

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Loup Basin Public  
Health Department



**Loup Basin**  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Prepared By  
**Sydney Estes**

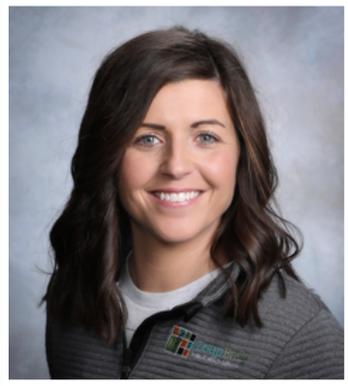
# OUR TEAM



**Amanda Jeffres, RN**  
Executive Director  
Certified Child  
Passenger Safety  
Technician



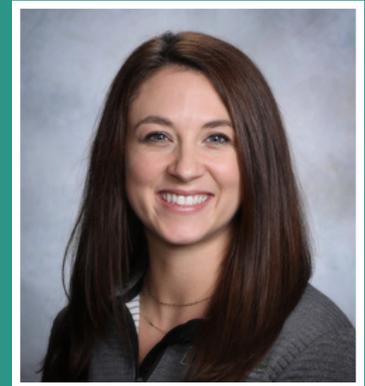
**Bridget Casteel**  
Registration Clerk  
Administrative Assistant



**Danielle Thoene**  
Clinical Services Manager  
Billing Specialist



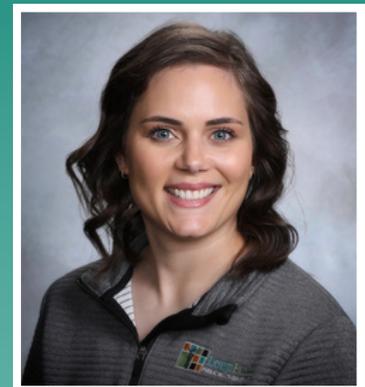
**Stephanie Gideon**  
Human Resources  
Manager



**Sarah Raiford, RN**  
Disease Surveillance  
Coordinator  
Environmental Health  
Coordinator



**Claire Snyder, RDH, CLC**  
Public Health Hygienist  
Certified Lactation  
Counselor



**Bailey Trofholz, RN**  
Immunization Program  
Coordinator



**Sydney Estes**  
Communications Specialist



**Emily Smith**  
Healthy Families  
Program Manager  
Community Division Manager



**Shelby Galvan**  
Accreditation Coordinator



**Terry Stutzman**  
Family Support Specialist  
Certified Child Passenger  
Safety Technician



**Amy Klein**  
Family Support Specialist



**Michelle Zangger**  
Healthy Families  
Family Support Advisor



**Cindy Gabriel**  
Family Support Specialist

# OUR MISSION

To improve the health and well-being of Loup Basin Public Health Department's (LBPHD) nine county district by providing accessible, high-quality public health services, promoting disease prevention, and addressing health disparities through education, outreach, and collaboration.



## LBPHD VALUES

**Adaptive:** We remain flexible and responsive to the changing needs of our community, adapting our services and strategies to meet new challenges and opportunities in public health.

**Inclusive:** We believe that all individuals deserve equal access to the care and services necessary to achieve optimal health, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or background.

**Trusted:** We operate with transparency, accountability, and honesty in all our interactions with the public, partners, and stakeholders.

**Progressive:** We embrace new ideas, approaches, and technologies to address emerging health challenges and continuously improve our services.

A message from our

# Executive Director



**Dear Community Members,**

This past year has been one of continued growth, progress, and purpose for our health department.

Public health is often most visible during times of crisis, but its true impact is felt every day—through prevention, education, partnership, and presence in the community. Our work is grounded in meeting people where they are, listening to their needs, and providing services that help individuals, families, and communities thrive.

Throughout the year, our team has been out in the community—working directly with residents, schools, healthcare partners, long-term care facilities, and local organizations. We have expanded services, strengthened partnerships, and remained responsive to emerging needs, all while staying focused on our mission to protect and promote health for all. Whether through clinical services, education, outreach, or emergency preparedness, our efforts are driven by a commitment to service and impact.

I am incredibly proud of our staff and deeply appreciative of their hard work, dedication, and professionalism. Their willingness to adapt, collaborate, and go above and beyond is what makes our successes possible. Public health is a team effort, and the passion and integrity of our staff continue to be our greatest strength.

**Sincerely,**

*Amanda Jeffres*

**AMANDA JEFFRES, RN**

# Board of Health

Our Board of Health provides essential guidance and oversight, helping shape policies, review programs, and ensure our work meets the needs of the nine counties we serve.

