First District Health Unit Report to the City of Minot

January – September 2021

The first three quarters of 2021 focused heavily on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In January First District Health Unit (FDHU) coordinated with health care providers throughout the seven counties to begin a distribution of the Covid vaccine. Specifically, we worked with the City of Minot Police, Fire and Public Works Departments to assure essential personnel were amongst the first vaccinated. Long term care facilities, elderly population and those with chronic health conditions were our next priority. Throughout the spring and summer, we continued our vaccination efforts for those that chose to be vaccinated. Information was provided to the public regarding the vaccine via press conferences, social media, and various media interviews. In the fall, vaccine became available for school age children and we made opportunities available in the evenings and some weekend days to allow better access for younger children.

A static testing site was established at FDHU South (the old Easter Seals building) and has continued. The tests conducted were both PCR and rapid antigen tests. Currently we are testing approximately 200 per day. Travel testing has been in high demand and FDHU has advocated to the Governor’s office to develop Rapid PCR testing sites throughout the District to assure travelers can get test results in an efficient and timely manner. UND family practice has provided medical residents at our testing sites so that individuals may discuss their test results or symptoms with medical doctors.

FDHU has maintained a daily data log of Covid cases, hospitalizations, and positivity rates to monitor trends and provide that information to policy makers and the public. At this time, we have plateaued and have seen a slight decrease in cases.

A call center has been available at FDHU throughout the pandemic. At any given time, we have approximately 10 individuals answering the public’s questions regarding Covid, vaccine, testing and making appointments. Nurses are available for medical questions that individuals may have regarding their own situation. This has been very beneficial to individuals who do not have a primary physician or provider.

Mental health and substance abuse continue to be a concern. The Syringe Service Program has continued. Clients seeking services for sexually transmitted diseases and family planning are screened for mental health and substance abuse and referrals made to agencies and organizations to assist them.

Throughout 2020 vaccination rates fell. Throughout the summer and fall FDHU provided increased access for childhood vaccinations through schools. Although vaccination rates have increased for both childhood and adult vaccinations, we are still behind our 2019 vaccination rates. Continued efforts to increase vaccination rates are a high priority.

Childhood obesity rates have risen over the past several years. FDHU has obtained a grant to enhance the program “On the Move” and will work with extension service, schools and park and recreation to promote physical activity with youth. Dr. Dawn Mattern will provide guidance to the program.
Programs that have continued to serve Minot residents are:

- WIC and Nutrition
- Environmental Health services that include food and lodging licenses, food safety training, water testing, nuisances, body art licenses, swimming pool regulations, childcare inspections, and air quality
- Alcohol and addiction programs
- Tuberculous
- High Priority Infant and Optimal Pregnancy services
- Resources for Healthy Living
- Emergency Response
- Family Planning, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases
- Farm Safety 4 Just kids
- Car Seat training and distribution

Thus far in 2021 the following services were provided to the City of Minot:

- 31 Minot Wastewater lab analysis
- 350 Water tests
- 5 Hep B
- 5 TDAP
- 5 Boostrix
- 72 Narcan

I have attached our financial statement for the first 3 quarters of 2021. When the budget was adopted for 2021, we did not know if and how much Covid money would be available and what efforts would be necessary to reduce the spread of Covid 19. FDHU has shifted several resources to the Covid efforts and have been able to bill those efforts to federal funding streams. The fluidity of the Covid 19 pandemic continues to challenge our daily activities and demands on our organization.

I am happy to answer any questions and provide further information or clarification that you may have.