

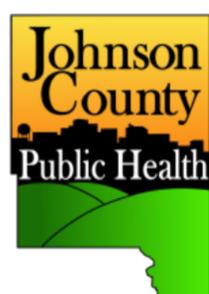
# Johnson County Public Health FY21 Annual Report

July 2020  
to June 2021



**A Community Where All Can  
Achieve Optimal Health**

Johnson County Public Health



[www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/public-health](http://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/public-health)



## Message from the Director

The word “unprecedented” will likely become the defining term of FY21. While FY20 brought in the confusion and newness of COVID-19, FY21 brought in the sustained response and constantly changing guidance as we moved from one wave to another.

FY21 brought us the changes as schools reopened, overwhelming surges in November, the relief and elation of the first COVID-19 vaccinations in December, and the confusion over phases and limited allocation. Through it all, our staff worked tirelessly, and continue to do so, to answer the call of the public.

While much of the community was focused on staff providing contact tracing and vaccine coordination to fight the COVID pandemic, the everyday work of public health had to continue. Children were kept up to date with normal childhood vaccinations. Mothers and babies were provided nutrition services. Our food and water was kept safe. Calls from concerned public were answered and guidance was provided.

We will remember COVID-19 and the dedication of our Johnson County Public Health employees for years to come. You can be proud of your JCPH employees, as I am. They are doing the nearly impossible task of responding to this novel virus in ways that most of us are completely unaware. These folks are true public servants and I’m proud to call them my colleagues.

On behalf of the Johnson County Board of Health and Johnson County Public Health employees, it is my pleasure to share the Fiscal Year 2021 Johnson County Public Health Annual Report.

Yours in health,  
Danielle



Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director  
Johnson County Public Health

## Johnson County Board of Health



Dr. Pete Wallace  
MD, MS, Chair

Bonnie Rubin  
MLS, MBA, MHA, Vice Chair

Zachary Pollock  
PharmD, MS

Dr. Tatiana Izakovic  
MD, MHA

Joni Bosch  
PhD, ARNP

Mission: To promote, protect, and improve the safety, health, and well-being of Johnson County

Vision: A community where all can achieve optimal health

Values: We... Treat others with dignity and compassion. Are intentional of the health equity impact of our efforts.  
Are stronger and wiser through collaboration. Are client-focused in our service.  
We do the right thing.



# Clinical Services

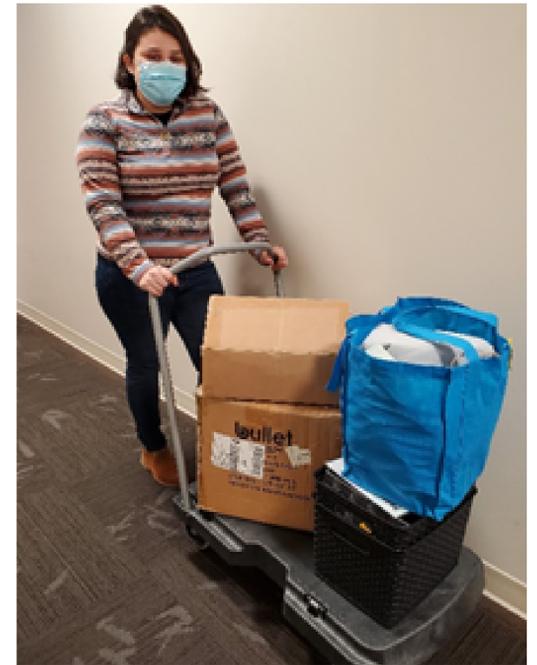
## Clinical Service Programs, Beyond our Walls

Any time of the day and nearly any day of the week, it is a common sight, just outside the exterior door of the Health and Human Services (HHS) building, to see Clinical Services (CS) staff packing equipment and supplies into a vehicle. Unless you witness this frequent event, you may not realize that the CS division of JCPH is consistently on the move. We do this to connect with the people and families of our community, to break down a barrier that may keep them from improving their overall health. The vast majority of the services that are offered inside the walls of Johnson County CS are also offered in locations spanning communities in our services areas.

Some examples of CS mobility in this recent fiscal year...

- Children enrolled in Head Start, staff, teachers, parents, siblings, and other family members were able to get flu vaccinations at three different Head Start schools
- Breast Feeding Peer Counselors were able to visit new moms in the hospital upon request to advise and support in breastfeeding the newborn baby
- Mothers and children enrolled in WIC were able to complete first time enrollment or update their status at public libraries to receive WIC benefits and information about highly nutritional foods
- Children in families enrolled in WIC were able to have dental screenings and consultations with dental hygienists at local libraries to improve their oral health
- Children going back to school were able to get their immunizations and dental screening certificates completed at the local food pantry
- Staff at community childcare facilities took advantage of the opportunity of on-site visits and expertise of the Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Anyone requesting an HIV or Hepatitis C test was able to receive rapid testing at Studio 13 each month
- Harm reduction supplies and products were distributed to ten various locations throughout the county to be picked up by individuals at no cost
- Lone Tree Community School 9th grade students were able to obtain Certificates of Dental Screening as required by the State of Iowa

Headquarters for the hard working staff of the CS division of Johnson County Public Health is in the Health and Human Services building at 855 South Dubuque Street in Iowa City. But... that is not the only place you will find us, *we work beyond our walls to serve the community!*



Cristina Perez, Health Educator Assistant, loads a cart for outreach

### Clinical Services By the Numbers

Average Monthly WIC Caseload	2206
Children Screened for Developmental Delays	56
Points of Contact with Newly Eligible Medicaid Recipients	7317
Maternal Health Clients Screened for Substance Abuse	22
Pregnant Clients Provided with Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility	32