County Commissioners strengthen this work by supporting planning, funding, and local decision-making that keeps public health services accessible and sustainable. Our spirited citizen representatives offer valuable community insight and lived perspective, helping ensure our efforts remain grounded, transparent, and responsive to real needs.

Together, these dedicated leaders give their time, knowledge, and support to advance the health and wellbeing of our district. We sincerely thank each Board of Health member for their continued commitment to the communities we serve.

**Craig Thompson**  
Blaine County  
Commissioner

**Joe Leslie**  
Greeley County  
Commissioner

**David Siegel**  
Sherman County  
Commissioner

**Carol Thompson**  
Blaine County  
Spirited Citizen

**Ann Wood-Holley**  
Greeley County  
Spirited Citizen

**Jaci Walrath**  
Sherman County  
Spirited Citizen

**Lynn Longmore**  
Custer County  
Commissioner

**Kirt Lukasiewicz**  
Howard County  
Commissioner

**Steffan Baker**  
Valley County  
Commissioner

**Sarah Gibbens**  
Custer County  
Spirited Citizen

**Kevin Sestak**  
Howard County  
Spirited Citizen

**Dr. Julie Stevens, MD**  
Valley County  
Spirited Citizen

**Scott Krause**  
Garfield County  
Commissioner  
Board Vice President

**David Larson**  
Loup County  
Commissioner

**Doug Pokorny**  
Wheeler County  
Commissioner  
Board President

**Cheryl Swett**  
Garfield County  
Spirited Citizen

**Bonita Zeigler**  
Loup County  
Spirited Citizen

**Dee Gillham**  
Wheeler County  
Spirited Citizen  
Board Secretary/Treasurer

**Dr. Noah Piskorski, DDS**  
Board Dentist

**Dr. Hilary Miller, MD**  
Board Physician

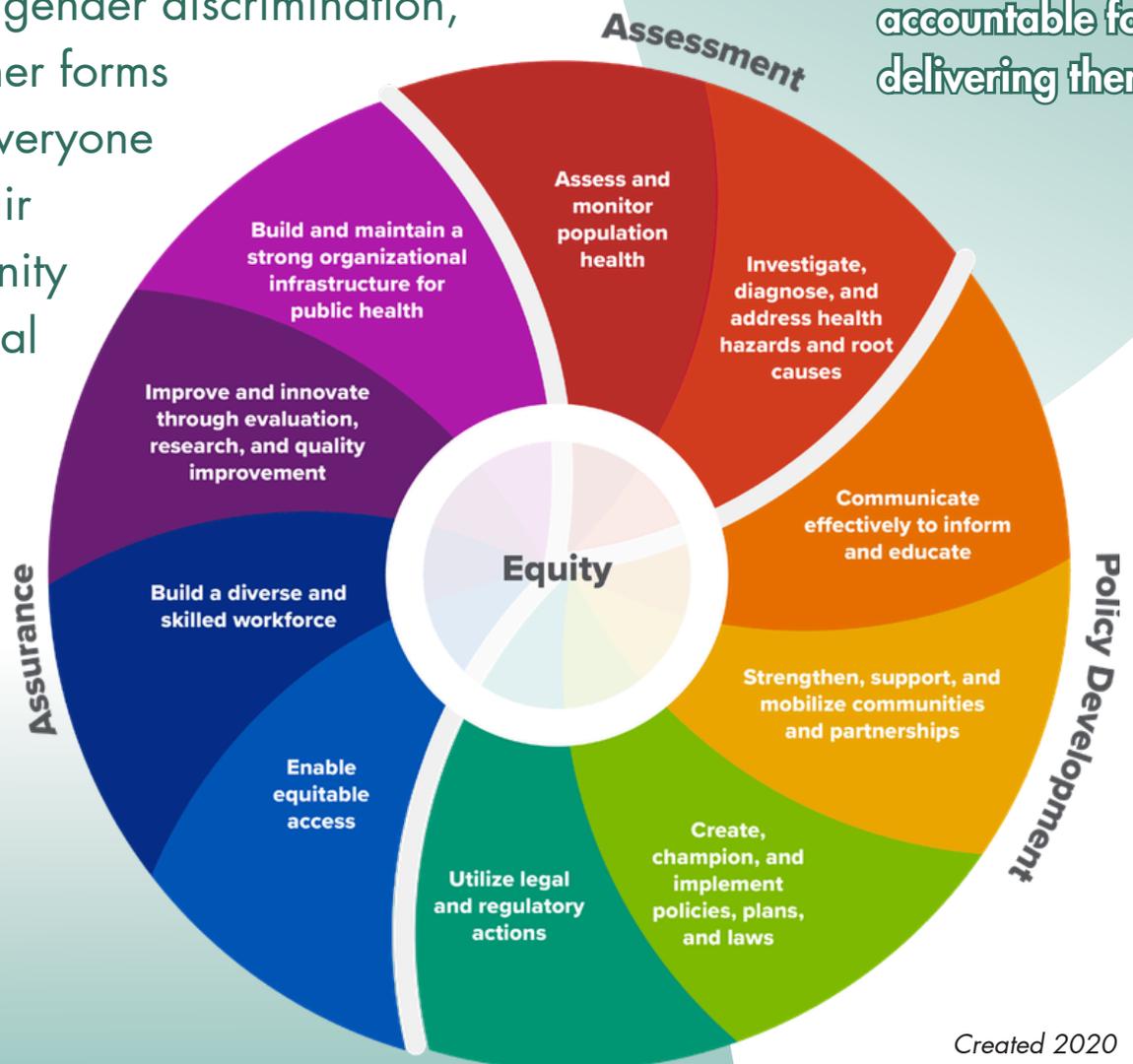
# THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

