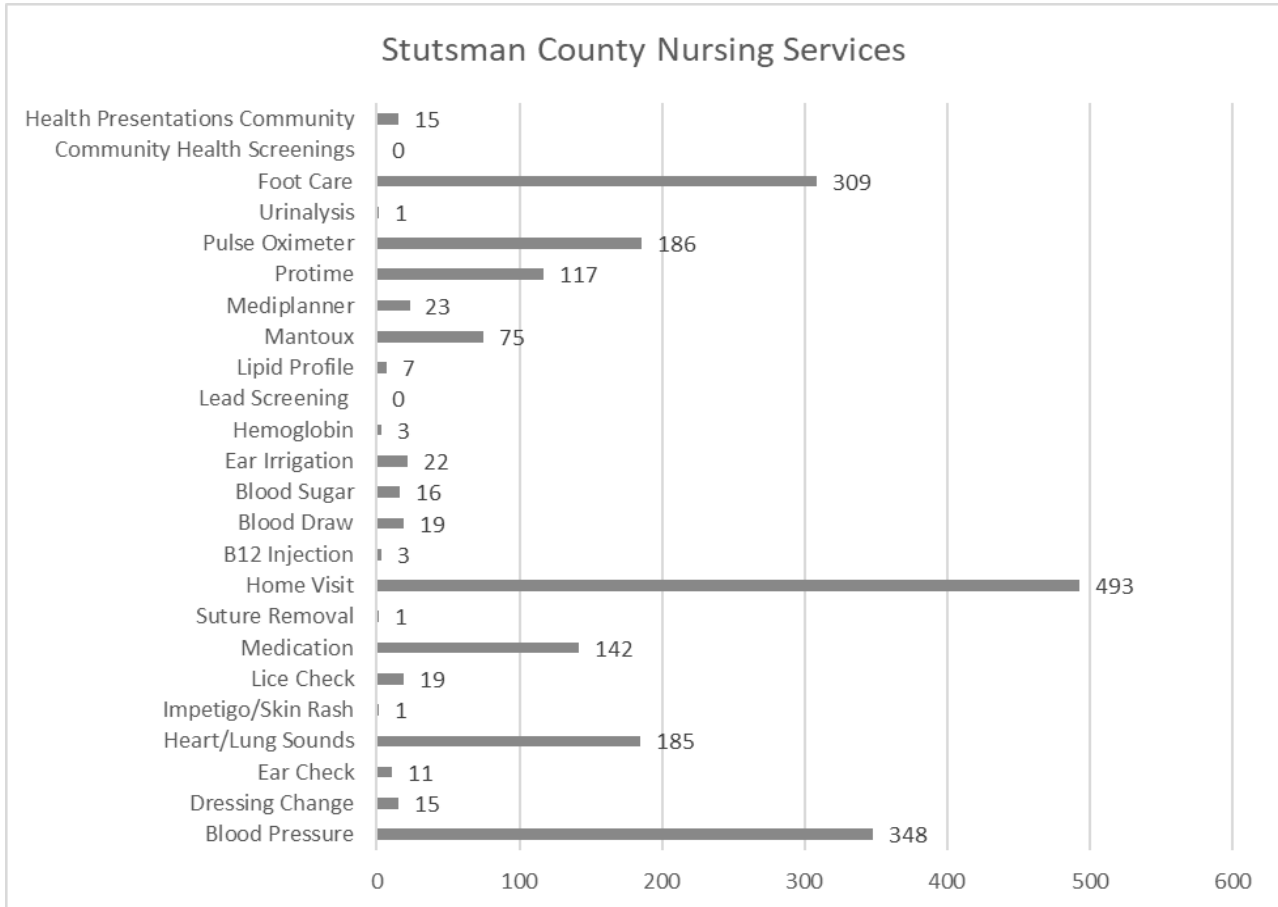
November - County risk levels begin to change as surge in cases is seen – more restrictions on group gatherings and food establishments/bars. Mayor issues mask mandate.

November 18 - 526 active positive cases of COVID virus in Stutsman County – 16.7% positivity rate.

December 22 - first vaccinations given in Stutsman County –CVHD received 300 doses for healthcare, first responders and public health officials.

Nursing Services

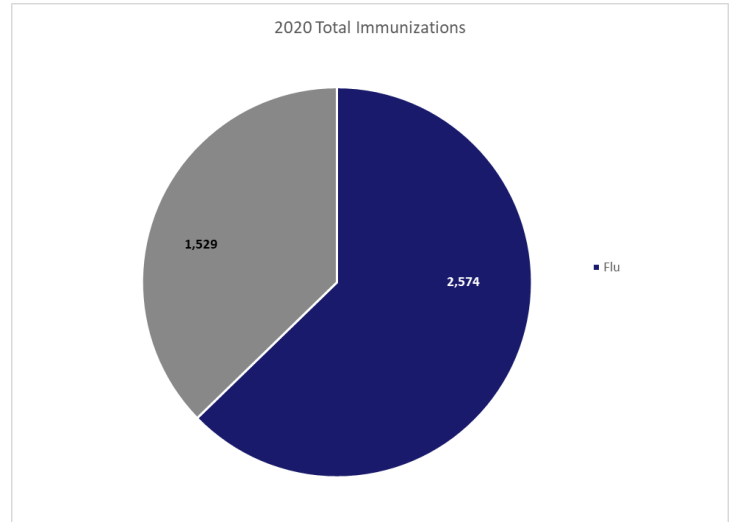
The monthly average number of public health nursing services provided In **Stutsman County** services per month in 2019 was 548. In 2020, due to COVID that number went down to 167 per month. **Logan County** was **58** per month in 2019. 21 per month in 2020 due to COVID.



