'21

There is light in each one of us we are using to give hope and health to the people of Illinois. Go and continue to be the light and hope for better health for the entire state.

-Dr. Ngozi Ezike 2021 April 12

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

# Rock Island County Health Department

2112 25th Ave Rock Island, IL www.richd.org 309-793-1955

# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report for Rock Island County Health Department. This report demonstrates the diverse programs that your local health department offers in Rock Island County. Our mission: Rock Island County Health Department prevents disease, promotes wellness of mind and body, protects public health and prepares for emergencies.

The year began with great hopes of ending the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as possible. We received our first shipments of vaccine in December of 2020 which were first allocated for health care workers. As vaccine began flowing into the community, other priority groups became eligible for vaccination such as those living in congregate care facilities, older adults, first responders, and essential workers. Our large vaccination clinics were held at the Quad City Auto Auction as a drive through vaccination site. The drive through approach allowed for mass vaccination without gathering in large groups which was optimal with this contagious virus. However, weather in Illinois in February/March did not always allow for us to use the drive through location.

Another great partner in our efforts was the TaxSlayer Center in Moline. We were able to move our vaccination clinics indoors while still maintaining a safe number of people in the building at a time. We utilized vaccination time slots with an online schedule. Our partners in emergency management were able to use a radio station to call in groups at their assigned vaccination time to manage the number of people in the building at any one time. These clinics ran very smoothly and we were able to vaccinate 1,100 people in a 6-hour time frame. As we ramped up to offer vaccinations to the general public, we were able to get support from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois National Guard for a mass vaccination site located at the Camden Centre in Milan, Illinois. This site ran from March through May of 2021.





# **2021 YEAR IN REVIEW CONT...**

RICHD also partnered with many other agencies, businesses and groups to hold vaccination clinics. Our staff and volunteers worked many vaccination clinics at large employers such as John Deere and Exelon. We also held clinics in various locations throughout the county to make vaccination accessible to everyone. Clinics were held in many schools, church locations, township halls and even community events such as Pride Fest and Mercado. We vaccinated thousands of residents during that time. At the end of May, we transitioned vaccination clinics to the Rock Island County Health Department as walk in clinics. Clinics were held every Tuesday and Friday at the health department.

At the present time, we continue to offer COVID-19 vaccination clinics every Tuesday and Friday. We have also adjusted our clinics as vaccines became available for different age groups and then with the addition of booster doses. All of our efforts could not have been successful without the support and dedication of our Rock Island County Medical Reserve Corps. This is our group of volunteers (medical and non-medical people) who generously gave of their time to help us vaccinate our community. To date, over 3,600 hours of volunteer time has gone into COVID-19 response. As of this writing, Rock Island County has had 31,935 total cases of COVID-19 and a total of 485 deaths. 61.3% of the population 5 years of age and older is fully vaccinated and of those 65 and older, the rate of those fully vaccinated is 82.7%. We continue to offer vaccinations and the rates are ticking up, but at a slower pace than when vaccines first became available.

We are awaiting authorization for children 6 months – 4years of age with the Pfizer vaccine. Both Pfizer and Moderna have now asked for authorization for additional booster doses. Once those are approved, RICHD will offer them to the public as well. It has been a long road to this point but we have persevered through several surges and variants of COVID-19. At present, our transmission level is moderate which has greatly improved each week since the January 2022 surge. Many mitigations have been lifted and we are seeing a return to a more normal way of life. We will continue to provide vaccinations to residents of Rock Island county for as long as it is needed.

Respectfully submitted, Nita Ludwig

-Mita Ludwig
RICHD Administrator



# EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Rock Island County Health Department collaborates with many local community response partners in both Rock Island and Scott County (Iowa) to plan for all types of potential emergencies. Exercises give us valuable information which we use to improve our response plans which in turn increase preparedness levels. If there was a release of a biological agent such as anthrax or smallpox, the Rock Island County Health Department would be responsible to distribute medication or vaccinate all the residents of Rock Island County (over 143,000 people).

