

Annual Report

FY2021

July 2020 — June 2021

Scott County Health Department
Scott County Administrative Center
600 West 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801

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scottcountyiowa.gov/health





Note from the Director

Fiscal year twenty-one will certainly be one of the most memorable of my professional career. I could not be prouder of the team that I work with every day and grateful for the support of community partners, that we now know more than perhaps any of us would like, as we have continued to promote, protect, and preserve the public health of Scott County during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is only by working #togetherqc that we have been able to weather this never ending pandemic storm, and the actual storm that tore through the area in August 2020.

I hope that this annual report gives you a glimpse into what it was like to be working in a public health department during a pandemic. You will read about our work contact tracing cases of COVID-19 which included interviewing positive cases, reaching out to individuals that had been exposed, and working with businesses, child care providers, and schools to navigate the timeline for someone to stay home. You will find stories of how our staff and Scott County Jail staff implemented a screening and quarantine process designed to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 from occurring within the jail's inmates and staff. You will learn about the work to educate the community on all things COVID, managing differences between two states and counties.

A significant portion of time this last fiscal year was spent focused on COVID-19 vaccine. Some of you may have received your vaccination at the joint clinic we hosted at the former Sears department store at Northpark Mall. This clinic was a true collaboration and would not have been possible without the assistance of Scott County Emergency Management, Bettendorf Fire, Community Health Care, Genesis Health System, MEDIC EMS, UnityPoint Health Trinity, Scott County Community Emergency Response Team, Scott County Facility and Support Services, and Scott County Information Technology.

Others of you may have received your vaccine at a health care providers' office. We worked closely with health care providers to get them vaccine as quickly as supply allowed. We are appreciative of the role that the Center for Active Seniors, Inc. (CASI) played in assisting community members make appointments at health care providers when technology challenges provided barriers. We are also thankful for the pharmacy partners that vaccinated residents and staff at long-term care facilities. We continue to manage the vaccine supply coming into our community, assure providers have what they need, and offer vaccine at community locations and within our daily operations.

Throughout this response, we have learned a lot, especially about flexibility and change. There are times when our plans went better than they expected. There were times when plans went wrong. We are capturing the good and the not so good and looking for ways to incorporate the good into our plans and fix the not so good for next time. FY21 was one big quality improvement project with lessons we hope we never have to use again.

Speaking of change, during FY21 we celebrated with staff that retired. Roma Taylor, our Clinical Services Manager retired after almost 42 years with the department and delaying her retirement twice. Ann Jepson, our lead communicable disease nurse retired after 15 years, Pam Gealy our lead administrative staff member for our childhood immunization program retired after 30 years, and Edward Rivers, Director retired after 10 years. Our department and community is forever better because of the mark that each of these colleagues made.

As we look to the future, I am grateful to have been selected to be the next Director of the Scott County Health Department. I have been with the department in various roles for over twenty years. It is my privilege to be able to serve the community I call home in this role. We have tremendous challenges and opportunities ahead and a wonderful team within the department and in community partners to respond to them.

Thank you to the community for your support. Please know how much we care about each and every one of you. Thank you to our community partners. Your willingness to step up and in when we needed help is a tremendous gift that we will never be able to repay. Thank you for our county family who encouraged us, supported us, offered assistance, and occasionally brought us food. You truly reflected Scott County's PRIDE philosophy. Finally, to the members of the Scott County Health Department, your dedication to serving our community is unwavering. I am blessed to be a part of this team.



Amy Thoreson, Director

YOUR HEALTH.
Our priority.

The Scott County Board of Health (BOH) consists of five members of the community who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The BOH is responsible for safeguarding the community's health and has jurisdiction over public health matters in Scott County. The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) is responsible to the Scott County BOH to carry out this important work.



(from left to right) Ann O'Donnell, DO (Vice-Chair); Denise Coiner, MS, RTR (Chairman); Kathleen Hanson, MSN, PhD (Secretary); and Larry Squire, DDS

Mission

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

Vision

Scott County—A safe and healthy community.