Nursing Services

CVHD provided immunizations to the community in 2020 during COVID . 123 Flu Shots in Logan County and 2,574 in Stutsman County were provided despite delays in vaccine arrival. 1,529 other immunizations were provided in 2020. In 2019, we provided 191 Flu vaccinations in Logan County and 2,720 in Stutsman County.

School 2020	Flu Shots
Jamestown (all public schools)	572
Montpelier	41
St. John's Academy	49
Kensal	36
Buchanan	39
Pingree	15
Hillcrest	7
Napoleon	6
Gackle	45
Medina	58
Victory Lutheran	16
TOTAL	884



Women's Way

Women's Way provides a way to pay for most breast and cervical cancer screenings for eligible North Dakota women. CVHD continues to exceed Women's Way enrollment goals.

- **2019-2020: Goal 185 Screened 145**
- 2018-2019: Goal 130 Screened 192
- 2017-2018: Goal 130 Screened 168
- 2016-2017: Goal 124 Screened 162
- 2015-2016: Goal 124 Screened 168



CVHD		Goal	185	145	78%
	Barnes		13	186%	
	Foster		5	3%	
	LaMoure		29	20%	
	Logan		12	8%	
	McIntosh		15	10%	
	Stutsman		70	48%	
	Others		1	1%	

School Nursing

Central Valley Health District nurses provided influenza vaccinations at all schools located in Stutsman and Logan counties. School flu shots administered increased from **810** in 2018 to **826** in 2019 to **884** in 2020. Total school nursing services for both counties: 3,010 in 2018 and decreased in 2019 to 2,603.



Health Report 2020-2021 (Aug. 2020 to Mar. 2021)


Number of Registered Nurses: **1**
 Number of students in district: **2,167**
 Number of schools in district: **7**

School nurses support learning by keeping students in school ready to learn.



School Nurse Office Visits Chronic Conditions Prevention / In-service Education

58 Total Students Seen



3 Students Referred
49 Students Returned to Class
6 Students Sent Home

COVID - 19 Activities





293 # of JPS Positive Cases
 Nurse provided 3 months of 24/7 On-call assistance to JPS Principals during increased positive COVID cases.



School Screenings

None completed this school year due to COVID-19

32% of students have a chronic condition
4 Student 504 or IEP plans Nurse contributed to

ASTHMA **137**

 DIABETES
 Type 1: **6**
 Type 2: **2**
 SEIZURES **17**

 LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY **24**


DISTRICT STAFF EDUCATION
14 Staff In-Services Provided
327 Staff Educated at the provided In-Services

STUDENT EDUCATION
Growth & Development
139 Total # of 5th Graders
68 # of Boys
71 # of Girls
75 Total # of 4th Grade Girls