*To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities.*

To achieve equity, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services define the core work of public health.

The PHAB Accreditation Domains translate those services into measurable standards that health departments must meet to achieve accreditation. Together, they ensure that public health agencies are both guided by national best practices and accountable for delivering them.



# ACCREDITATION

In 2025, Accreditation Coordinator Shelby Galvan continued leading the Health Department's accreditation efforts with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Throughout the year, Shelby coordinated the collection, organization, and submission of documentation required across PHAB's 10 accreditation domains.



**SHELBY GALVAN**  
Accreditation  
Coordinator

These domains align with the 10 Essential Public Health Services and provide the framework health departments use to demonstrate how those essential services are delivered in practice. Shelby worked closely with staff and community partners to ensure submitted materials met national public health standards.

This work required aligning departmental policies, programs, and procedures with PHAB standards while documenting evidence that demonstrates the department's ability to deliver essential public health services to the communities we serve.

As the department enters 2026, LBPHD is preparing for the final stages of the PHAB accreditation process. Reaching this phase reflects the coordinated efforts of staff across programs and represents an important step in strengthening accountability, performance improvement, and long-term public health infrastructure throughout the district.



# COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

*The Loup Basin Public Health Department conducts a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every three years to align with partner hospitals in our region to better identify our area's needs.*

The CHA provides a comprehensive snapshot of community health by identifying key challenges, highlighting priority health needs, and guiding public health action. Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative data from local, state, and national sources, along with input from community members, partners, and stakeholders. The CHA ensures a well-rounded understanding of community health. This assessment is aligned with the planning cycles of Valley County Health System, Melham Memorial Medical Center, Howard County Medical Center, and Callaway District Hospital, and serves as the foundation for developing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

## CHIP OBJECTIVES TOP HEALTH CONCERNS IN DISTRICT

### Mental health

emerged as the leading concern, with 75% of respondents (using weighted data that represents the community) identifying it as a top three health issue in their county. This represents a steady increase from previous surveys conducted in 2015, 2018, and 2021.

### Chronic illness

Residents expressed greatest concern about access to quality healthcare (21% of those who completed the survey indicated this) and managing chronic health conditions (21%). Healthcare costs and insurance concerns worried 16% of respondents, equally matched by concerns about maintaining healthy behaviors like exercise and proper nutrition.