## Health Path Clinic



JOHNSON COUNTY

# Health Path Clinic

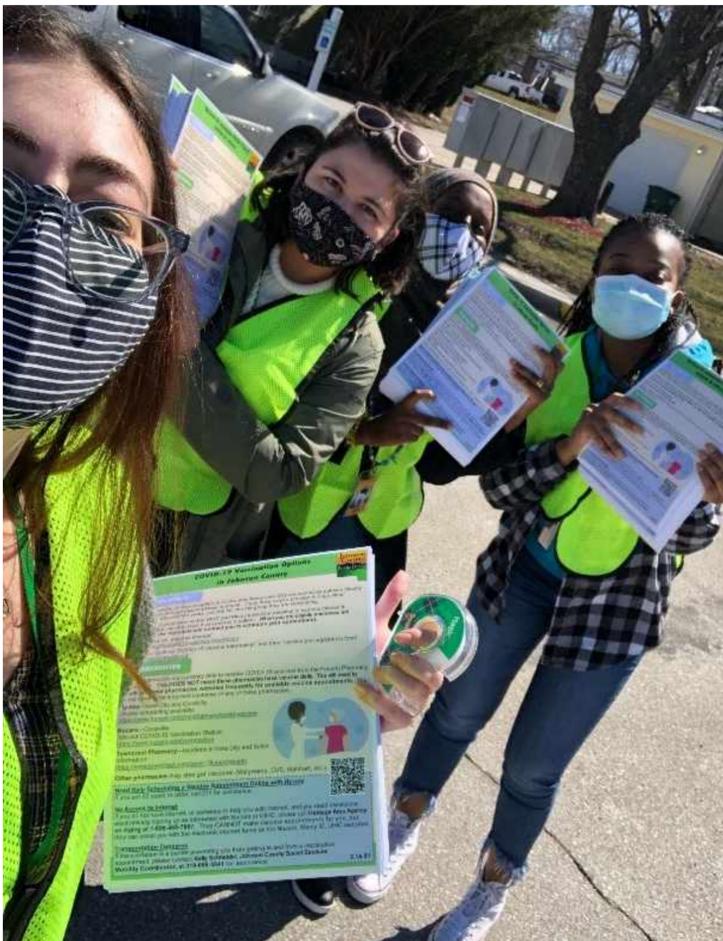
AFFORDABLE & AFFIRMING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Johnson County's family planning clinic launched October 6th, 2020 with the mission of providing affordable and affirming sexual and reproductive health services to members of the community who are uninsured, underinsured, or seeking confidential care.

Throughout this fiscal year, there have been 133 total patients seen, with 31 adolescents served. Out of 44 contraceptive visits, 28 long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCS) were administered, long-term forms of low-maintenance birth control that can last 4-10 years. 60 free tests for gonorrhea and chlamydia were completed during sexual health visits, with 18 patients receiving treatment for positive tests or exposure to Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD).



Health Equity



Hannah Tice, CDC Public Health Associate and Contact Tracers

Health Equity is a priority in Johnson County Public Health’s 2020 strategic plan. Johnson County Public Health is determined to better integrate a health equity lens into our day-to-day operations. Through continued intra-collaborative efforts, we set out to ensure our policies and programs prioritize health equity and that we build systems to ensure our workforce is effectively connecting with the community.

Health Equity Work Thus Far

In the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Johnson County Public Health formulated a Health Equity Workgroup to focus on vaccine allocation and increasing access to the vaccine, specifically in Johnson County’s most vulnerable communities. We began by calling on our community partners (you all) to support us in expanding our reach into the community. JCPH staff worked with leaders of community organizations to ensure reputable information about the vaccines was being distributed to their service recipients. We worked to better understand the challenges these communities were facing in accessing information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and fill in the gaps in order to increase access. It was through our established partners that we were able to disseminate accurate information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, responding empathetically to some of the vaccine confidence we know communities were experiencing. We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you, as without your support, we would not be where we are at today in our response efforts.

Throughout 2020-2021, Johnson County Public Health achieved so much while realizing and better understanding the challenges that lie ahead. We had dedicated staff who worked on health equity initiatives – some of these being attending food pantries to engage folks in dialogue about the COVID-19 vaccine; we hosted vaccine clinics in partnership with Coralville Food Pantry and vaccinated over 600 residents; as well as provided financial assistance to community organizations who had a health equity vision they wanted to see flourish.

Accomplishments Highlighted

Johnson County Public Health is proud of the health equity work we engaged in throughout one of the most challenging years. Our main goal was to increase access to culturally appropriate information regarding the pandemic and COVID-19 vaccine, while ensuring Johnson County’s most vulnerable communities were being considered when thinking through vaccine allocation. Below is some quantitative information that highlights these efforts:

- Through our partnership with Iowa City Free Medical Clinic we were able to vaccinate folks who were either underinsured or without insurance. 78% of the individuals who received vaccination through this clinic identified as Hispanic / Latino (a).
- JCPH Staff hired bilingual Spanish and French speakers to educate Johnson County’s Hispanic / Latino (a) identified community about the COVID-19 vaccine and provide assistance at our community clinics.
- We awarded over \$20,000 to community organizations to support vaccine clinics where in total we were able to vaccinate over 2,000 residents.
- And lastly, we visited 3,000 homes in 12 mobile home and 5 low-income apartment communities where we door-knocked and shared information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and how to access it.



Coralville Food Pantry COVID-19 vaccine clinic



May 1  
Our second-dose COVID vaccine clinic is in the books! We are so grateful for this unique and successful partnership with NuCara, Coralville Public Library, and Johnson County Public Health. Thanks to all of the amazing volunteers who made it possible! Out of the 618 people who received first doses three weeks ago, 610 came back for their second dose (much higher than the national average!). We were also able to provide first doses for 15 people. Additional shoutout to Table to Table for providing free food boxes and the League of Women Voters for getting people registered to vote while they waited. We're stronger together!

Where We Would Like to Go From Here...

Johnson County Public Health is in the process of organizing a more stable Health Equity Workgroup. This workgroup will be charged with building a training plan that focuses on health equity for our department; developing a process by which all programs are assessed for equity; and constructing a plan to assess our staff competencies pertaining equity. We know and understand that this is challenging work that requires us to rethink and re-evaluate our work. We are excited to dive in and see where this process takes us!

**Mini-grants available to support community engagement**

- With the goal of increasing vaccine confidence in vulnerable communities
- Utilize for engagement and assessment activities, communication efforts
- Total of \$10,000 available, split evenly into two funding periods
  - \$5000 available Now-March 15
  - \$5000 available March 16-June 30
- First come, first served within each funding period – apply for one of 3 funding levels (\$250, \$500, \$750)

Community Partners Zoom meeting.

### Clinical Services Staff Highlights

#### Clinical Services Celebrates Everyday Accomplishments

The work in Clinical Services can be hectic to say the very least, but staff have found a way to recognize each other and the work that we do on a daily basis.

The Bertha Award is an (obviously) hand-crafted work of art created by Chuck Dufano, Sarah P. Dirks, and Debbie Ackerman. Bertha is a traveling trophy that is awarded to a staff member who has been nominated by a coworker for a job well done. So far, staff have received the trophy for going above and beyond to make a client feel welcomed and cared for, completing new and complex tasks, and even delivering cookies to staff members who would have missed out otherwise!

This award celebrates the people who make Clinical Services a welcoming place to receive services and a great place to work.



The Bertha Award trophy

#### Congratulations to our past and future award recipients!

#### Tutty Mtowa Celebrates 11 Years of Peer Counseling



Tutty Mtowa, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

Breastfeeding peer counselors are WIC moms who breastfed their own babies and received training on how to give breastfeeding support to other WIC moms. Tutty Mtowa was one of our first peer counselors when the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program began in 2010.