School Immunizations

572 # of Flu **115** # of Tdap **173** # of Menactra **103** # of Meningitis B

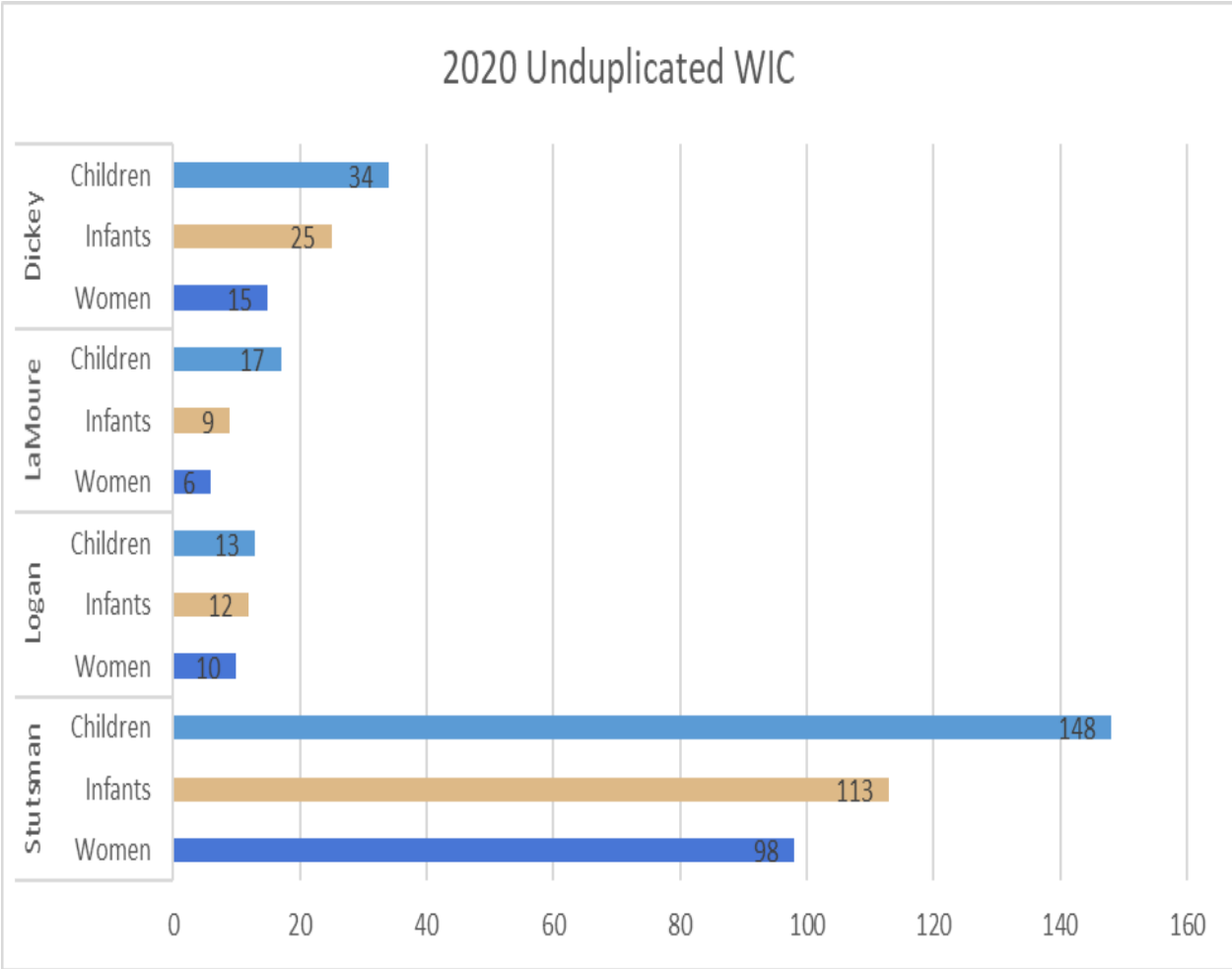
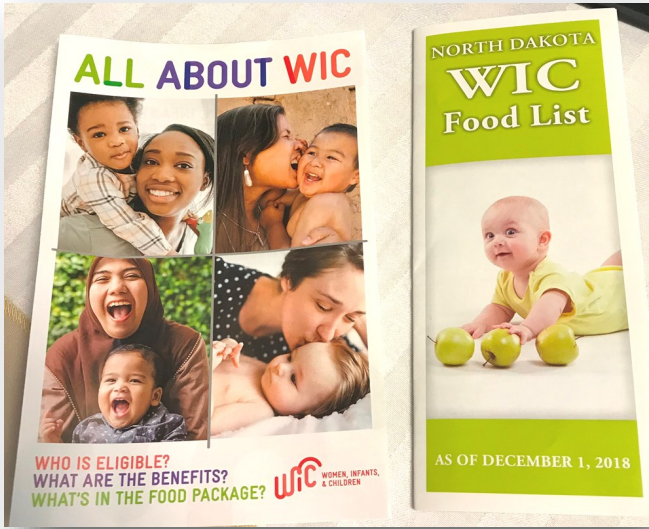
Listed Immunizations given between 6-1-2020 and 3-31-2021



Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

WIC provides funding for supplemental food for low-income women, infants and children up to age five. In 2018, Central Valley Health combined with LaMoure and Dickey County to form one multi-county WIC agency.

- Total 2020:484 all counties. 2019: 596 for all counties as compared to 595 in 2018



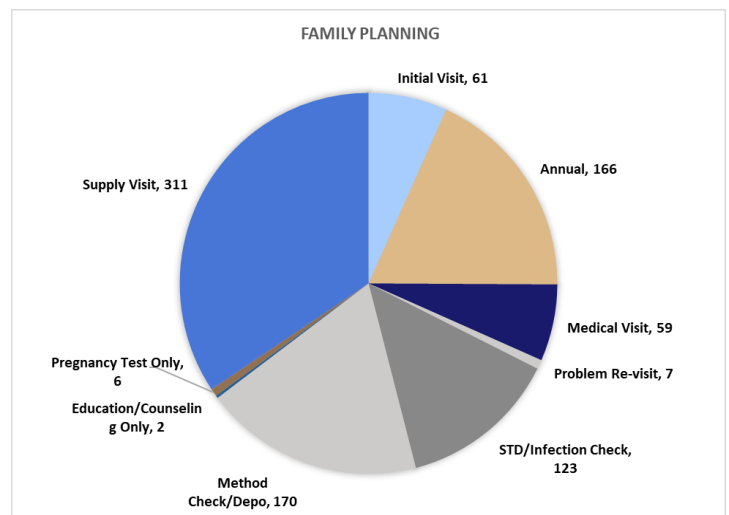
Nursing Services

Family Planning

Reproductive health services for men and women. Total unduplicated users decreased from **405 in 2019 to 353 in 2020**. Family planning received funding for HIV/HEP C and provided the following number of tests **HIV = 154 & HEP C = 30**.