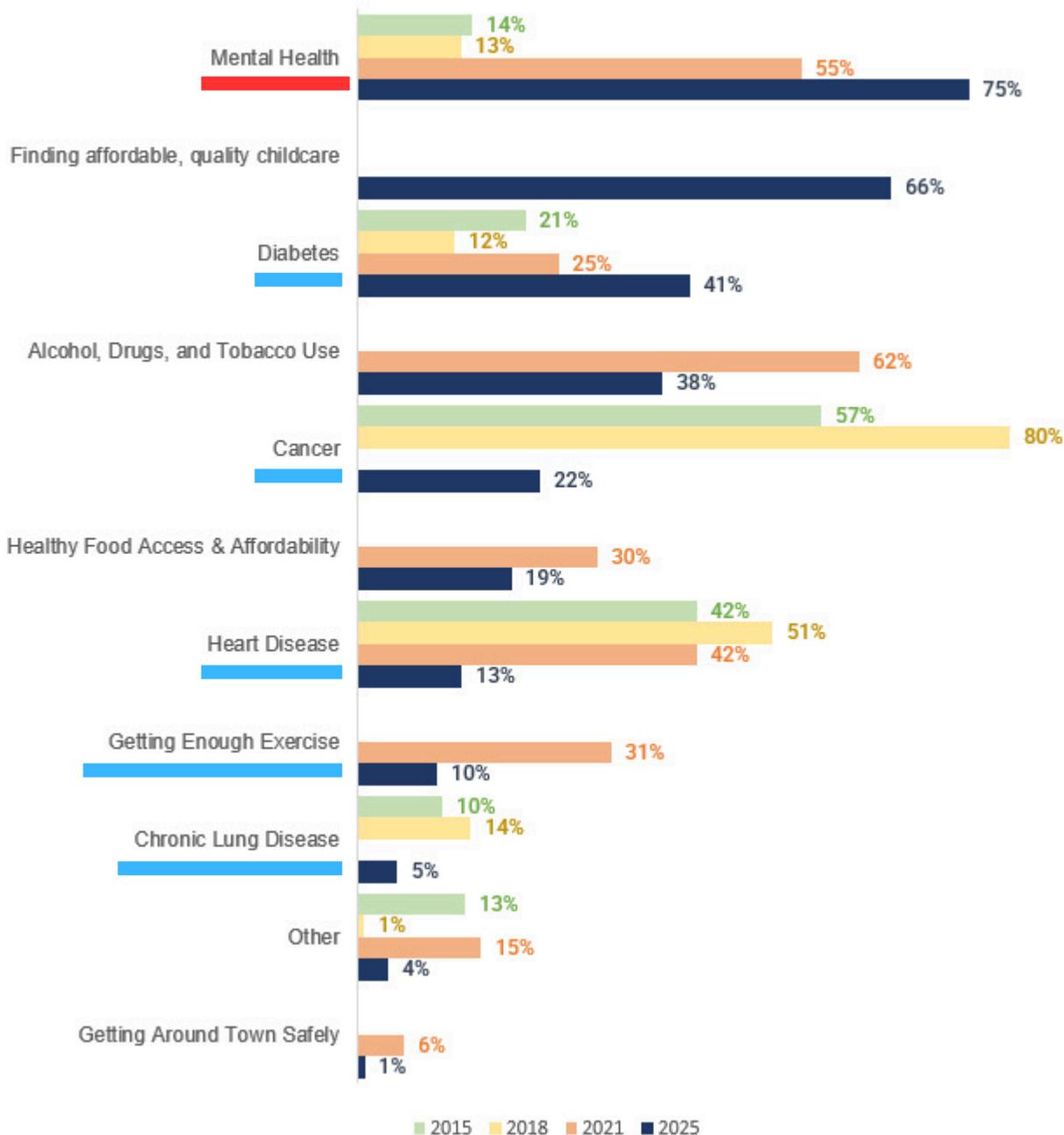
# COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

THE CHA CYCLE WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN 2028.

Graph Shows Data Collected CHA Indicators

*This graph shows the increasing need for mental health, in red, with a jump from 14% in 2015 to 75% in 2025. Our secondary objective, chronic illness applies to multiple concern areas, seen in blue. Across each of these concerns there is again an increasing need for assistance.*

Figure 1. Percentage Selecting Each as a Top Health Concern (weighted).



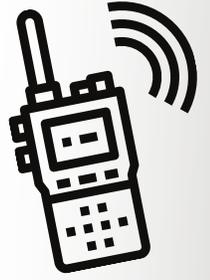
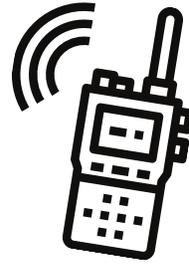
# COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The top two priority objectives in our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) are grounded in trends identified in our Community Health Assessment (CHA) results. Mental health has consistently emerged as the primary concern, reflecting a sustained and growing need for accessible services, prevention, and community support. Chronic illness remains a secondary priority, with ongoing indicators highlighting the impact of conditions such as diabetes and related health challenges. By aligning CHIP objectives with years of CHA data, LBPHD is ensuring that improvement strategies are data-driven, responsive to community needs, and focused on creating lasting, meaningful health outcomes across our district.