Tutty grew up in Tanzania and learned to speak Swahili while playing outside with other children. She still speaks the language and uses it often when working with WIC moms. Tutty has lived in Johnson County with her husband and three children for over 10 years. Tutty didn't know about WIC with her first child, but she got lots of support from her family and the Mercy Hospital Iowa City breastfeeding support group. She breastfed and pumped for 11 months with one child and for 15 months each with her other two children. Tutty now enjoys supporting WIC moms on their breastfeeding journey and giving helpful information to pregnant moms who are unsure about breastfeeding.

Tutty recalled one of her fond memories of being a peer counselor: "I worked with a first time pregnant mom who wasn't sure if she wanted to breastfeed or not. We communicated via text until she delivered. She then tried breastfeeding at the hospital. After getting past the first few weeks, with encouragement and support, she decided she was going to exclusively breastfeed her baby. She was able to exclusively breastfeed for 7 months!"

#### Workforce Development Opportunities

Johnson County Public Health supported staff growth in FY21, by providing each employee with \$500 to pursue professional development opportunities. Clinical Services staff used their professional development dollars in a variety of ways this year:

**Amy Hackman, RD** attended the National WIC Association Annual Conference in June 2021. She focused on sessions focused on addressing institutional racism, language equity, and advancing WIC technology and online opportunities. Following the conference, Amy shared with other WIC dietitians what she learned about the future of the WIC program, including goals of expanding virtual appointments and eligibility to more people.

**Cristina Perez, Health Educator Assistant** registered for two courses, Spanish for Medical Professionals I & II. Cristina is a heritage Spanish speaker born in the United States but has never received a formal education in Spanish. She has been using what she has learned to better assist clients in the field while administering rapid HIV, Hepatitis C, and syphilis testing. This has been especially helpful while testing at Proteus Inc., who serve migrant farmworkers that are primarily Latino/a identified. Cristina is looking forward to helping coworkers who are interested in learning phrases in Spanish they may say often within their programs to help their clients feel more comfortable, knowing their providers are making an effort to speak their native language.

**Caitlin Shea, RN** completed a 40-hour training to become a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner with the desire to strengthen her experience in trauma-informed care and to be an advocating presence for all patients presenting to the Health Path Clinic. As the clinic grows and expands, Caitlin would like to be an inclusive walk-in resource for folks in the community who have experienced sexual assault or trauma.

**Ramonda Shelton, Clerk II** completed a project management course at a local college. "This course has given me the extra skills to advance in the department," she stated. Ramonda has had the opportunity to use these skills to manage a start-up project in Clinical Services.

#### Hopeful For An End in Sight: Staff Receive COVID-19 Vaccinations

In the spring of 2020, a COVID-19 vaccine seemed too far-off to even dream of. Public Health staff waited and wondered, hoping it would come while we fought the fight against the virus for months by forging new partnerships, achieving new goals, and educating our community all while creating new ways to maintain our existing programming. Unpacking the first doses of vaccine to arrive in our clinic felt almost surreal, and being able to plan for our very first COVID-19 clinic within our doors was cause for celebration. "Getting my COVID-19 vaccine at JCPH is something I won't forget," says Debbie Ackerman. "Receiving my doses from Caitlin Shea felt like coming full-circle. It felt like the beginning of the end of something we all started together."



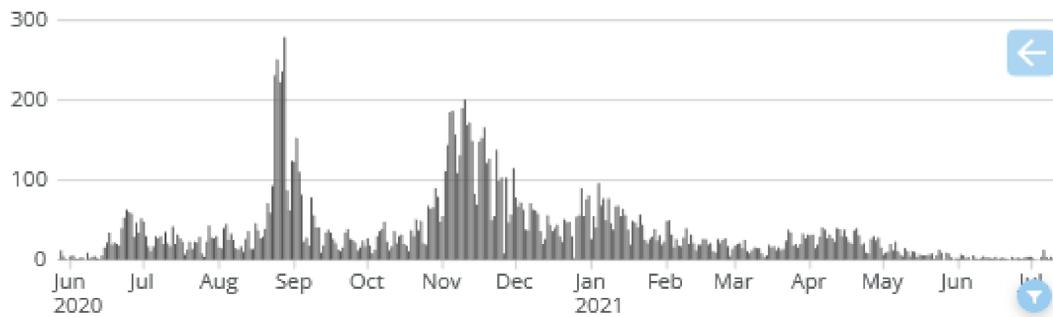
JCPH Staff receiving COVID-19 vaccination

JCPH staff marked the special occasion with decorations, cookies, and homemade buttons to wear to celebrate our new vaccination status. Looking back, it might have been just another step on the path to recovery for our staff and our community, but it is one that many of us will not forget.

# Community Health

The Community Health Division staff led a variety of COVID-19 response projects while managing programmatic work. This past year encompassed what would be the U.S.'s worst month of the pandemic in terms of new cases and hospitalizations in November of 2020. Shortly after this surge would be the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccine campaign where the difficult mission of prioritization would be taken on for the next several weeks. Community Health staff and others continued to work long hours, weekends, and holidays to continue to prevent COVID-19 transmission in Johnson County.

## Positive Tests



Snapshot of reported positive COVID-19 tests, IDPH COVID-19 Dashboard, FY2021

## Prevent

Through support of the Board of Health and Board of Supervisors, the department was able to expand and maintain its disease investigation capacity. Johnson County Public Health hired and trained a 50 person contact tracing team to assist with case investigations. Disease Prevention Specialists Jennifer Miller, Amelia Slaichert, and Jake Riley along with Jamie Huntley, Health Planner, coordinated teams of contact tracers throughout the week, evenings, and weekends.



Initial Cohort of Contact Tracers

Johnson County Public Health was honored with the 2021 Bronze Innovative Practice Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The award celebrates local health departments for developing innovative programs to meet the needs of their community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The designation as a Bronze Innovative Practice demonstrates a high level of program innovation and reflects the collaboration, adaptability, and program resilience. This innovative practice was one of 20 local health department programs to receive NACCHO's Bronze Innovative Practice Award. The innovative practice was the integration and implementation of the department's use of an online survey tool to assist with COVID-19 disease investigations and contact tracing. The ability to securely complete portions of the disease investigation through this online interaction increased the speed at which case investigations could be completed and thus, providing time to address large volumes of cases and prioritize cases to investigate. James Bechtel, Public Health Systems Analyst, Amelia Slaichert, Jake Riley, and Jennifer Miller, Disease Prevention Specialists, and Jamie Huntley, Health Planner, were recognized for their contributions to the project design and implementation.



With assistance from the Tobacco Prevention and Control program, the City of Lone Tree City Council voted to make all city owned or operated park grounds tobacco and nicotine free.