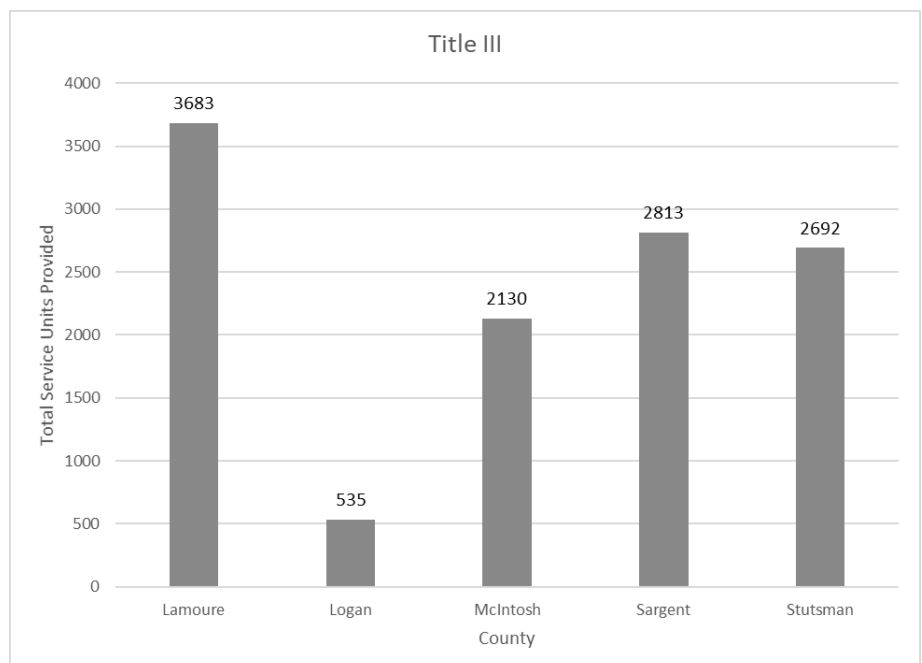
11 clients were provided case management services under the Ryan White Program.

	2018	2019	2020
Central Valley	449	405	353
Custer	857	733	640
Fargo Cass	1691	1670	1344
First District	566	520	339
Lake Region	203	197	161
MyAlly	1493	1432	1213
Richland	181	141	115
Sanford Health	0	0	0
Spectra Health	0	188	294
Upper Missouri	366	372	324



Title III

Aging service program for those 60 and older. Eligible services include Blood pressure, foot care, home visit and medication management. **Goal 13,000 service units for all counties. 11,853 service units were provided in 2020.**



Nursing Services

Health Science Careers — Instructor Deb Fischer, RN

Enrollment Numbers 2019-2020

Fall Semester = 65 Females (56) Males (9)
Spring Semester = 68 Females (60) Males (8)
Numbers include Out of District Student (1 Montpelier male)

Classes

Introduction to Health Science Careers

Two classes per day offered due to requested student numbers
Misc. community presenters in Healthcare professions