In May 2021, Dr. Sandeman, a veterinarian formerly with Glenroads & LeClaire Veterinary Clinic in Bettendorf, gave his resignation and retired from the Board of Health. Dr. Sandeman served faithfully on the Board of Health since July 2014, and his contributions are greatly appreciated. His vacancy leaves Scott County Health Department with four Board of Health members at the moment. The Scott County Board of Supervisors is in the process of appointing his replacement.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Final Fiscal Year 2021 Revenue and Expenditures:

Funding:

Category	Amount
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$21,887.58
Charges for Services	\$49,116.05
Medicaid	\$128,400.49
Licenses & Permits	\$409,350.00
Intergovernmental (Grants)	\$1,719,224.97
Tax Support	\$4,106,556.21

Expenditures:

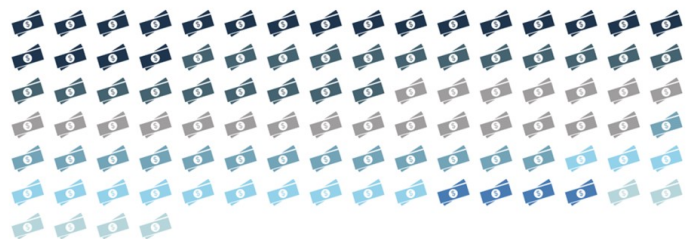
Category	Amount
Community Relations, Information, and Planning Services	\$1,306,077.90
Correctional Health	\$1,331,427.22
Clinical Services	\$1,385,571.32
Environmental Health	\$919,823.23
Administration	\$812,226.57
Public Health Safety	\$240,560.43
Medical Examiner	\$438,848.63

Funding



Refunds and Reimbursements (0.34%)	Charges for Services (0.76%)	Medicaid (2%)
Licenses and Permits (6.36%)	Intergovernmental (Grants) (26.72%)	Tax Support (63.82%)

Expenditures



Community Relations, Information and Planning Services (20.3%)	Clinical Services (21.53%)
Correctional Health (20.69%)	Administration (12.62%)
Environmental Health (14.3%)	Public Health Safety (3.74%)
Medical Examiner (6.82%)	



COVID

One public health challenge overshadowed all others in fiscal year 2021, putting health and preparedness resources to the test here in Scott County, the state, the nation, and the world. The coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, a highly contagious virus known to cause COVID-19 illness, led to many dark days.

Despite the challenges, public health was able to shine through:

Communications | Contact Tracing

Outreach | Outreach | Outreach

Virtual advancements | Vaccines | Virus knowledge

Involvement | Information Technology | Impacted Inspections

Disease tracking | Derecho response

Communications

Health Promotion. Throughout FY21, our Health Promotion Team met frequently to discuss and develop COVID-19 messages. Some of our messages were delivered in a familiar fashion using our existing website, social media, GovDelivery email list, and printed materials. Furthermore, the Health Promotion Team was compelled to research, test, and utilize new and unique communication messages. In November 2020, we utilized the CDC travel portal and established a Next-door account. Staff used innovation to create a “selfie station” backdrop with the hashtag #Vaccinate QC and tagline “This Is Our Shot” to rollout at COVID-19 vaccine clinics along with stickers in December 2020. The Health Promotion Team still meets to look for innovative ways to communicate with priority groups, promote vaccines, masking, and more.