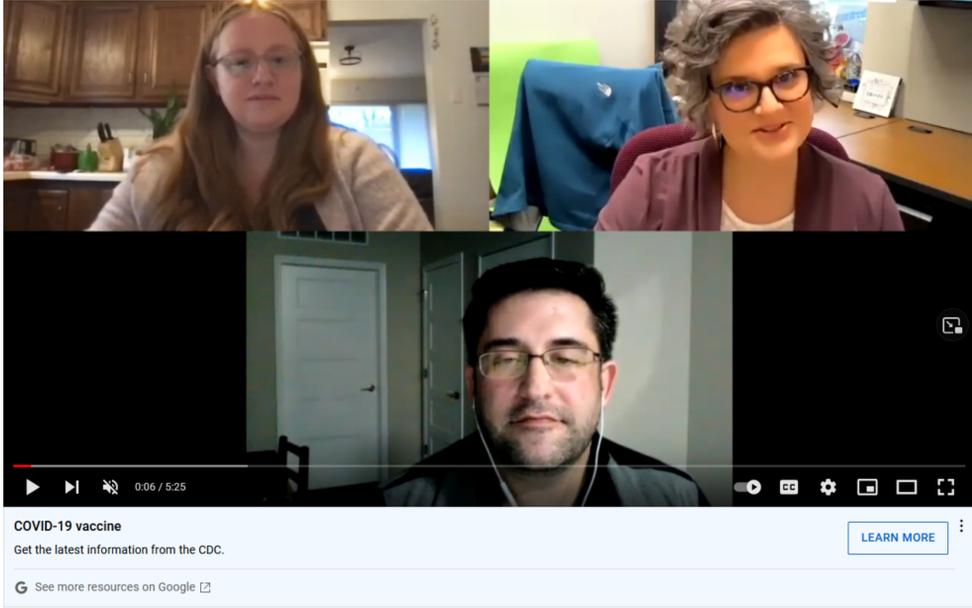
Susan Vileta holds the Great American Smoke Out Proclamation for 2020





## Promote

Several staff provided direct outreach on site or through the department's 'Vaccine Watch Wednesday' series which hosted a variety of community partners and provided the most up to date information on COVID-19 and vaccines.



Kelly Schneider, JC Social Services Mobility Coordinator explains free transportation options with Susan Vileta, Health Educator and Alexis Jimenez, Ph.D, U of I Department of Spanish and Portuguese provides interpretation.



Johnson County Public Health bundled up and came by to help members learn more about the COVID vaccine and answer questions! Thanks Hannah and Kelly for braving the cold!

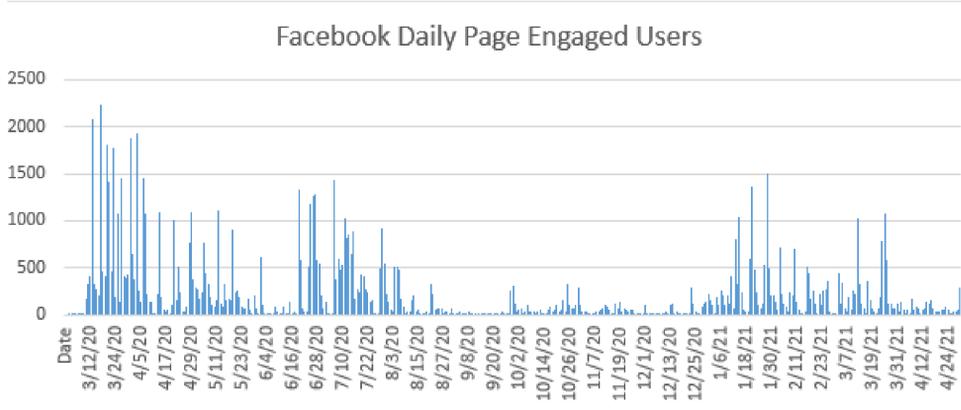
We are excited to continue this partnership to make sure our members are ready and well-informed when their time to receive the vaccine comes up!

Stay tuned for more visits from JCPH!

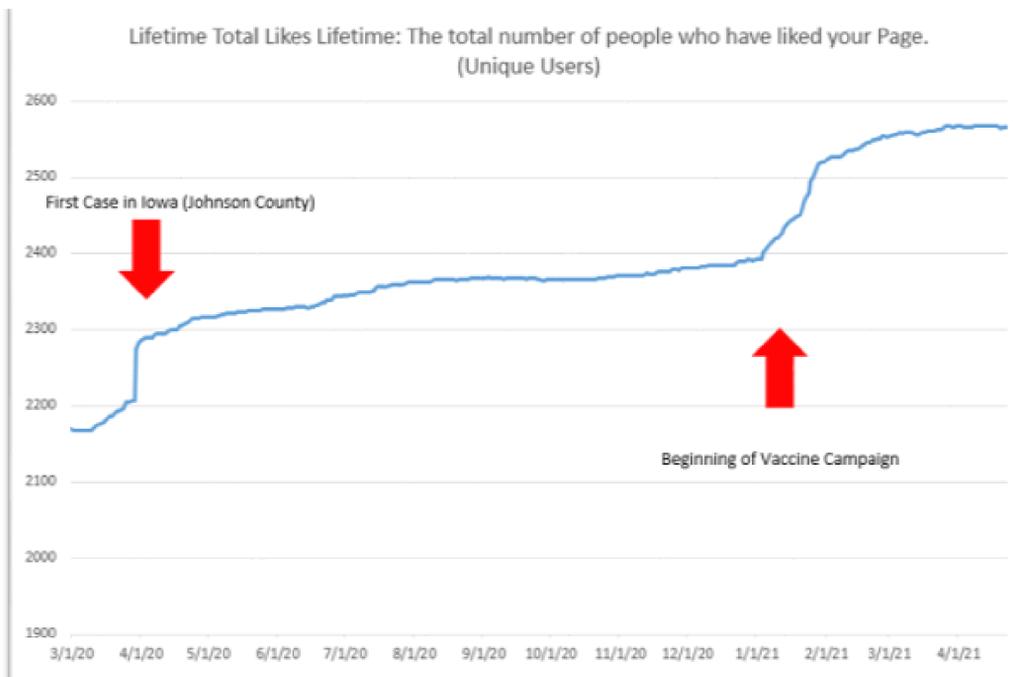


Hannah Tice, Public Health Associate & Kelly Smith, Public Health RN at Coralville Food Pantry

Community Health used multiple types of media both print and web-based for outreach, but social media played an important role in public information sharing. Below are several graphs that show statistics during the pandemic thus far.