Health Science Careers

Clinical experiences of 11 weeks scheduled for Semester 2 hours to
NDSH & Eddy's

Funeral Home. Presenter Karena G. from CVHD on Sexual Safety

Nurse Assistant Class

18 students in this class this year! Toured Eventide LTC

Sports Medicine Class

Medical Terminology Class

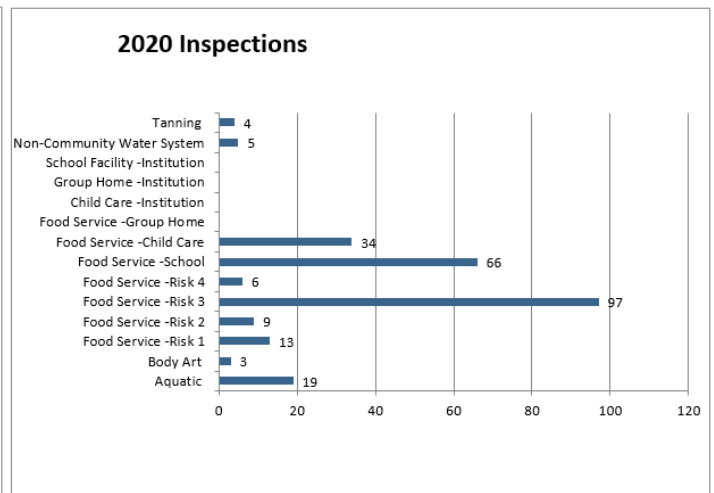
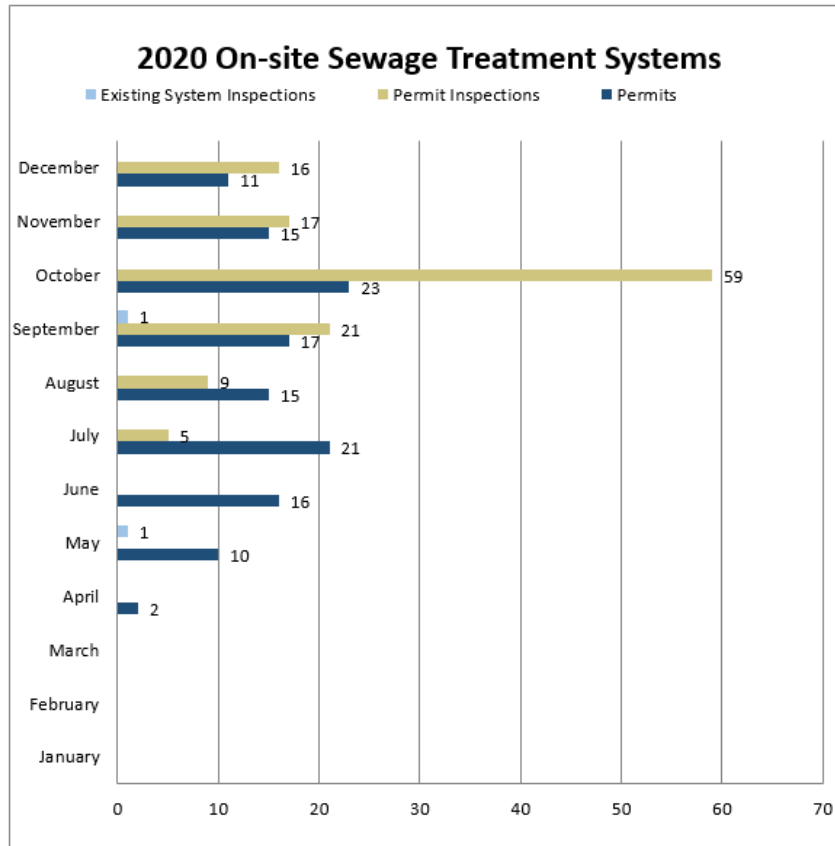
SkillsUSA

- Membership of 18
- Fall Leadership Conference held Oct. 8th at VCSU with 16 students
- State Leadership Conference coming up April 5-7, 2020 in Bismarck
- Will have 14 students in 6 different competitions - **Cancelled**
- 3 Students chosen & attending monthly coalition Community Health Partnership (CHP) meetings representing the youth of JPS.



Environmental Health

Environmental Health Division staff provide environmental health services and education in Barnes, Dickey, Foster, LaMoore, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman, and Wells counties.



Annual Total Comparison			
	2018	2019	2020
Inspections	715	717	256
Consultations	786	696	1,366

Additionally, over 850 COVID cases/ contacts were traced by EH Division. Multiple interactions per case/contact were made.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Frank Balak and Beth Schwartz

COVID-19 Response Activities

Provided fit testing for at least 635 individuals in the region. Frank spent most of his time fit testing staff in long-term care facilities, emergency medical services, and other medical staff around the eight county region while Beth concentrated on fit testing in the Jamestown area. EPR staff trained LPHU, Long Term Care, and EMS staff on how to do fit testing in their respective areas.

CVHD was also impacted by the world-wide shortage in fit testing supplies, especially bitrex fit testing solution. With assistance from other regions, we were able to acquire a few bottles of solution in order to continue to do fit testing. Frank also worked with the pharmacy at JRMC to find the raw materials and they were able to make the bitrex fit testing solution. The EPR staff also wishes to extend our gratitude to the Anne Carlsen Center who loaned us their fit testing kits so we could increase our testing capacity in the short term.

In May, EPR staff transitioned to COVID-19 testing while still providing some fit testing in the region. First large testing event was at Alpha Opportunities in early May followed by providing testing events at long-term care testing in Foster, LaMoure, and Wells Counties. National Guard support began in June, EPR staff then transitioned to providing planning and testing support at local and regional testing events in all of the supported counties.

In August, Frank joined the NDDoH's vaccine planning team to develop the plan and procedures for the eventual COVID-19 vaccine rollout expected sometime in 2020. As part of this planning effort, there were several tabletop exercises conducted that involved EPR staff and LPHUs from around the state.

Vaccine arrived on December 22nd and EPR staff have assisted at the few clinics conducted before Christmas .

Preparedness Activities:

Attended virtual Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings in Barnes, Foster, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, and Stutsman Counties and staff attended the Multi-hazard Mitigation meetings for Stutsman County.

Attended routine and special COVID-19 video conference for the Hospital Preparedness Program, Public Information Office, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Community Health Partnership, Coordinated Regional Interoperability Board, State Interoperability Executive Committee, Long-term Care, regional county EOC meetings, NDSACCHO, and ND Testing Coordination calls.

In early 2020, in preparation for both overland and river basin flooding after the record wet fall of 2019, Staff worked with hospices, nursing agencies, human services, and local public health agencies around the region generating lists of medically fragile, mobility impaired, and other vulnerable populations that may have needed evacuation assistance using state assets. EPR staff also met with Anne Carlsen Center to assist them in preparing for their possible evacuation if flooding would occur in Jamestown.