BLAINE	LOUP	GARFIELD	WHEELER
CUSTER		VALLEY	GREELEY
		SHERMAN	HOWARD

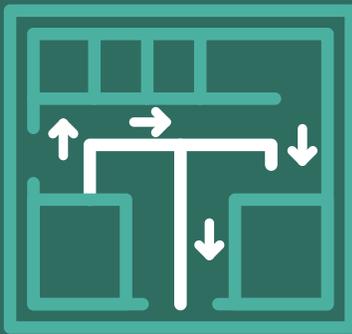
Loup Basin's nine counties makes up for nearly 1/10 of land in Nebraska.

# Emergency Response



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Enhances community resilience by fostering awareness, improving response coordination, and ensuring resource availability. It helps communities anticipate, withstand, and recover from disasters through training, communication strategies, and infrastructure strengthening.



### Community Resilience

Preparing for emergencies

### Information Management

Making sure people have information to take action

### Surge Management

Expanding medical services to handle large events

## PLANNING AND EXECUTION WITH PARTNERS

### Countermeasures and Mitigation

Getting medicines and supplies where they are needed

### Biosurveillance

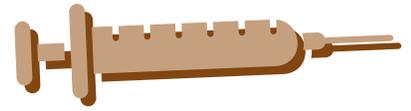
Investigating and identifying health threats

### Incident Management

Coordinating an effective response



# IMMUNIZATIONS



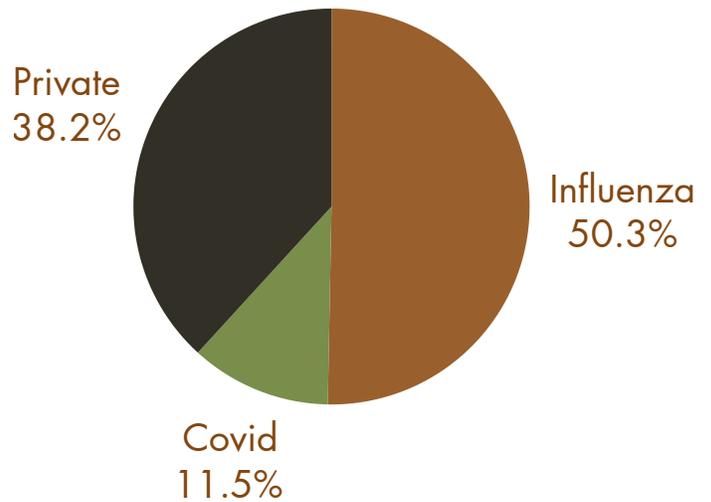
Loup Basin Public Health Department works to increase vaccination rates, reduce the spread of preventable diseases, and protect vulnerable populations such as infants, elderly, and those with compromised immune systems. LBPHD accepts most major health insurance plans, including Medicaid and Medicare. We also have options for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

## Immunizations given:

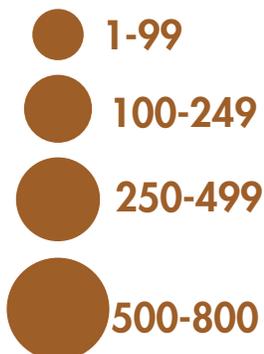


LBPHD gave a total of 2,656 immunizations in 2025.

We gave a total of 1,336 Influenza shots, 305 COVID shots, and 1,015 other immunizations.



Vaccines given to those residing in each county



BLAINE	LOUP	GARFIELD	WHEELER
●	●	●	●
CUSTER		VALLEY	GREELEY
●		●	●
		SHERMAN	HOWARD
		●	●



# IMMUNIZATIONS

## Services Provided:



### Routine Immunizations

LBPHD provides all routine immunizations for all ages. We also participate in the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults Program (VFA), which provide select free immunizations to eligible patients.



### Community/School Clinics

We work with schools and businesses to provide vaccination clinics in local communities to make it easier to receive the recommended vaccinations.



### Travel Immunizations

If you are planning a trip, it is recommended that you are up to date on your regular immunizations. You may also check any recommended vaccines for your travel destination. LBPHD does offer select traveler vaccines. Call our office for more information.



### Immunizations for all ages

LBPHD provides vaccinations for all ages, including vaccines for those 50+. Call our office to see if you are due for immunizations such as RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), Pneumonia, Shingles, or Tetanus.

## Respiratory Season

Loup Basin traveled to over 80 clinics across all nine counties between September and October of 2025.