This was the second year that has tested for what Emergency Preparedness and Response strives. The Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition continued to meet with both Scott County and Rock Island County Health Departments, Scott County and Rock Island County Emergency Management, Unity Point and Genesis Hospitals, Community Health Care, elected officials, and others to monitor and address issues with the novel coronavirus that have an impact on the Quad Cities. This Coalition has met every week or every other week as need required since its initiation, to provide information sharing and an integrated approach toward the pandemic.

January 12th, 2021 was RICHD's first Mass Vaccination clinic. Kate Meyer and Nita Ludwig organized this clinic at the Greater Quad City Auto Auction, which was designated for healthcare workers in Phase 1A, as deemed by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). As vaccination became more plentiful and Phases progressed, clinics serviced more people. After two drive through clinics, Midwestern weather and extreme cold forced a move of the clinic to the TaxSlayer Center. Over 800 doses were administered at each of these indoor clinics, which continued throughout February, into March, and included an average of 20 Rock Island County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and 20 RICHD staff utilized at each clinic. Our greatest number vaccinated at these clinics was 1,100 in 6 hours!

On March 9th, Rock Island County's COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Clinic was moved to the Camden Centre, in Milan. This site was a collaboration between IDPH, the Illinois National Guard (ING), and RICHD to utilize the ING and contract nurses to staff a stationary Mass Vaccination site for Rock Island County. This site was open Monday through Saturday, and utilized RICHD staff and MRC Volunteers as Point of Dispensing (POD) site manager, vaccination manager, vaccination draw, and post vaccination observation and response. Contractual nurses gave the vaccine and ING provided clerical, forms entry, security, and other site duties. These clinics ended May 29th, and walk-in clinics started in-house at RICHD Tuesdays for Moderna and Johnson, and Fridays for Pfizer.

# EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE CONT...

Starting in March, RICHD staff and MRC volunteers, sometimes with the help of ING, provided strike teams to vaccinate local large businesses, including John Deere, Exelon, 3M Corp., Group O, and Tyson Foods.Pop-up vaccine sites staffed by RICHD and MRC were held at multiple places of worship, and events like Mercado on Fifth, Pride Fest, and the NAACP Resource Fair.

On July 30th, Nita Ludwig and Kate Meyer accepted the Award for Rock Island County Health Department for Community Advocate of the Year from ARC of the Quad Cities. This award recognized RICHD's support for individuals with disabilities with PPE and COVID-19 vaccinations, ensuring health and wellbeing of this population.

Although supply had risen, the need for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) from the Illinois Pharmaceutical Stockpile and the Strategic National Stockpile to assist healthcare entities, nursing homes, group homes, and others continued into 2021. RICHD filled 15 requests from those agencies in need of PPE. They also filled over 45 requests for Binax NOW testing kits, provided by IDPH, to those agencies as well as school districts. Contact Tracers, as well as RICHD Infectious Disease staff assisted these agencies and the public with isolation and quarantine guidelines for those who tested positive and there close contacts.

After a long wait, the FDA and ACIP approved Pfizer vaccine for 5-11 year old children and immediately, pediatric COVID-19 pediatric clinics began November 5th, on the lower level of RICHD. For consistency, clinics were mainly held on "Pfizer Fridays", with a few Monday and Saturday clinics added. RICHD started offering boosters for anyone 18 years and older November 19th, after recommendation by IDPH and CDC.

Kate and Nita were asked to participate in a panel discussion on the Quad Cities COVID-19 Response at the TEDCON Conference in Peoria, November 15th. This panel consisted of both Rock Island and Scott County Emergency Management Agencies, Health Departments, and Genesis Hospital, and discussed the bi-state coordination of efforts, including Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition.

The highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant emerged in the United States during December 2021 and by December 25 accounted for 72% of sequenced lineages, overtaking Delta and creating a surge in cases again, thus continuing the COVID-19 response into 2022.