Community Health Prevention - Tobacco

Tobacco 21

Provided outreach education and temporary signage to all area convenience stores on the immediate implementation of raising the sale age of tobacco at the federal level.

Worked with area legislators on the importance of adopting the same legislation at the state level in order to allow for enforcement at the local level.

100% Tobacco Free Policy Efforts for Jamestown Parks and Recreation

Recruited youth advocate and parent advocate and trained them on working with policy makers to pass a 100% Comprehensive Tobacco -Free Parks Policy for all parks properties.

Advocates met with park board members and participated in multiple park board meetings to support the passage of a 100% Tobacco Free policy, (including parking lots the golf course) with no exemptions. The successful first reading was held at the December 2020 park board meeting.

2021 Legislative Session Preparation

Provided education and advocacy to area legislators on upcoming legislative issues for the 2021 legislative session. E-cigarette regulation, increasing the tax on tobacco, potential cigar bar exemption for the statewide 100% smoke-free law, preventing preemption and advocating for level or increased tobacco programming grant funds were some of the topics for the 2021 legislative session.



Community Health Prevention

Alcohol Prevention—Partnership for Success Grant

The Partnership for Success (PFS) grant is a federally funded grant program focused on youth alcohol prevention. The PFS funding ended in August 2020.

Retail Access Impact: 2016-2020

- 174 servers trained with RBST
 - 4 fake ID's confiscated
 - 6,340 ID's scanned with ID scanners
 - 5 officers trained
- (2 compliance checks, 3 party dispersal)
- Purchased 10 ID scanners
 - Event and educational opportunities

Social Access Impact: 2016-2020

- Not In My House — Development of social media campaign that is being implemented nation wide
- Education at community events
- 10% increase in kids reporting that their parents talk to them about the dangers of drugs and alcohol (PFS Youth Survey)



Opioid Prevention—State Targeted Response Grant

The **State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (Opioid STR)** Grant was awarded to Central Valley Health District in November 2018. This grant program aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD).



537.5 pounds of medications destroyed

89 people trained for Narcan use

185 Deterra Kits distributed in the community

Community Health Prevention

Injury Prevention



Safe Sleep

Distributed 3 pack-n-play's in 2020 to families as part of CVHD's safe sleep program. CVHD partnered with JRMC and Logan Co Social Services to provide safe sleeping cribs for those in need throughout Stutsman and Logan

Child Passenger Safety

Our Car Seat Technicians coordinate two car seat programs at CVHD including a private program and a state distribution program. Car seats in the state program are provided by the ND Department of Health.

2020

State Car Seat Distributions	26
Private Car Seat Distributions	17
Car Seat Checks	3
Car Seat Events	3

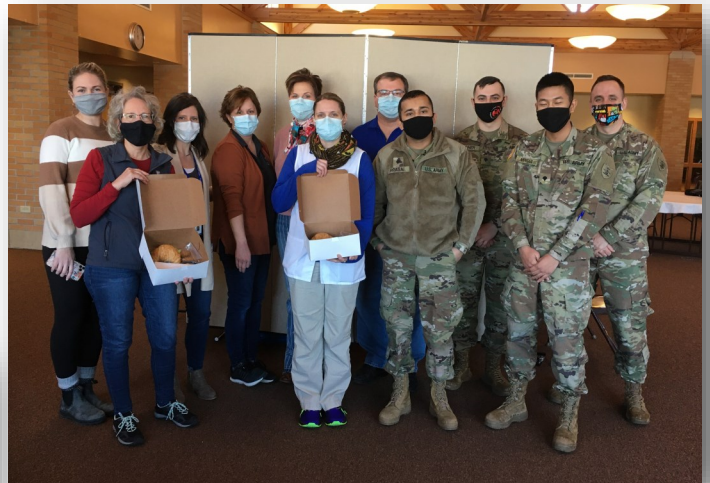


Other Activities: Building Generator.

Request for bids went out in May 2020 and the project was awarded to Hillerud Construction in June. Demolition and construction of the generator room started in mid-October. Final electrical and generator completion will be done in 2021. This project will ensure that CVHD is completely powered by a generator in case of power failure.



COVID-19 RESPONSE



The Jamestown Sun

\$2.00 UNLOCK DIGITAL AT JAMESTOWNSUN.COM/ACTIVATE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020 JAMESTOWN, NORTH DAKOTA

FIRST VACCINE DISPENSED IN STUTSMAN COUNTY

By Keith Norman
The Jamestown Sun

The first dose of the Moderna coronavirus vaccine was injected into the arm of a Stutsman County frontline worker at about 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

It marked the first of about 300 doses Central Valley Health District has received and will dispense to health care workers and first responders in the county over the next two weeks, according to Robin Iszler, unit administrator for the health district.

Recipients receiving the vaccine now will need a

second dose of the vaccine in about four weeks.

"I'm glad we're here," said Chad Kaiser, Stutsman County sheriff, who was among those vaccinated Tuesday. "This will help us start getting back to normal."