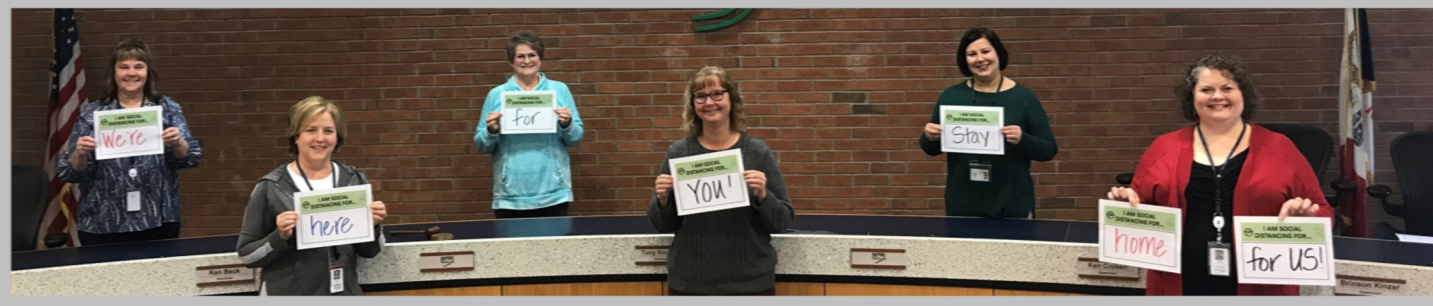
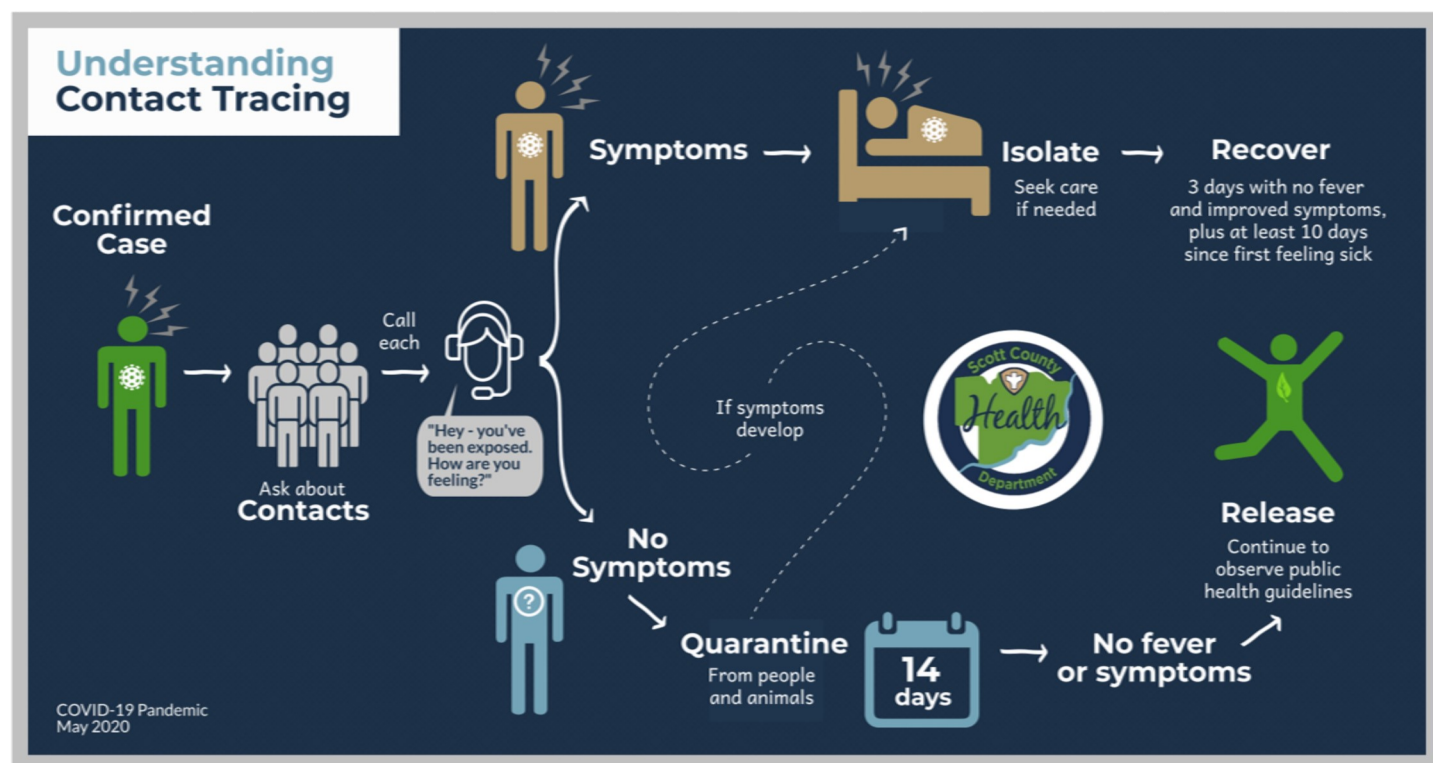
Press Briefings. In addition to the SCHD website and social media pages, traditional print, radio, and TV partners were critical to sharing information, virus mitigation measures, and vaccination guidance. We held press briefings with the Rock Island County Health Department multiple times per week to keep the media and community members informed. The media shared information from the briefings on daily newscasts and in articles. The briefings were also recorded and shared on the SCHD website and social media pages, to allow the public to watch the public health messages in their entirety. Healthcare and non-healthcare partners were also invited to participate in press briefings to share information to help the community manage the physical, emotional, social, and economic impacts of the pandemic on everyday life. Sharing information with the community remained a priority, with more than 80 press briefings hosted during FY21.