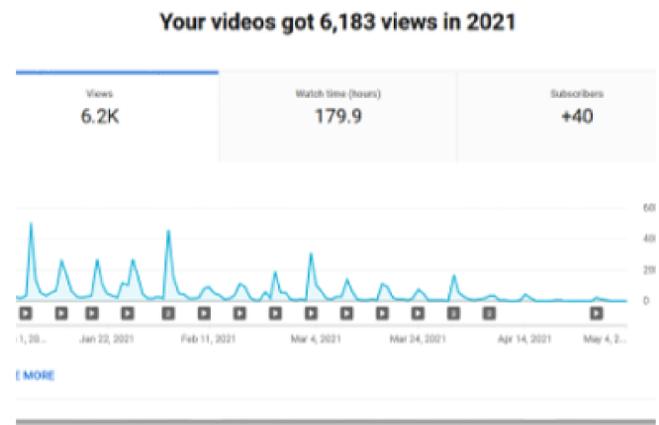
Count of daily unique users engaged on Facebook



Facebook data of total number of unique users who have liked Johnson County Public Health's Facebook page where significant increases were seen at the beginning of the pandemic and at the beginning of the vaccine campaign.



Public Health rap battles occurred where public health departments challenged their peer departments to song lyrics Weird Al Yankovic style to COVID-19 themes.

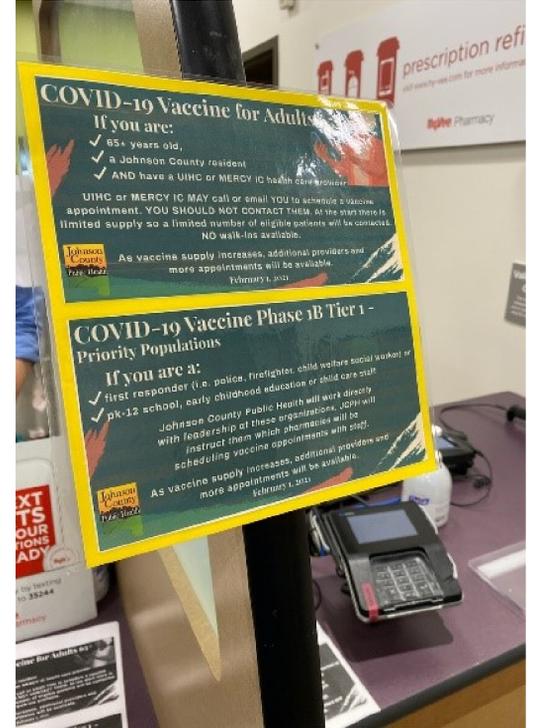


The department's Vaccine Watch Wednesday series curated by staff and coordinated by Susan Vileta, Health Educator, provided weekly updates to the community on COVID-19 vaccine information.



## Certified Application Counselor (CAC)

The Community Health Division continues to coordinate insurance marketplace information and application assistance through its CAC. Jennifer Miller, Disease Prevention Specialist, coordinated between two contracted CACs to provide 47 unique appointments which primarily occurred via phone or virtually due to COVID-19 safety precautions.



COVID-19 vaccine phase information shared at a local grocery store.

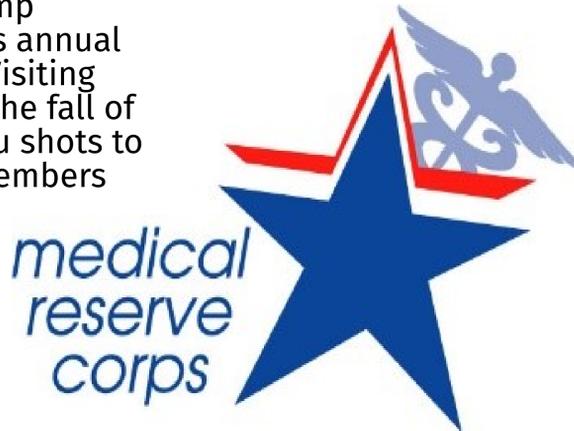
Type of Encounter	
Email	4
Phone	29
Zoom	14

New Client	19
Return Visit	28

## Protect



Jamie Huntley and Kristy Stump coordinated Johnson County's annual employee flu clinic with the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). In the fall of 2020, the VNA provided 337 flu shots to employees and household members amidst the pandemic.



Johnson County's Medical Reserve Corps teamed up with the University of Iowa's College of Nursing and Visiting Nurses Association and deployed several times to assist with the Derecho Response, COVID-19 education and vaccine clinics.



Initial Cohort of Contact Tracers



Johnson County Medical Reserve Corps preparing to deploy for well checks with the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency.



Johnson County Medical Reserve Corps member and Johnson County Ambulance prepare for at-home vaccination of persons who are homebound.



Fall 2020 Drive Through Flu Vaccine Clinic

The department along with Johnson County Emergency Management Agency the Visiting Nurses Association, the JC Medical Reserve Corps and the JC Citizens Emergency Response Team held a drive through flu clinic in the fall of 2020 in preparation for COVID-19 vaccination. Spring of 2021 the same group along with the Board of Supervisor's office and many community partners hosted a drive through COVID-19 vaccine clinic and food box pickup.

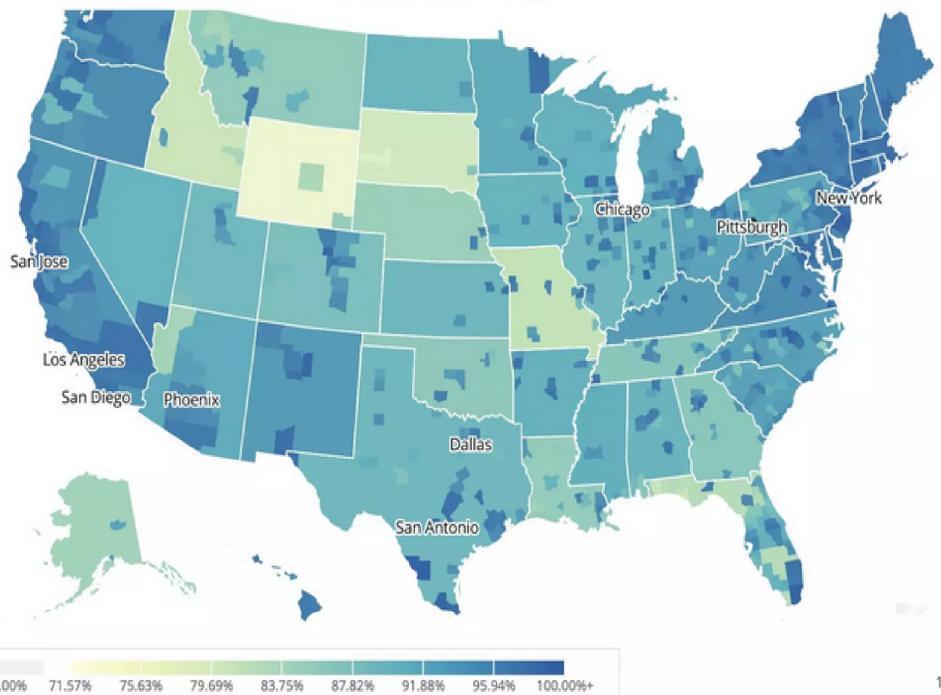


Spring 2021 Drive Through COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic and Food Drive

## Mask Mandate

Through several planning meetings with the Johnson County Attorney's Office and a series of open meetings with the Board of Health and Board of Supervisors, Johnson County unanimously passed a mask regulation that was in effect from August 10, 2020 (the day of the Derecho) through May 31, 2021.