The sheriff's office anticipated getting 14 officers and staff members vaccinated Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Jamestown Police Department planned to have some officers vaccinated this week and the remainder next week to limit the number of officers out if they have a reaction, according to

Scott Edinger, chief of the department.

"The officers vaccinated Wednesday are coming up on two days off," he said, referring to the timing of any possible reactions. "Any problems could happen in that time."

Along with staff from the Jamestown Police Department and Stutsman County Sheriff's Office, employees of Jamestown Area Ambulance and some local medical providers were vaccinated in the first wave on Tuesday.

After receiving the vaccine, people are asked to

wait 15 minutes before leaving the area to see if there are any immediate reactions to the vaccine. Iszler said that people who have a past history of allergic reactions to vaccines are asked to check with their physician and make the staff at the vaccine clinic aware before the vaccine is administered.

Iszler noted the process is just beginning. The 300 doses received by Central Valley Health District this week will be followed by another 50 doses next week. Larger shipments

VACCINE: Page A5



John M. Steiner / The Sun
Robin Iszler, unit administrator for Central Valley Health District in Jamestown, was the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday, Dec. 22.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 Napoleon, ND Official Newspaper of Logan County www.napoleon

Local First Responders First To Receive COVID 19 Vaccination



Public Health Nurse **Robin Iszler** injects **Michael Fettig** with a dose of Moderna COVID 19 vaccine. Photo courtesy Michael Hayen

Local first responders in Napoleon were included in the first phase of people offered to receive the coronavirus vaccine.

Unit Administrator for Central Valley Health District, Robin Iszler reported ten people receiving a vaccine last week Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at the Napoleon ambulance and fire building.

Iszler said Napoleon Ambulance, Napoleon Rural Fire Protection District and ND Highway Patrol members were offered the vaccine through the CVHD as they are on the front line. She said the health district received the Moderna vaccine on December 21, but they expect to receive the Pfizer brand also.

Iszler said other medical staff in town have been offered the vaccine, but not through the county health district.

Vaccinations Continued on Page 12

Vaccine

Continued From Front

Depending on what the state government decides, Iszler said phase 2 for vaccines may include the general public, but with an advised age range, such as 75 and older. But, she mentioned the state has not made this known yet. "We want people to be patient while waiting for the vaccine; check your local newspaper for when it will be available," said Iszler who also noted the vaccine may be available not only through the public health office, but also the pharmacy and clinic when available.

"If you've had COVID, you can still get the vaccine," reminded Iszler. She noted people must be out of quarantine to receive the vaccine.

She also said the Moderna coronavirus vaccine is a two dose shot, where people should wait about 28 days to receive the second dosage. She said the district hasn't had any allergic reactions to the vaccine, but people may have a sore arm, 24 hour fever and may be tired and achy.

Central Valley Health District has given almost 300 coronavirus vaccinations, which includes about 30 in Logan County. Iszler also noted they have about 40 vaccine consents throughout the Gackle Care Center soon also.



Public Health Nurse **Robin Iszler** holds a dose of the Moderna COVID 19 vaccine.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Pandemic has ups and downs in the Jamestown area

By Keith Norman
The Jamestown Sun

The first mention of the coronavirus in a locally written article of The Jamestown Sun came on Jan. 31. It soon became the major topic of dozens of articles over the last 11 months.

At the end of January, the normal flu season was the concern with rising numbers of people infected. Coronavirus was mentioned only in that six cases had been confirmed in the United States at that time, and none were suspected in North Dakota.

"People in North Dakota are generally considered low risk," said Levi Schlosser, influenza surveillance coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Health, at the time.

March and April
The first coronavirus case in North Dakota was recorded on March 11 in Ward County. The first case in Stutsman County came on April 8 with the diagnosis of a woman in her 60s.

By that time, health precautions were already being put in place in Stutsman County and across North Dakota.

In March, schools across North Dakota had transitioned to distance learning through kindergarten through high school students.



John M. Steiner / The Sun

Teachers and staff at Lincoln Elementary in Jamestown stand on May 6 in front of the school during a special parade where parent and students drove by showing their appreciation. The event was hosted by the Lincoln PTA. Drive-by parades became a common thing during the pandemic because classes were held via virtual learning.

On March 19, Gov. Doug Burgum ordered bars and restaurants closed in an effort to limit the spread of the coronavirus. At the time

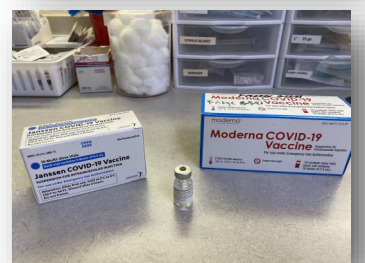
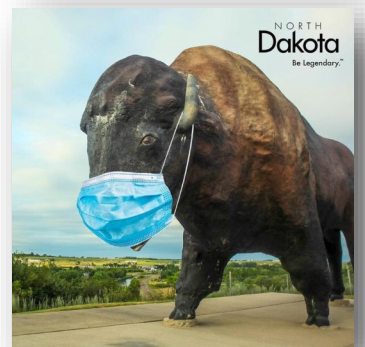
there were 19 confirmed cases in North Dakota with 11 of those in Burleigh County. In an effort to help the hospitality industry, the

Jamestown City Council approved an emergency measure allowing the delivery of alcoholic beverages and allowing bars and restaurants that

were closed to continue to do some business as takeout or delivery. On March 24, Jamestown Regional Medical Center

announced a surge plan to increase the facility's capacity by its normal 25 beds to about 65 and

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COVID-19

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the postponement of elective surgeries at the hospital. The surge plan stayed on the shelf until the local numbers of COVID-19 cases increased in November.