Contact Tracing

Case investigation and contact tracing are a fundamental public health strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19. Staff completed training and then reached out to people in Scott County who tested positive for COVID-19 or were exposed to the virus. SCHD provided this important service in Scott County until the daily case counts increased dramatically in November 2020.

With the ability to interview and contact trace in a timely manner severely impacted, SCHD transferred the primary responsibility of contact tracing back to the Iowa Department of Public Health. The transition was implemented over time, as staff continued to address the large number of cases needing investigation prior to the transition. In addition, staff continued to provide COVID-19 support and education to community members, schools, childcare, and businesses beyond the time SCHD provided contact tracing services.



Outreach

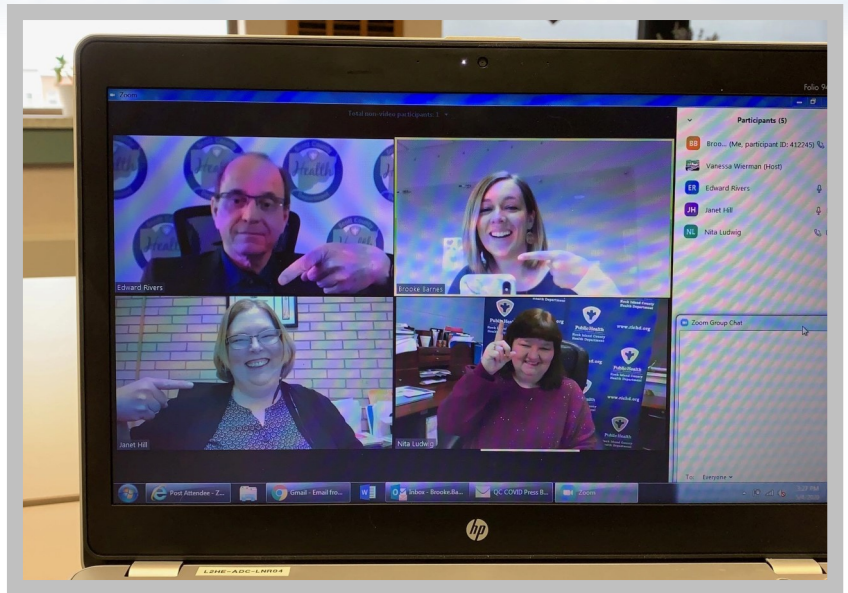
Program Continuity. Community outreach is a vital part of good public health practice. While pandemic safety restrictions posed numerous challenges to outreach efforts, staff used strategies and technology at their disposal to continue leveraging community partnerships to improve and protect the health of Scott County residents. Community education and stakeholder meetings moved to online platforms and direct services were coordinated by phone or limited to appointments. Staff were pulled from their primary duties to other efforts like contact tracing and providing guidance to businesses, schools, and the community while maintaining some capacity for key public health services. As the dynamics of the pandemic shifted, outreach staff adapted service provision accordingly to accommodate the needs and comfort levels of different individuals and community partners.

New Opportunities and Vaccine Campaign. Following the mass vaccination effort in late winter/early spring, the partnerships SCHD outreach staff have developed over time proved to be crucial in conducting vaccine outreach to marginalized populations. A team was formed and staff was divided into subcommittees to work with community partners in the African American, Hispanic, Vietnamese, refugee, rural, and young adult communities locally and identify opportunities and strategies to promote COVID-19 vaccination in these communities. Meetings were held with key stakeholders and staff were able to identify effective messages and channels for communication, as well as sites to hold pop-up vaccination clinics to make the vaccine more accessible.



Virtual Advancements

In an effort to limit our in-person interactions during the pandemic, staff adapted to the virtual world of telehealth, telework, and electronic meetings. In addition to press conferences with community partners on platforms like Zoom, staff shifted other operations virtual as well. Scott County's Information and Technology department greatly supported our transition to this new way of work. Many staff moved to laptops that allowed them the flexibility to work remotely when needed.