Percentage of people who say they wear a mask most or all of the time while in public, based on surveys of Facebook users



National mask survey results

On Jan. 12, 2021, approximately 94% of more than 250,000 Delphi survey respondents reported that during the past five days they wore a mask most or all of the time when in public. Depicted above, Johnson County is shown to have reported the highest percentage of mask usage in the state.

## Vaccine Allocation Planning

James Bechtel, Public Health Systems Analyst, Jamie Huntley, Health Planner, Jake Riley, Disease Prevention Specialist, Steve Button, Emergency Preparedness Planner, and Missy Ringnald, Registered Dental Hygienist, implemented through one of the pandemic's hardest tasks to plan the allocation of COVID-19 vaccine within the community. This team coordinated with over hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals to apply the state's vaccine prioritization process and vaccine shortage order. Much of the work involved multiple meetings and conference calls with vaccine providers and organizations to consistently apply the state's prioritization and phases across industries as best as possible.

## Public Notices

public notices/legalis email: [legalis@press-citizen.com](mailto:legalis@press-citizen.com) or call: 515.284.8141

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

#### Johnson County Public Health Face Covering Regulation

**Section 1. Authority and Applicability**  
 1.01 Iowa Code 137.104 provides that a local board of health shall make and enforce such reasonable rules and regulations not inconsistent with law and the rules of the state board.  
 1.02 It may be necessary for the protection and improvement of the public health.  
 1.03 The novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, also referred to as COVID-19, is a virus that primarily spreads from person to person and can result in serious illness, long-term negative health impacts or death.  
 1.04 The Johnson County Board of Health finds that COVID-19 poses a continuing and immediate threat to the public health of Johnson County, Iowa residents and visitors.

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

#### 2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

2.01 The local board of health as authorized by Iowa Code Chapter 137, or its appointing representative.  
 2.02 THE BOARD means the Johnson County Board of Health.  
 2.03 THE COUNTY means Johnson County, Iowa.  
 2.04 FACE COVERING means a material that securely covers a person's nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one's hands, whether purchased or homemade, and consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.  
 2.05 HOUSEHOLD MEMBER means a person who lives a majority of time with the person in their apartment, house, mobile home, or other structure intended for residential occupancy.  
 2.06 PUBLIC SETTING means an enclosed area to which the public is invited.

### Section III. General Regulations

Therefore, pursuant to Iowa Code

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

3. Schools  
 3.01 Other public settings that are not one's place of residence and where you are with persons who do not live in the household.  
 3.02 Outside, if keeping six (6) feet away from others is not possible.  
 3.03 Using public transportation or private car services (including taxis, ride share, or carpooling).

### 3.02 Exemptions. Places and times where persons are exempt from wearing a face covering.

A. While traveling in a personal vehicle alone or with household members.  
 B. While a person is alone or is in the presence of only household members.  
 C. While exercising of moderate or high intensity (e.g., loading or biking).  
 D. While seated at a bar or food establishment in the process of eating or drinking.  
 E. While obtaining a service that would require temporary removal of the person's face covering.  
 F. When federal or state law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of the face covering.

### 3.03 Exemptions. Persons who are exempt from wearing a face covering.

A. Persons younger than 2 years old due to the risk of asphyxiation.  
 B. Anyone who has trouble breathing, on oxygen therapy or ventilator.  
 C. Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.  
 D. Anyone who has been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear face coverings.  
 3.04 Appropriate Use. If a cloth face covering is chosen, citizens appropriate use of a cloth face covering includes:  
 A. A snug fit, but comfortable against the side of the face.  
 B. Completely covers the nose and mouth.  
 C. Is secured with ties or ear loops.  
 D. Includes multiple layers of

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

for a simple misdemeanor.  
 4.01 The second or subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine up to the maximum fine for a simple misdemeanor.  
 4.02 This regulation shall become effective upon approval of the Board of Supervisors and publication in the local paper of record as described in Iowa Code section 137.104(1)(b)(2).  
 4.03 This regulation will expire when the Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency expires or when the Johnson County Board of Supervisors' declaration of public health disaster expires, whichever date is later.

Issued this 4th day of August, 2020.  
 Peter Wallace, MD, Chairman, Johnson County Board of Health.  
 Attest: Dave Koch, Johnson County Public Health Director.  
 Approved by the Board of Supervisors on the 8th day of August, 2020.

### NOTICE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF IOWA APPOINTMENT CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING COMMISSION:  
 CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION  
 One vacancy; Unexpired plus 1 Three-Year Term  
 One appointment - December 31, 2021  
 \* Duties of the Climate Action Commission include advising the City Council on climate issues:  
 \* researching, analyzing and promoting climate actions, with particular attention to equity;  
 \* educating and engaging with the public on climate action and the City's climate and sustainability goals;  
 \* assisting city staff, City Council and members of the community with implementing approved initiatives that support the City's climate and sustainability goals including the Climate Action Plan and any related or updated plan here after.  
 \* The Climate Action Commission

Mask Regulation Public Notice

## Call Bank

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICS team recognized JCPH would be inundated with public calls and emails requiring staff to provide timely, accurate and empathetic responses. Four members of the ICS team (James Bechtel, Jason Decker, Erik Gustafson and Susan Vileta) proposed selecting and training an internal group of staff to take public calls and emails regarding COVID-19. This team conducted calls from the beginning of the pandemic until June 2021.