Scan here to  
look up your  
immunization  
record



Scan here or call  
our office to  
request an  
appointment



# WHEN DO YOU NEED IMMUNIZATIONS?

*This schedule is based on the vaccines and timeline used by the Loup Basin Public Health Department.*

## **\*Combination Vaccines:**

- **Pediarix** - DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis), Hepatitis B, & Polio
- **Kinrix** - DTaP & Polio

## **Birth:**

- Hepatitis B (Hep B) - First dose

## **2 Months:**

- Pediarix\* – First dose
- Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) – First dose
- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) – First dose
- Rotavirus (oral) – First dose

## **4 Months:**

- Pediarix\* – Second dose
- Hib – Second dose
- PCV – Second dose
- Rotavirus (oral) – Second dose

## **6 Months:**

- Pediarix\* – Third dose
- Hib – Third dose
- PCV – Third dose
- Rotavirus (oral) – Third dose (if received a 3-dose vaccine)
- Influenza (Flu) – Annual vaccination begins. Should receive a second dose 4 weeks after the first.
- COVID-19 – First dose

## **12 Months:**

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) – First dose
- Varicella (Chickenpox) – First dose
- Hib – Fourth dose
- PCV – Fourth dose
- Hepatitis A (HepA) – First dose

## **18 Months:**

- DTaP – Fourth dose
- Hepatitis A (HepA) – Second dose

## **4-6 years:**

- Kinrix\*
- MMR – Second dose
- Varicella – Second dose

## **9 years:**

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - first dose

## **11-12 Years:**

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) – Booster dose
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – Second dose
- Meningococcal (MenACWY) – First dose

## **16 Years:**

- Meningococcal (MenACWY) – Second dose
- Meningococcal B (MenB) – First dose (based on shared clinical decision making) Second dose 6 months later

## **Adults and Older Adults:**

- Tdap – Every 7-10 years
- Influenza (Flu) – Annually
- HPV – Catch-up if not completed (up to age 26)
- COVID-19 – As recommended based on updated guidelines (boosters may be needed)
- RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) – Recommended at age 75+ (60+ for those who are at increased risk)
- Pneumococcal vaccines – At age 50+ or earlier for high-risk groups
- Shingles (Herpes Zoster) – Recommended at age 50+

## **Pregnancy:**

- RSV (Maternal) – Between 32–36 weeks of pregnancy during the months of September - January (to protect newborns from RSV)
- Tdap – Between 27–36 weeks of pregnancy (to protect against pertussis/whooping cough)
- Influenza (Flu) – Any time during pregnancy
- COVID-19 – As recommended based on current guidelines

## **RSV for Infants<sup>†</sup>:**

- Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) – Given as a single dose at the start of the child's first RSV season between October - March (for all infants under 8 months and high-risk children up to 24 months)

( † if not given during pregnancy)

If you or your child are behind on immunizations, call our office to discuss a plan to get back on schedule.

# VFC STEWARDSHIP AWARD



**Bailey Trofhloz, RN**  
**Immunization Program**  
**Coordinator**

This year, our health department was honored to receive the Vaccine Stewardship Award in recognition of exceptional vaccine management practices. During the award period, we achieved zero wasted vaccines and zero routine returns, reflecting our team's commitment to careful planning, proper storage, and responsible inventory oversight.

We participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs, which provide no-cost vaccines to eligible children and adults who are uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise unable to afford immunizations.

Through these programs, we help remove financial barriers to immunizations while maintaining the highest standards of vaccine stewardship.

Every dose administered represents protection for an individual and strengthened health for entire communities.



Our facility has a vaccine utilization of **64.48%** for both routine and seasonal VFC vaccines meaning less than 40% of our VFC inventory expired or were wasted.

## CERTIFICATE

2025 VFC VACCINE STEWARD -  
TOWN POPULATIONS (<5,000)

This Certificate Is Presented To

*Loup Basin Public Health Department*

The VFC Vaccine Steward Award honors clinics that demonstrate strong vaccine management practices within their geographic regions. Recipients achieved zero routine vaccine waste and zero routine returns, along with zero seasonal vaccine waste during the award period (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). While some expired seasonal inventory may have occurred, these clinics showed commitment to responsible vaccine stewardship through effective planning and distribution. Awards are presented by geographic area and utilization rate, recognizing the unique challenges and achievements of clinics in different locations across Nebraska.

  
**Jason Kilker**  
NE DHHS  
Immunization  
Program Manager

  
**Ally Kreft**  
VFC Coordinator

  
**Jonah Tran**  
Community Health  
Educator

# Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)



## WHAT IS THE MRC:

The Loup Basin MRC is a volunteer network for medical and non-medical professions supporting public health and emergency response.