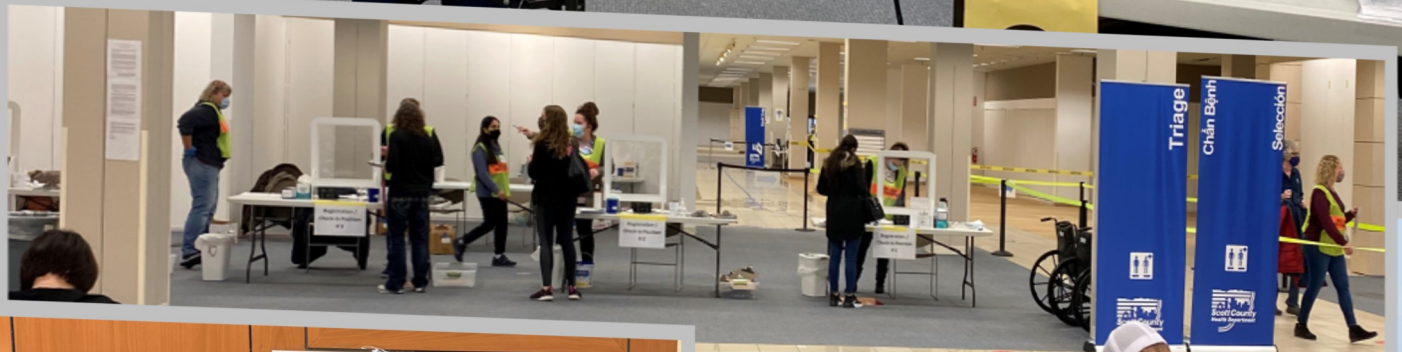
Staff took a moment to smile with neighboring public health partners while preparing a media update.

Webcams were purchased and the County purchased a WebEx account to allow for virtual meetings in an effort to continue to stay connected to co-workers and community partners. Board of Health meetings were held virtually when it was not safe to meet in-person, and have since resumed to meeting in-person. Telehealth services were allowed for the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health program and staff was quick to embrace this new way of connecting to clients. Many virtual breastfeeding/chest-feeding classes were held and continue to be scheduled as some individuals prefer this way to connect. Presumptive Eligibility applications for Medicaid were completed virtually as needed as well.

Vaccines at the Jail

Scott County Jail. As the early reports of COVID-19 and the potential threats it posed to correctional facility staff and inmates became known, the jail and correctional health staff implemented facility-wide precautions following the CDC guidelines for correctional facilities. To help prevent the spread of the virus, procedures were instituted quickly for screening questions and temperature monitoring of all inmates and staff. Staff took action to isolate suspected positive cases, quarantine new inmates, and addressed personal protective equipment use and facility disinfection. From March 2020 through June 2021, only 23 inmates who tested positive for COVID-19 were housed within Scott County Jail. There were no outbreaks of the disease among inmates or staff during this time. In fiscal year 2021, 227 inmates have received the COVID-19 vaccine while incarcerated, and a total of 331 inmates were vaccinated when including vaccines done elsewhere. Scott County Jail continues to adjust its guidelines to prevent and mitigate COVID-19. Inmates with COVID-19 symptoms are placed in medical isolation for seven days. All new inmates who do not report symptoms are quarantined for 14 days unless proof of COVID-19 vaccine can be documented. Even vaccinated inmates are quarantined for 7 days before moving into general population to prevent the spread of the virus into the jail population.

Vaccine Clinics



Vaccine Clinics



Virus Timeline

For several months leading up to fiscal year 2021, the coronavirus pandemic was well underway. Knowledge of the virus grew and the public health response continually adapted to the situation.

January 21, 2020	First case of novel coronavirus in the U.S. is announced
March 3, 2020	Iowans returning from China urged to self-isolate
March 9, 2020	SCHD, RICHD, Genesis, UP, CHC come together for a press conference with Dr. Katz
March 9, 2020	Iowa disaster proclamation
March 13, 2020	QC COVID-19 Coalition formed
March 15, 2020	Iowa closes schools
March 17, 2020	SCHD suspends immunization STD/HIV clinics
March 17, 2020	IA issues proclamation closing all dine-in restaurants/bars
March 21, 2020	First positive case of Scott County resident
March 23, 2020	SCHD & RICHD begin holding daily press availability/briefings
April 5, 2020	First COVID-19 death of a Scott County resident
May 2020	TestIowa drive-thru site opens in Scott County