COVID 19

#### 16th Street (Moline) & Black Hawk Road (RI) MRC Billboard





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#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROGRAM**

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

Rock Island County Health Department nurses interview county residents who are reported to have or have been exposed to certain disease and conditions deemed reportable by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Nurses investigate any outbreaks and refer for medical follow up as needed. Diseases on the list of 'Illinois Reportable Diseases' have a specific period in which they must be reported to the local health department. Some diseases require immediate notification 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Physicians, laboratories and other providers can reach the health department staff at any time for disease reporting.



# REFUGEE HEALTH AND IMMIGRATION/NATURALIZATION

Medical examinations and referrals are provided to refugees resettling to Rock Island County or to individuals applying for a change of status under immigrations and naturalization laws. Immigration & Refugee numbers have declined in the last few years due to a reduction of refugees allowed into the United States. In 2021, due to the influx of Afghan Parolees from the Middle East Region into Illinois, the Immigration and Refugee program has been busy. RICHD medical director, Dr. Cheryl True, along with our dedicated staff, continues to welcome and assess new refugees/immigrants in their weekly appointments.





### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

RICHD offers all types of immunizations for adults and children to prevent disease and promote optimal health and wellness. Each fall we provide Flu shot clinics throughout the county, ensuring that all residents have access to an annual flu vaccination. In 2021 we held off site clinics at more than 40 locations, in addition to holding flu shot 'walk in' clinics at the health department every Tuesday from October 1 – November 30, 2021.In addition to flu vaccines, we were able to hold Covid Vaccine Clinics at the Camden Center in Milan (March-May 2021) with the help on the Illinois National Guard. We continued throughout 2021 with multiple other off site Covid vaccine clinics throughout Rock Island County.

Total Flu Shots given: 344
Total Covid Shots Given: 58,987

Total of Childhood immunizations given: 751
Total of Adults immunizations given: 543
Total of all immunizations given: 59,173

# TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

RICHD's TB program provides nursing consultation regarding TB treatment, contact investigations, and educations on infection control. RICHD administer and reads TB skin tests. Medications are dispensed to active and latent TB clients. Medications help to prevent TB from becoming active in people who test positive for the germ and those with family members or who are in close contact to someone with active tuberculosis. Tuberculosis remains a highly contagious illness. Throughout the Covid Pandemic we have seen Covid symptoms mimicked in TB symptoms, and therefore our nurses are monitoring for TB routinely.

TB Skin Tests: 152

TB Skin Test Reads: 133

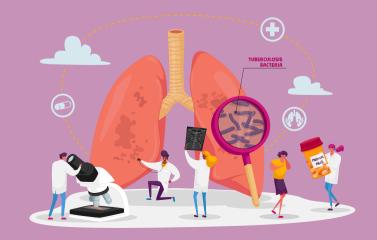
Quantiferon Gold TB Tests: 18

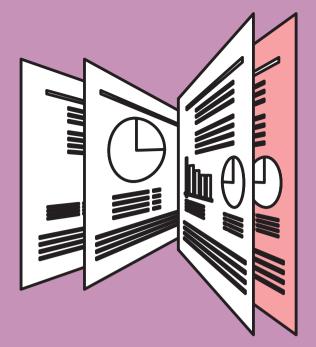
Total positive TB tests: 8

Chest X-Rays: 6

Patients on preventative Meds: 47

Active TB Cases: 44





# OTHER REPORTABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES-2021

| Other Reportable Infectious Diseases-2021 |               |  |  |
|---|---------------|--|--|
| Covid-19                                  | 11,267        |  |  |
| Chickenpox                                | 0             |  |  |
| Haemophilus Influenza                     | 2             |  |  |
| Hepatitis A                               | 1             |  |  |
| Hepatitis B                               | 21            |  |  |
| Hepatitis C                               | 41            |  |  |
| Histoplasmosis                            | 12            |  |  |
| Legionellosis                             | 5             |  |  |
| Lyme Disease                              | 5             |  |  |
| Shigellosis                               | 4             |  |  |
| Staphylococcal                            | 0             |  |  |
| Streptococcal, Group A                    | 5             |  |  |
| Whooping Cough                            | 1             |  |  |
| Investigated cases-determined 'determined | d not to be a |  |  |
| case'                                     | 497           |  |  |
| Rabies investigations                     |               |  |  |
| (potential human exposure)                | 60            |  |  |
| Influenza (Adult with ICU admission)      | 1             |  |  |
| Salmonellosis                             | 19            |  |  |

#### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

STI's remained high throughout 2021 both nationally and in Rock Island County. Primary Syphilis cases increased early in 2021, but then declined. RICHD promotes safe sex practices in order to prevent the spread of diseases and infections to protect the health of the general public. Communicable disease nurses follow up with all STI patients in order to ensure they receive proper services, while working with our community partners. The RICHD STI clinic will resume weekly clinics by the end of 2022.



### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Rock Island County Health Department sanitarians work to protect the health and safety of the public by regulating food service establishments through inspections and education. They also issue permits and inspect on-site wastewater treatment systems and handle testing of well water samples. Other areas include solid waste and nuisance regulation, tanning and body art facility inspections and seasonal mosquito surveillance to detect West Nile Virus.



Septic tank outlet baffle

showing signs of back up

#### Environmental Health Statistics 2021

|                               | Hours             | Inspections       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Food<br>Sanitation            | 624.50            | 318               |
| Potable<br>Water              | 283               | 276               |
| Private<br>Sewage<br>Disposal | 628               | 479               |
| Solid<br>Waste                | 7                 | 56                |
| Nuisance<br>Control           | 57                | 63                |
| Body Art/<br>Tanning          | 28(BA)<br>28(TAN) | 14(BA)<br>20(TAN) |
| West Nile<br>VIrus            | 57                | 35                |

Discarded tires creating a breeding ground for mosquitos



# HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

The health department's health educator promotes healthy behaviors in a variety of ways, including presentations to community schools, churches, businesses or other organizations. Education is also provided by other health department staff at clinic visits, home visits, inspections, media events and health fairs. Our health educator is an active member of community coalitions including the Quad Cities Youth Conference, Tobacco-Free Quad Cities, and the Rock Island County Wellness Committee. Throughout 2021, most of this education occurred via digital outreach.

Additionally, our health educator provides tobacco cessation education and resources through the Illinois Tobacco-free Communities grant. The grant also includes promoting implementation or strengthening of smoke-free and tobacco-free policies for public places such as parks, college campuses, and public housing. Our health educator worked closely with the Tobacco-Free Quad Cities coalition to develop a recognition program to raise awareness about the harms of vaping/e-cigarettes. The coalition developed an award titled the Champion Award that recognizes community organizations that go above and beyond a standard smoke-free workplace policy by including all nicotine or tobacco products as prohibited items. In 2021, seven businesses were award recipients. Finally, a big win of the year was when Augustana College extended their temporary tobacco-free campus policy, which was originally only going to last for the 2020-2021 school year. The health department has worked with the college for three years to develop a tobacco-free policy.



### **VITAL RECORDS**

2021

The local Registrar's office of
Vital Records (birth and death
certificates for Rock Island
County is located at the Rock
Island County Health Department).
Certified copies of birth
certificates dating back to 1985
can be obtained at our office.
Death certificates dating back to
1999 can also be obtained at the
health department office.

Births **1400** 

Deaths 1663

# WIC - Women, Infants and Children

WIC's mission is to assure healthy pregnancies, healthy birth outcomes, and healthy growth and development for women. infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. In 2021, all Illinois Department of Human Services programs operated under a disaster plan that suspended in-clinic visits. WIC nurses and nutritionists, collecting known as Certifying Health Professionals, or CPAs, served all clients over the phone. The program still offered nutritional education and proper feeding and developmental guidance. All anthropometric data collection remained suspended, but CPAs recorded parentreported information after a medical provider visit, as appropriate. We offered drivethrough services for benefit pickup at both the Rock Island and Moline sites. The East Moline site at Community Health Care remained closed all year; services were consolidated at the Moline site.