## Register to Volunteer



## LOUP BASIN MRC MISSION:

Our mission is to provide trained and prepared individuals, both from medical and non-medical backgrounds, who can respond to public health emergencies and other health-related community needs. The primary goal is to reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and improve response and recovery.



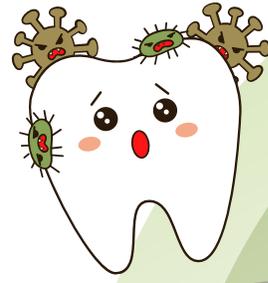
## VOLUNTEER ROSTER:

The Loup Basin MRC, was established on July 15, 2024.

Since then our program has changed to adapt the needs to the region, with 31 registered volunteers across our nine counties.

# ORAL HEALTH

## LONG-TERM CARE CLINICS



LBPHD's long-term care (LTC) based-clinics began in 2024 to provide dental services at LTC facilities. A public health hygienist provides oral screenings, prophylaxis, fluoride varnish treatments, education, and referrals for potential concerns.



In 2025, we expanded to three LTC facilities, serving approximately 20 different individuals, with continued goals to grow access and support oral health in these facilities.



Brush your teeth twice daily

Use fluoride toothpaste



## TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR DENTAL HEALTH



Floss daily

Visit your dentist regularly



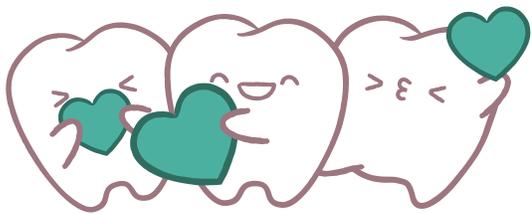
# ORAL HEALTH

## SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS

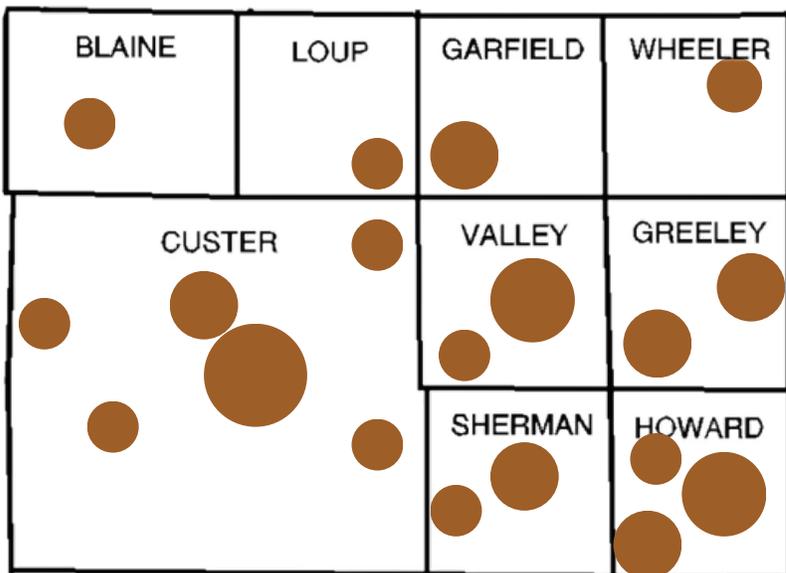
Since 2005, LBPHD has operated the LB Smiles Program to provide preventive dental services through preschools and elementary schools in the 9 counties served by LBPHD. Public health hygienists provide oral screenings, fluoride varnish treatments, education, and referrals to Dentists for potential concerns. By collaborating with these early childhood education locations, we have been able to serve more than 3,000 children since the program began.



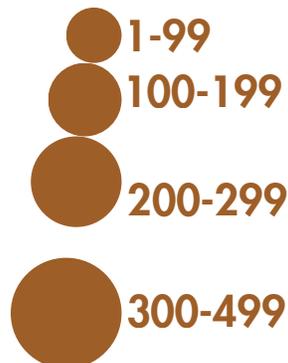
**Claire Snyder, RDH, CLC**  
**Public Health Hygienist**