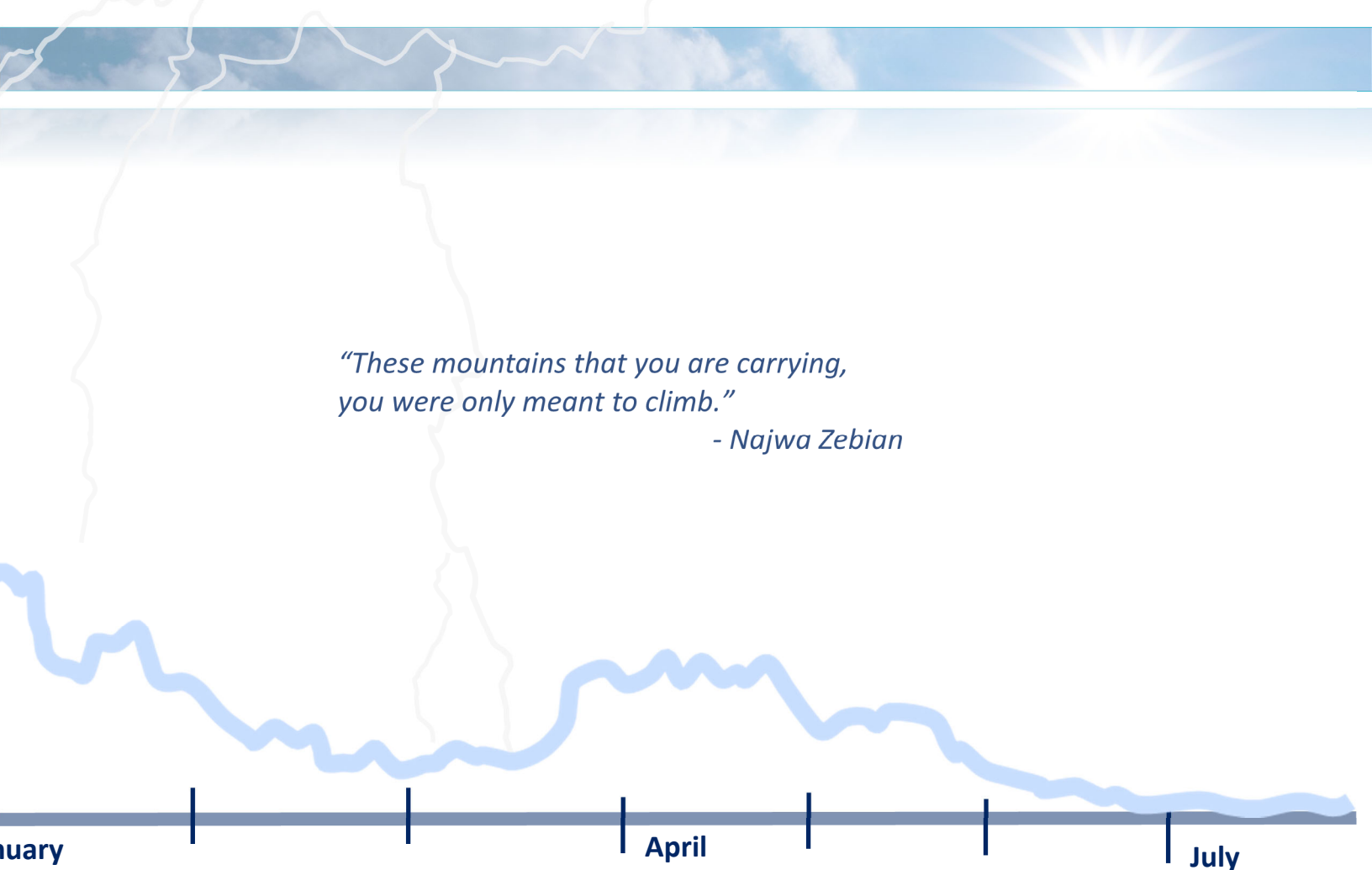
The first press briefing of health partners in the Quad Cities took place March 9, 2020, before the need for social distancing and other precautions were realized.