- Holly Fritz
- Yaneli Canales
- Kathryn Edel
- Jesse Bockelman
- Lonise Norfleet
- James Bechtel
- Jason Decker
- Kristin Meyer
- Becky Paulsen
- Hannah Tice

- Spencer Stater
- Missy Ringnald
- Chrystal Todd
- Lakeshia Jackson
- Susan Vileta



# Environmental Health

## Wells

Environmental Health staff collaborated with Dr. David Cwiertny, Director of Iowa’s Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC), to sample private water wells for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, also known as PFAS. PFAS are suspected carcinogens which can accumulate in the body and over a period of time, and lead to several health effects. In the past, among other uses, PFAS was used in fire-fighting foam for training purposes at airports. Previous work by Dr. Cwiertny found high level of PFAS in private wells near the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Airport. JCPH identified and sampled private wells near the Linn/Johnson County border in an attempt to determine how far the contamination may have spread. Only one well in Johnson County showed signs of PFAS, which was not over the EPA health advisory level. Reviewing the sample results with Dr. Cwiertny it was concluded that private wells near the northern Johnson County border do not show an immediate health risk from PFAS at this time.

## Food Program

The pandemic had a ripple effect on every sector of life. This created new and uncharted challenges for the Johnson County Food Program in its efforts to promote food safety and prevent foodborne illnesses.

In early March, the Governor issued the first of approximately 37 Proclamations with specific restrictions directly affecting the County food service establishments. This included the immediate closure of all bars and restaurants. In the same month, the State Department of Inspections and Appeals suspended most standard field work and inspections.

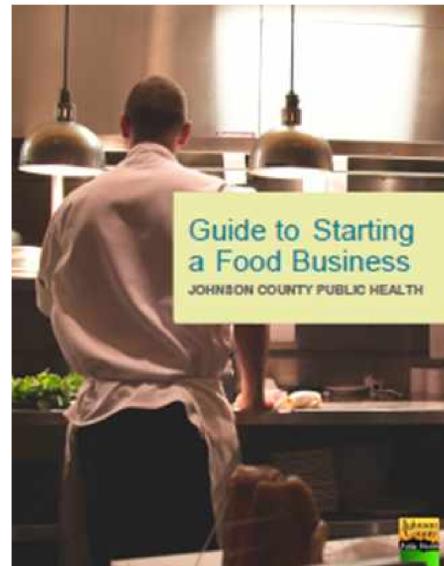
Inspectors entered into a new phase of working remotely from home while continuing to engage with office staff and the public. Zoom based communication launched as limited outings, avoiding groups and physical distancing steadily became the new normal.

By May, the Governor allowed bars and restaurants to open at 50% capacity and follow strict COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Food inspectors were approved to resume field work in early July. Inspectors now incorporated wearing face masks, maintaining six feet distancing and complying with establishment COVID-19 health checks into their routine work. Inspectors quickly pivoted into becoming COVID-19 educators/resources as well as food safety professionals. COVID-19 related complaints received from the public rapidly increased compared to food complaints. Food inspectors were faced with the challenge of enforcing COVID-19 related proclamation violations.

In August, food inspectors began conducting Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals & Alcohol and Beverage Division of Iowa COVID-19 compliance inspections along with their routine food establishment inspections. The material collected from these additional inspection checks then required staff to input the information into a separate State of Iowa database.

Licensed food and beverage establishments continued to weather the restrictive and ever changing proclamation mandates. The Food Program decided independently to send out weekly or sometimes even daily email blasts to the restaurant community. These emails assisted in not only alerting the establishments to new changes, but also with interpreting requirements and examples on how to comply.

By the end of 2020, challenges facing the Food Program were far from over. Proclamation requirements had concluded, but many establishments struggled to maintain a healthy work force while facing severe staff shortages. Inspectors adapted again by recognizing these new obstacles. They continued regular field duties while working with exhausted operators to not only achieve food safety compliance, but also supporting operators and strengthening community partnerships in the process.



Food Guidance documents and translations available on the Johnson County Public Health Food Program website

## Nuisance Program

Environmental Health staff successfully oversaw the abatement of a significant, ongoing health nuisance case in FY21. Staff had been working on a case involving the improper storage of thousands of waste tires on a property in southern Johnson County. Despite citations and fines, progress was slow and the situation remained a potential threat to the health of the public due to mosquito breeding habitat and the potential for fire. Through ongoing, continued collaboration with the DNR, and an owner that took action with a tenant, the property was finally cleared of waste tires, improving the environment and the situation for all involved.



Improper waste tire storage nuisance complaint BEFORE



Improper waste tire storage nuisance complaint AFTER

## Mosquito Surveillance Program

The Johnson County Public Health Mosquito Surveillance Program, in collaboration with testing from Iowa State University and the University of Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory, identified a pool of mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Staff worked throughout the summer of 2021 to trap mosquitoes in Johnson County for identification and testing. This was the first pool of mosquitoes to test positive for West Nile virus in Johnson County since the surveillance program was reinstated in 2017. The Environmental Health Division put out a press release informing the public of the risk and highlighting ways people could protect themselves. No human cases of West Nile virus were reported in 2021.