WIC experienced a fluctuating caseload throughout the year. We saw falling caseload when families felt flush with money after expanded child tax credits, federal stimulus checks, and expanded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. However, we have been working to keep families on WIC by calling them before they fall off the program.

Clients served: 954 (monthly average)
Total caseload: 3,375 (monthly average)
Exclusively or partially breastfed infants: 325
(monthly average)

We also have been touting the temporary increased fruit and vegetable benefits — \$24 from \$9 for children 1-5; \$43 for pregnant and postpartum participants and \$27 for breastfeeding participants, up from \$11 for all adult categories. This so-called "WIC bump" was scheduled to go through February 2022, and as 2021 ended, there was political appetite in Washington to make the bump permanent. The expanded child-tax credit ended in December, and an extension was uncertain.

We began training a new CPA in December and expect to have an extended training period because of streamlined COVID program requirements. The federal waiver from USDA to allow for these streamlined and curbside services was extended until at least July 2022.

Our breastmilk depot at our Moline site continued to accept donations from mothers with extra breastmilk, though donations were down significantly in 2021 due to the pandemic. We shipped donated milk to the Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes in Elk Grove Village, near Chicago. From there, the milk is tested for safety, pasteurized, and then shipped to medically fragile babies in neonatal intensive care units at hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin.





#### **High-Risk Infant Follow Up**

#### Infants Receiving Follow Up: 51 (monthly average)

Local hospitals refer high-risk infants to the health department through the adverse pregnancy outcome reporting system, or APORS. A public health nurse then provides targeted case management to the family until the child turns 2 years old. Medical case management services includes pediatric physical assessments, developmental assessments, annual home visits and referrals to specialists or other community services as needed. All home visits remained suspended due to the pandemic and as authorized by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The registered nurse case manager worked closely to make sure the child received appropriate well-child screenings and immunizations, while also attended to children's child's specific medical diagnosis that qualified the children for the HRIF program. We saw a reduction in the number of families that chose to take HRIF services. Many families cited better care coordination through their primary-care medical provider.

### Family Case Management

Family Case Management works to lower infant mortality by connecting pregnant women and their infants to health care and community resources that the family might need throughout the child's first year. The Family Case Management team worked under a disaster plan due to the pandemic as authorized by the Illinois Department of Human Services. All home visits remained suspended and will follow the same timeline as WIC for a return to normal operations.

The FCM team provided services over the telephone and worked closely to coordinated service with WIC staff. Once a pregnant woman or woman with a child younger than 1 talked with WIC staff over the phone, the client was transferred to a case manager. Case managers focused on assisting with immediate pandemic-related needs, including prenatal and postpartum depression screenings, developmental screenings and resource needs. We saw a troubling increase in higher scores on maternal depression screenings. More women scored particularly high on the stress scale. In those cases, we made immediate referrals to the woman's obstetrician and to partner mental health agencies. We then followed up with the client within two days.

Case managers emphasized the important of safe-sleep practices and on-time immunizations and conducted screenings to ensure babies reached developmental milestones. Those who showed developmental delays were referred to early intervention services. WIC and Family Case Management staff work collaboratively with clients at the Moline and Rock Island sites.

We hired a fifth case manager to the team to help get assigned caseload closer to what the state suggests. The program assistant in the department was promoted to case manager. Another case manager was assigned to Moline full-time starting in October. We hired a new program assistant in October.