Virus Timeline

"F-E-A-R... Forget Everything And Run or Face Everything And Rise. The choice is yours."
- Zig Ziglar



July 12, 2020	Scott County COVID-19 cases total more than 1,000
August 10, 2020	Derecho wind storm during pandemic
November 2020	Elections during pandemic
November 2020	Iowa experiencing huge surge in positive cases; daily total case counts exceed 300
December 11, 2020	Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine receives emergency use authorization
December 15, 2020	First Scott County resident (healthcare worker) vaccinated
December 18, 2020	Moderna COVID-19 vaccine receives emergency use authorization
December 2020	Vaccine shortage exists; Iowa's Advisory Committee establishes vaccine prioritization guidelines; vaccine rollout will happen in phases



*"These mountains that you are carrying,
you were only meant to climb."*

- Najwa Zebian

January

April

July

January 7, 2021	SCHD & partners host first vaccination clinic at Sears (non-hospital healthcare workers)
February 1, 2021	SCHD holds first public vaccine clinic for 65+ population; Schedule fills in 5 minutes
February 1, 2021	SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 strain/UK variant found in Iowa
February 26, 2021	Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine receives emergency use authorization
March 1, 2021	Iowans with underlying conditions (ages 18-64) become eligible for vaccine
April 13, 2021	IDPH pauses Johnson & Johnson vaccine use to investigate reports of adverse events
April 15, 2021	SARS-CoV-2 P.1 strain/Brazilian variant found in Iowa
April 23, 2021	CDC/FDA/IDPH lift pause on Johnson & Johnson vaccine
May 4, 2021	SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617 strain/India (delta) variant found in Iowa
May 13, 2021	CDC approves Pfizer for 12-15 year olds
June 16, 2021	Testlowa drive-thru site ends in Iowa



Inspections Impacted

As FY21 began, swimming pools, tanning facilities, and tattoo establishments were closed due to the Governor's emergency proclamation. For restaurants that were open with no dine-in option, routine inspections were not taking place based on guidance received from the State of Iowa. Complaints were handled over the phone instead of in-person and while not many new restaurants opened during the pandemic, staff did conduct in-person, pre-opening inspections when needed. Many restaurants contacted SCHD with questions regarding their operation and these were addressed over the phone or by email. Septic systems were continuing to be installed and wells drilled, so the inspections for these programs continued as usual.

Once restaurants were able to return to dine-in, routine inspections were able to begin again. Inspectors had to complete a survey at every food establishment they visited to determine if the facility was meeting all the COVID-19 requirements of the Governor's emergency proclamation in addition to conducting a food safety inspection.

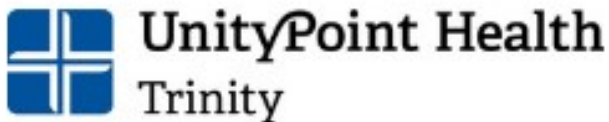


Involvement

The Health Department has not responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in isolation – the robust COVID-19 response in the community was the result of the intense and continued involvement of community partners from nearly every sector to support the response. In March 2020, area health, business, government, and emergency management officials had the foresight to acknowledge the future magnitude the newly identified SARS-CoV-2 virus would bring, and collaborated to create the Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition to work to minimize the risk for community spread and the physical, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19. This resulted in initial daily meetings of the Coalition to discuss public health updates, community and hospital response plans, and needs from non-health partners seated at the table.

Key to the coordination of the pandemic response has been Scott County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). EMA staff have facilitated QC COVID-10 Coalition meetings, logistic support for personal protective equipment (PPE), assisted with the coordination of planning and implementation of Scott County's public vaccination site at Sears, supported contact between local emergency response plans with Iowa Homeland Security, and collaborated with public health on nearly every effort that took place. EMA's involvement in the COVID-19 pandemic ensured a timely, cohesive, effective, and community-wide response. The partnership has been invaluable and has established high expectations for future emergency events.

Involvement



QC COVID-19 Coalition

Including many other business, nonprofit, mental health, government, and economic development partners.

Thank You!



Information Technology

Information Technology Makes Public Vaccine Clinics Possible. Scott County's Information Technology (IT) department was instrumental in setting up an informatics system for the COVID-19 mass-vaccination clinics held at North Park mall in Davenport.

IT staff wired in network lines and installed more than 25 computer workstations in a former department store so that staff and volunteers could run the clinic electronically. Not only that, but they tested and then trained staff and volunteers to use a brand new data system to track and document everything. This allowed the public to register for a vaccine online and complete their form electronically in advance. Once at the clinic, the system let staff review patient records, document the vaccine, and transfer the vaccine records into the state system with just a few clicks.

As with any new system roll out, there were plenty of bumps in the road. However, SCHD would not have been able to vaccinate so many people so quickly if it were not for the outstanding efforts of Scott County's Information Technology professionals working side by side with public health.