May and June
North Dakota businesses that had previously been closed under coronavirus pandemic precautions were allowed to reopen under new regulations on May 1. The regulations restricted capacity and required social distancing by limiting the number of tables and the number of people who could be at each table, along with other restrictions.

The number of active cases of COVID-19 in Stutsman County had peaked at seven in early May and then declined to two by the end of the month before climbing to a new peak of 27 later in June.

The peak in June also brought the first death attributed to COVID-19 in Stutsman County. On June 21, the death of a man in his 60s in Stutsman County was announced. It was the 77th death attributed to COVID-19 in North Dakota at the time.

June also marked the return to normal for some services in the area. The Jamestown Police Department resumed taking fingerprints for

of Agriculture offices opened for face-to-face meetings with farmers, for example.

Some nursing homes resumed in-person visitations, with restrictions, for families of residents in mid-June.

During June, Central Valley Health District, with the assistance of the National Guard and other agencies, began mass testing events at the Stutsman County Fairgrounds. Officials gathered samples from 562 individuals at that event of which two tested positive for the coronavirus.

July and August
At the beginning of July, Stutsman County had two positive cases of COVID-19. The tally peaked at 21 cases about the first of August before declining to one case in the middle of August. However, by the end of August, Stutsman County had nearly 100 active cases.

Stutsman County celebrated the Fourth of July without the Stutsman County Fair or many of the other usual holiday events.

One event that did continue, outdoors and with plenty of room to social distance, was the Downtown Arts Market in Jamestown that held its first event on July 9. North Dakota's low levels of coronavirus at the time prompted some people to have a "safecation" in the state, according to one Forum News Service Story published July 4.

plan for more normal conditions.

The Jamestown Public School Board approved plans to start classes on Aug. 27 with elementary school students in class five days per week and middle school and high school students in a hybrid plan combining in-class education with distance learning.

On Aug. 30, Stutsman County reported a new high for positive tests for the coronavirus in a single day at 28.

Robin Iszler, unit administrator of Central Valley Health District, said in an Aug. 30 story, "The more you're exposed to the virus during a period of time the more likely you're going to contract the disease."

At the end of August, the Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce announced a program where purchases of gift cards issued by local businesses were matched as an aid to the struggling economy.

September and October
There were about 100 active cases of COVID-19 in Stutsman County at the beginning of September and nearly 200 at the end of October. However, there was a dip to 24 active cases near the end of September between the two peaks.

The increasing number of COVID-19 cases extended beyond Stutsman County to the rural counties of the area. An Oct. 7

McIntosh, Dickey and LaMoure counties were at or near capacity with coronavirus cases. This followed a report from Oct. 4 that there were 112 individuals in North Dakota hospitals for COVID-19.

High infection and hospitalization rates resulted in North Dakota becoming a coronavirus pandemic hotspot in the nation.

But there were some signs of normalcy returning.

On Oct. 12, Jamestown Public Schools announced the return to full classroom education at all grade levels. Later in October, Burgum increased the risk level to high for 16 counties including Stutsman. This tightened some restrictions on businesses but did little to slow the intensifying pandemic.

By Oct. 21, Forum News Service reported the prevalence of coronavirus in North Dakota was higher than any country in the world.

On Oct. 28, one of the most notable local deaths attributed to COVID-19 was reported with the passing of

Monsignor Jeffrey Wald, 56, at JRMC. The same day, Jamestown Mayor Dwaine Heinrich announced an emergency order placing a mask mandate in place in Jamestown.

On Oct. 29, Jamestown High School announced it was forfeiting its playoff football game because of coronavirus cases in its team and coaching staff.

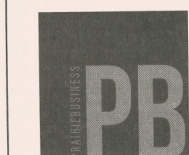
November and December
Stutsman County began November with about 200 active cases of the coronavirus and is at 114 cases as of Dec. 29.

In between those points was a peak of 534 cases.

On Nov. 12, Stutsman County reported a then-record 128 new cases of the coronavirus. The same day, JRMC announced it was implementing the surge plan it announced back in March because of the number of hospitalized cases.

On Nov. 13, Burgum announced a statewide mask mandate. The same day, the death toll in North Dakota passed 700 people.

On Nov. 17 the death toll surpassed 769 people in North Dakota



WHO WILL MAKE THE LIST IN 2021?

Prairie Business magazine is accepting nominations for our annual Top 25 Women in Business. We're seeking those women who are making big moves and leading the way in their careers and communities.