Home visits: 0 (suspended due to pandemic)
Office/phone visits: 7,378
Developmental Screenings: 1,647
Post-partum Depression Screenings: 1,433



# Lead Poisoning Prevention

Children Screened: 3,592
Children with elevated lead levels: 279
Home visits/phone assessments completed: 31
People Educated: 2,925

The number of children screened for elevated blood lead levels increased in 2021 to 3,592 from 2,717, but remained far below pre-pandemic levels of 4,284 in 2019. Normally, all children coming to WIC would be screened at age 1 and 2. However, because of the pandemic, WIC staff did not see children in clinics all year. Lead home visits remained suspended. On occasion when a child's blood lead level was significantly high and case managers couldn't identify the source of lead over the phone, case managers would complete a COVID-safer home visit wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment. The department also continued to collaborate with the cities of Rock Island, Moline, East Moline and Silvis in a \$2.4 million federal grant to mitigate lead hazards from homes. Work is ongoing with our partners, but the pandemic caused fewer home mitigations to be completed during the construction season. In addition, the grant administrator had trouble getting contractors to bid on jobs because of labor shortages and an overall higher demand for contractors.

#### Healthworks of Illinois

Foster Children Case Managed in 10-county region: 698 (monthly average)
Rock Island County foster children receiving case management services: 134 (monthly average)

Healthworks is a case management program for children in foster care. In partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services, the health department serves as a lead agency for a 10-county area. Case managers work to ensure foster children have regular medical and dental visits and that any other medical needs are met. The case manager that exclusively serves Rock Island children ages 45 days to 6 years has seen an explosion of children entering foster care over the last two years, jumping from fewer than 85 children to more than 130.





The School Health Link Inc. is a non-profit organization with 501 (c) 3 status and provides Health Care to children year-round.

We can serve as primary pediatric care to our patients as well as providing intermittent need appointments. We see children for; sick visits, annual well child visits, school and sports physicals, immunizations, catch up immunizations and mental and behavioral health needs. Our program works to decrease school absenteeism through keeping children, well by preventing health risks through education and intervention.

We also work in collaboration with the following entities: Rock Island County Health Department, Rock Island/Milan Schools and Transitions Mental Health Services.

During 2021 we had 1715 patient visits-including;

#### 27 school physical clinics for;

- Kindergarten
- 5th (for those entering 6th grade)
- .11th (for those entering 12th grade)
- Sports

248 physicals completed off site, with the assistance of our local schools.

#### 15 Vaccine clinics for;

#### Menactra vaccine-

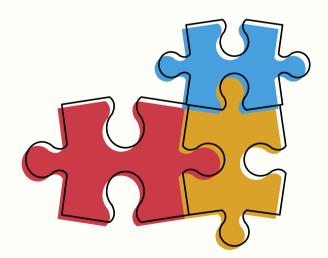
 ·2 clinics- 25 children immunized off site, with the assistance of our local schools

#### COVID-19 vaccine-

• ·13 clinics- 827 children immunized off site, with the assistance of our local schools

#### **Genetics**

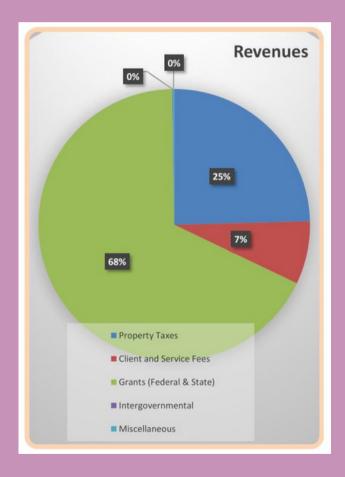
Newborns are tested by the hospitals for metabolic diseases and conditions. They also have a newborn hearing test. If issues are detected, RICHD then follows up with the family to provide education and referral assistance. RICHD hosts clinics several times per year for children with sickle cell disease and other blood disorders. These clinics are a collaboration with OSF Medical Center in Peoria. Dr. Kay Savings conducts the clinics at the health department. The Illinois Department of Public Health drastically changed the Genetics program for fiscal year 2022 on July 1, and RICHD no longer participates in the program. However, the sickle cell disease clinics and referrals for families continued because both are good public health practices.