Derecho Wind Storm and Response

Natural Disaster During A Pandemic. Scott County experienced a Derecho event on August 10, 2020. This event led to widespread power outages and both commercial and residential damages. The Derecho caused an estimated \$11 billion in damages across Iowa and left roughly two million households without power. The Health Department was without power for multiple days over the course of this event. Most health department staff were reassigned to the Emergency Management Agency and were utilized as mobile damage assessment teams. These teams drove throughout the county assessing damages to residential properties in an effort to compile financial estimates for the state's emergency declaration documents. Other staff worked in the emergency operations center to continue COVID-19 contact tracing work.

Statistics

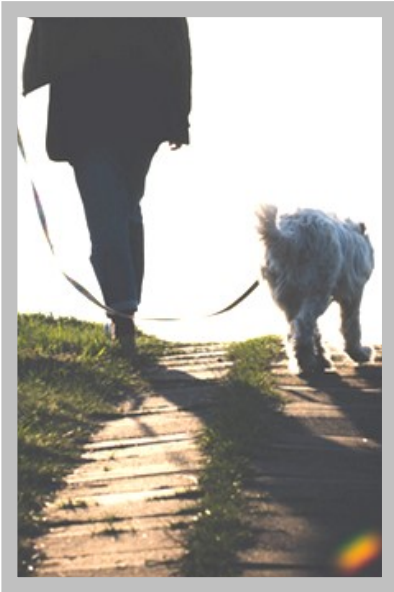
Administration:	
Number of Subcontracts Issued	5
Community, Relations, Information, and Planning:	
Percent of Scott County consumers who received face to face education report it will help them or someone else to make a healthy choice	99%
Percent of children in the EPSDT program who have a medical home	78%
Percent of students entering kindergarten have a valid certificate of dental screening	89.4%
Environmental Health:	
Number of food service establishment inspections	1,055
Number of food service establishment re-inspections*	1,075*
Percent of approved septic system installations met initial system recommendations	100%
Tons of recyclable material were collected in unincorporated Scott County	855.81
Percent of water wells that meet Scott County Code: Chapter 24 upon installation	100%
Clinical Services:	
Percent of the reported rabies exposures received a rabies risk assessment	100%
Number of communicable diseases reported	100
Number of communicable diseases requiring investigation	100
Number of people who received STD/HIV services	479
Percent of 2 year-olds seen at the SCHD clinic are up-to-date with their vaccinations	65%
Number of school immunization records audited	29,112
Number of preschool and child care center immunization records audited	4,892
Public Health Safety:	
Number of public health preparedness drills/exercises held	0**
Correctional Health:	
Percent of inmate health contacts provided in the jail	99%

**The number of critical and non-critical food service establishment re-inspections were added together in this figure; thus there is some duplication in this figure.*

***No public health preparedness drills/exercises were held as the real-world preparedness response remained active throughout the fiscal year.*

Retirements

SCHD wished farewell some to wonderful people in FY2021.



Ann Jepson, Public Health Nurse
Retired December 2020
after 15 years of service.

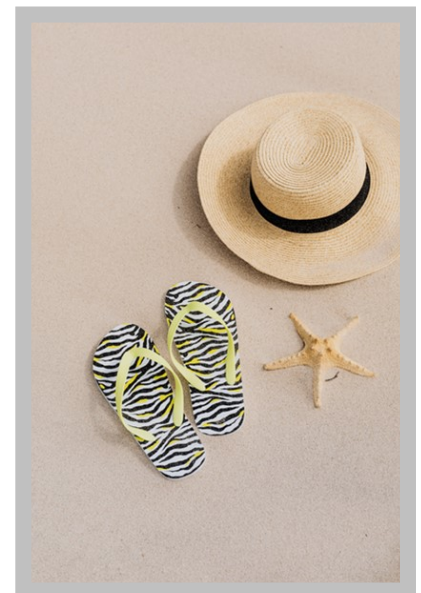


Edward Rivers, Director
Retired March 2021
after 10 years of service

*May you be proud
of the work
you have done,
the person you are,
and the difference
you have made!*



Roma Taylor, Clinical Services Manager
Retired May 2021
after 41 years of service



Pam Gealy, Office Assistant
Retired January 2021
after 30 years of service



Shine on!