

Reporting Health Data in Mesa County

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Summary

Mesa County Public Health is responsible for keeping our community informed of relevant and timely health data and accurate prevention behaviors.

We have access to local, state, and federal sources of health data.

The data we share are based on relevance and importance to the community. Our team ensures the information is responsible and does not cause unnecessary alarm.

Three teams at Mesa County Public Health work to produce accurate health information:

- Disease Surveillance and Emergency Response
- Research and Planning
- Communication and Marketing

Audience Types



**Community
Members**



**Local Physicians
& Healthcare
Providers**



**Specific Population
(e.g. child care
providers for RSV)**

Health Topics We Share

Emerging Diseases or Diseases with Unusual Activity

- Shared through our news outlets, social media, and website.
- Examples include [increased levels of syphilis](#) in 2023, [mpox \(monkeypox\)](#) in 2022.

COVID-19

- Starting in fall 2022, we moved to bi-weekly reporting with other respiratory illnesses.
- The CDC Community Levels are based on disease severity (i.e. hospitalizations and death). We direct the community to the CDC data until Oct 1.
- All [historical COVID-19 data](#) is available to the public.

Flu

- Historically we reported on hospitalized flu cases, flu lab testing, and flu outbreaks.
- We included RSV for the 22-23 respiratory illness season because RSV cases were unusually high.

West Nile virus

- Seasonally share on the [What's Going Around page](#) and social media.

Community Health Data

- [Community Health Needs Assessment](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
 - Deeper dives into areas identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment or those of community interest.
 - [Youth Tobacco Use and Attitudes](#)
 - [Suicide](#)
 - [Substance Use](#)
 - [COVID-19 Impact](#)
- [Tell Us Community Survey results and insights](#)



Frequency

The frequency depends on the disease prevalence in the community, seasonality, and if there are major changes to communicate to the public. This is especially true for anything that is unusual for the season or unusual for Mesa County.



For example, in 2020 we reported COVID-19 data daily and reduced frequency as the trends stabilized. Our access has also changed to some of the metrics.

Channels

- Website
- News Releases
- Digital Newsletters
- Social Media
- Printed and Digital Reports
- Health Alert Network (HAN) - specific email message for medical providers
- Data Requests received by email



Limitations of the Data

There are limitations of the data to which we have access, including frequency, consistency, and level of detail.

Some of the data we utilize are collected regularly and others are not.

Some data sets are entirely dependent on the timing, resources, and capacity of partner organizations, like the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Some of our data sets are available at the response-level. For example, the Tell Us community survey, while others are provided at a summary level with limited analysis capabilities.

The available disease data are also dependent on which diseases and conditions are reportable and what level of information is shared by providers and labs.