Number served through OSF clinic at RICHD: 93

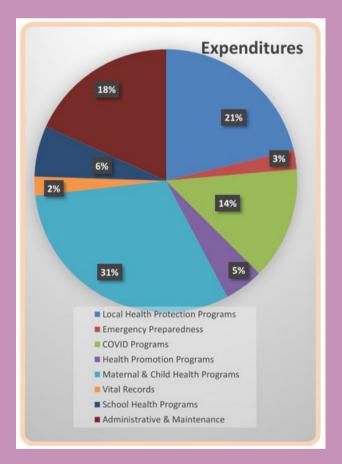
### **FISCAL REPORT**

| Revenues                 |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Property Taxes           | 1,263,068 |
| Client and Service Fees  | 385,215   |
| Grants (Federal & State) | 3,475,305 |
| Intergovernmental        | 3,583     |
| Miscellaneous            | 9,386     |
| Total                    | 5,136,557 |
|                          |           |





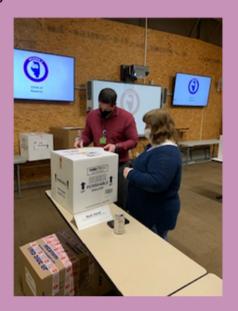
| Local Health Protection Programs 993,69 Emergency Preparedness 110,06  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| COVID Programs         647,19           Health Promotion Programs         225,04           Maternal & Child Health Programs         1,447,81           Vital Records         107,70           School Health Programs         292,84           Administrative & Maintenance         853,26           Total         4,677,63 | 9<br>3<br>0<br>6<br>9<br>7<br>8 |

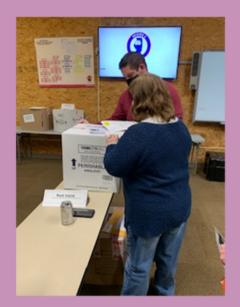


# **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

### THE VACCINES ARRIVES-Late 2020

The first COVID-19 for Rock Island County November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020





The first COVID-19 Vaccine Arriving at the Rock Island County Health Department November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020





The first COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics, cars lined up for miles at the Milan Auto Auction and out to the highway



Dedicated MRC Volunteers Ready to Give Shots at the late winter 2021 TaxSlayer Vaccine Clinics







# **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

### Mass Vaccination - TaxSlayer Center Moline, IL





The Unified Command Post bus provided for the COVID-19 vaccine clinic to call patients in over the radio to enable social distancing in vehicles.



### **COVID-19 RESPONSE**



The Rock Island
County Health
Department utilzed
pop-up clinics to
reach out to
underserved
populations and
vaccinate as many
people as possible.
Clinics were held in
many schools,
church locations,
township halls and
even community
events such as Pride
Fest and Mercado.

The Rock Island County Health Department pop-up clinic at the Mercado on 5th was featured in a CDC blog article in September of 2021.

#### Healthcare Workers "Pop Up" to Help Vaccinate in IL Communities

September 28, 2021 by Christian Elliott, Northwestern University

This student-authored post is published by CPR in partnership with <u>Medill News Service</u> and the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. The views and opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of CPR or CDC.

The sound of live music and the smell of fried food filled the air on a warm July evening in Moline, Illinois' Hispanic Floreciente neighborhood. Peggy Newkirk, 73, a retired nurse practitioner, stands behind a folding table in the shade with other volunteers.

Most people crowd to Mercado on Fifth—a weekly open-air cultural fest and market—in the summer to shop, eat, and dance. But Newkirk and her fellow volunteers were there with other plans—to distribute COVID-19 vaccines. "We make it as convenient as possible so that if somebody is even considering it, you're right there before they have a chance to change their mind," Newkirk said.

#### See full article here:

https://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2021/09/vaccine-popups/

# 2021 HEALTH BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ms. KJ Whitley

Vice President: Mr. Andrew McClarity

Secretary: Ms. Edna Sowards

Treasurer: Ms. Louisa Ewert

Public Health Admin: Ms. Nita Ludwig

Mr. Bob Graff

Mr. Michael Daly

Ms. Naurin Ahmad, MD

Mr. Mark Bollaert, DDS

Mr. Leon Gibson

Ms. Deborah Freiburg

Ms. Jean Wardlow, MD

RI COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. EMPLOYEES
FULLTIME PART TIME

41

6