Mosquito Surveillance program collection container

Wastewater

Wells

Food Program

Pools

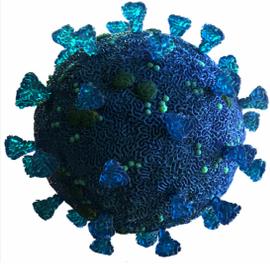
Tattoo



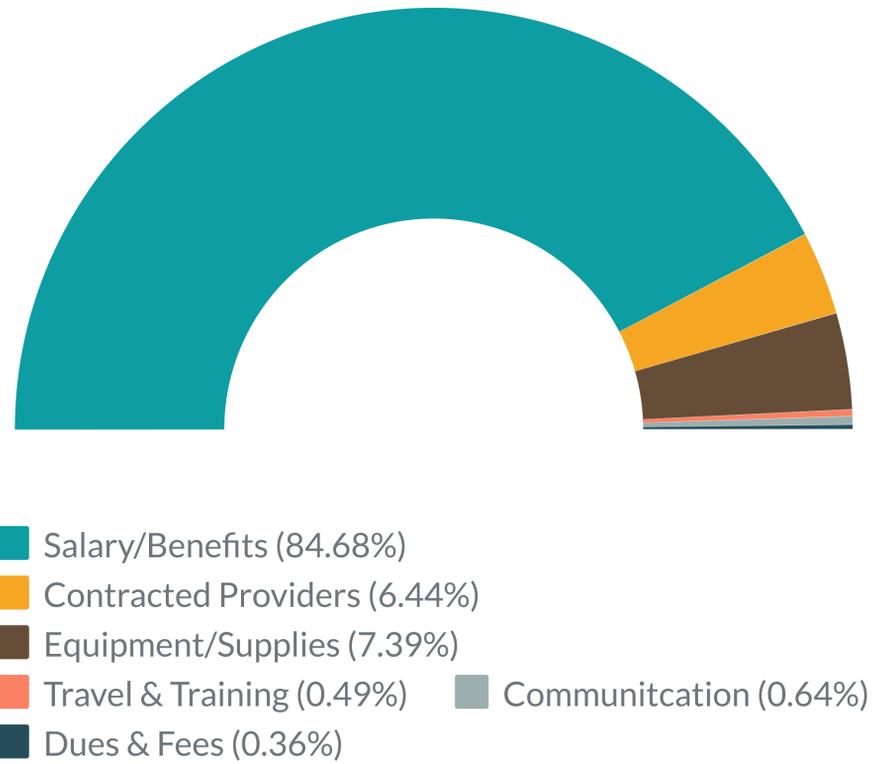
# Administration

## Financials

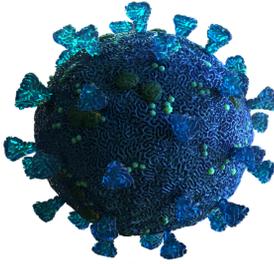
### Expenses

Expenses		COVID-19 Related Expenses
Salary/Benefits	\$4,572,791.17	\$922,385.00
Contracted Providers	\$348,037.00	
Equip & supplies	\$398,819.00	
Travel & Training	\$26,681.00	
Communication	\$34,663.00	
Dues & Fees	\$19,258.00	
<b>Total FY21 Exp</b>	<b>\$5,400,249.17</b>	

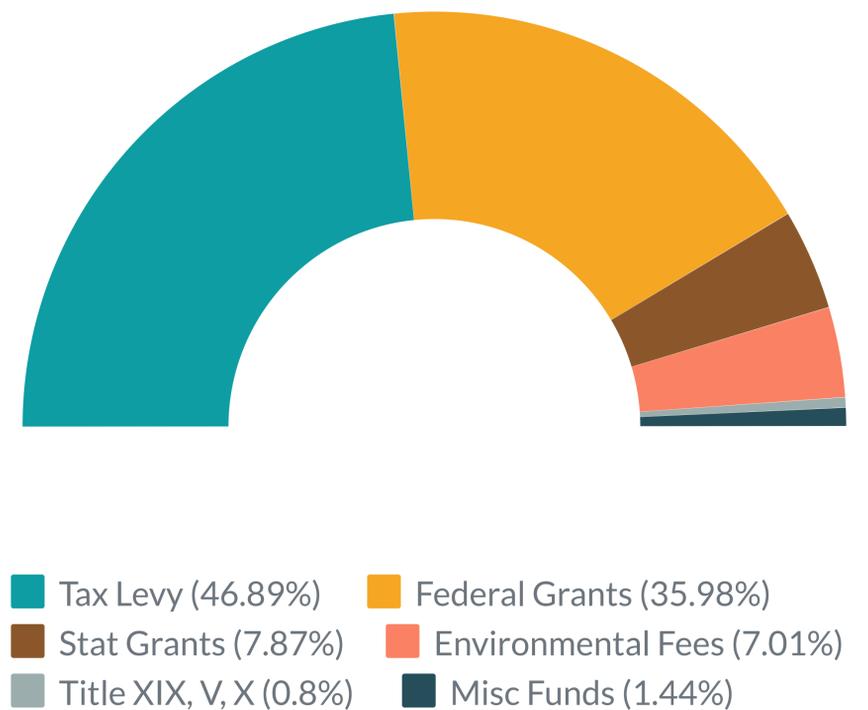
### FY21 Expenses



### Revenues

Revenue		COVID-19 Related Revenue
Tax Levy	2,532,058.41	\$281,272.00 (Does not include FEMA revenue received by Johnson County)
Federal Grants	\$1,943,175.00	
Stat Grants	\$425,166.00	
Environmental Fees	\$378,753.00	
Title XIX, V, X	\$43,443.00	
Misc Funds	\$77,653.76	
<b>Total FY21 Rev</b>	<b>\$5,400,249.17</b>	

### FY21 Revenues



# Annual Report

# Improving Health in Our Community

## July 2020 to June 2021



Danielle Pettit-Majewski  
Director 2021



Kristin Meyer  
Business Manager 2019



Sam Jarvis  
Community Health Manager 2018



James Lacina  
Environmental Health Manager 2003



Kate Klefstad  
Clinical Services Manager 2018

*We Are Johnson County Public Health*

### Environmental Health

### Clinical Services

### Administration

### Community Health



Debbie Ackerman  
CS Data Specialist 2019



James Bechtel CH Public Health Systems Analyst 2015



Jesse Bockelman  
EH Specialist 2020



Yaneli Canales  
CS Clerk II 2020



Mike Casella  
EH Specialist 2015



Jason Decker  
EH Specialist 2012



Susan Denny  
Admin Secretary II 2017



Chuck Dufano  
CS WIC/MH Coordinator 1996



Kathryn Edel CS Health Educator 2016



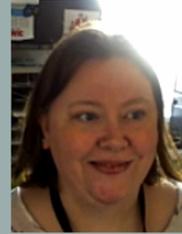
Mathe Elola  
CS Clerk II 2019



Crystal Fernandez  
CS Dental Assistant 2021



Holly Fritz Admin Secretary II 2012



Amber Gorvin  
CS Clerk II 2014



Becky Hackett-Leas CS Oral Health Coordinator 2017



Amy Hackman CS Public Health Dietitian 2001



Meg Hamilton CS Public Health Dental Hygienist 2017



Catalina Hernandez  
Admin Clerk II 2019



Beth Hora CS Public Health RN 2021



Jamie Huntley CH Health Planner 2020



Lakeshia Jackson  
CS Clerk II 2019



Dan Kramer EH Specialist 1979



Karen Klein Lipman CS Public Health Dietitian 2004



Jennifer Miller CH Disease Prevention Specialist 2016



Kaitlyn Milligan CS Public Health Dietitian 2017



Lonise Norfleet Admin Administrative Assistant 2004



Cristina Perez CS Health Educator Assistant 2021



Jasmine Putnam  
EH Specialist 2020



Jake Riley CH Disease Prevention Specialist 2015



Missy Ringnalda CS Public Health Dental Hygienist 2017



Caitlyn Shea CS Adolescent & Women's Health Services Coordinator 2020



Ramonda Shelton CS Clerk II 2020



Amelia Slaichert CH Disease Prevention Specialist 2018



Kelly Smith CS Public Health RN 2016



Alissa Sotzen  
Admin Account Clerk I 2020



Spencer Stater EH Specialist 2020



Kristy Stumpf  
CH Clerk II 2016



Rob Thul  
EH Specialist II 2014



Hannah Tice CH CDC Public Health Associate 2020



Darcie VanDeWalle  
CS Public Health RN 2021



Susan Vileta CH Health Educator 2014



Vickie Wahl  
CS Clerk III 2014

# Johnson County Public Health



855 S. Dubuque Street, Suite 217 Iowa City, Iowa 52240

319.356.6040

[www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/publichealth](http://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/publichealth)