## 2025 VISUALLY



Total screenings performed in each region



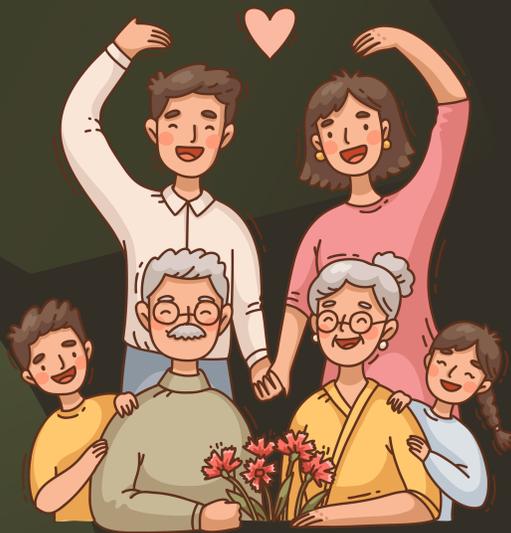
## 2025 STATS

- Percentage of Loup Basin schools that participate in the program: **100%**
- Percentage of student participation: **84.5%**
- Oral screenings performed: **1,991**
- Fluoride varnish applications: **542**
- Referrals for potential concerns: **265**

# Healthy Families Loup Basin

## WHAT IS HEALTHY FAMILIES?

Healthy Families is a home visitation program where interactions with families are relationship-based and designed to promote positive parent-child relationships and healthy attachments.



Children do not come with an instruction manual, it's okay to ask for help! Healthy Families Loup Basin is here to help parents bring out the best in themselves by tapping into skills they already possess.



**Total Visits  
in 2025  
438**

## HOME VISITS FOCUS ON:

- Enhancing healthy brain development
- Reading the cues of children
- Understanding child development
- Learning about secure attachment



# RADON



**Bridget Casteel**

**Administrative Assistant**

Radon is a natural gas that comes from the soil. It is radioactive, but you cannot see it, smell it, or taste it.

Radon can enter buildings through small cracks in the foundation and build up inside homes, schools, and workplaces without anyone noticing. Radon can be found in buildings everywhere, and high levels have been found in every state. The only way to know if radon is in your home or building is to test for it. Without testing, people may be exposed to high levels of radon without knowing.



Request a  
Radon Kit  
HERE >>>

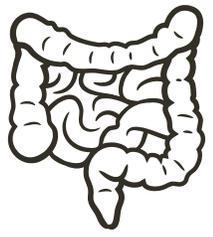
Loup Basin Public  
Health Department  
distributed 18 radon  
test kits in 2025.

86  
Rn  
Radon  
(222)

**Radon Test Kits**  
**\$12 in office**  
**\$15 to mail**

In Nebraska, radon is a common concern. More than half of homes tested have radon levels above the actionable level of 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter, which is the unit used to measure how much radon is in the air.) This is why regular testing and taking action to mitigate high radon levels are important to help keep families safe.

# COLORECTAL CANCER



Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Nebraska, yet our state ranks 29th in screening rates. The risk increases with age, making regular screenings essential for early detection and prevention, especially for men and women over 45. Preventive screenings, such as colonoscopies and stool-based tests, can identify precancerous polyps before they develop into cancer and detect cancer at earlier, more treatable stages. When colorectal cancer is found early, the five-year survival rate is significantly higher, and treatment is often less invasive and more effective. Increasing screening participation not only reduces mortality but also lowers long-term healthcare costs and improves quality of life by preventing advanced disease.



## You may be at an increased risk if

- You or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer.
- You have inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.
- You have a genetic syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis or hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer.

Request a **FREE**  
Screening kit below!



Available to ages 45-74

Residents of Nebraska have a higher incidence of colorectal cancer than the national average, with approximately two additional cases per 100,000 population each year.

US Average  
Colorectal Cancer

36.7%

<

Nebraska Average  
Colorectal Cancer

38.6%

# ENVIRONMENTAL

## WATER TESTING

LBPHD continues to promote the benefits and importance of water testing through social media outreach, community awareness events, and collaboration with partners including Central District Health Department in Grand Island for nitrates, hardness, coliform bacteria, & pH testing. Additionally, LBPHD promotes water testing through the Public Health Environmental Lab in Lincoln for lead and all other particulates.



**Sarah Raiford, RN**  
**Disease Surveillance,**  
**& Environmental Health**  
**Coordinator**

## MOSQUITO & TICK MONITORING

LBPHD participates in annual mosquito and tick surveillance to track West Nile virus (WNV) and other vector-borne diseases that can impact public health. In 2025, two mosquito pools in Garfield County tested positive for WNV, though no related human cases were reported.



Through this program, collected samples are tested, allowing staff to detect emerging threats early and implement timely public health interventions. Data from surveillance guides community education efforts, informs local mosquito control strategies, and helps residents take precautions such as using repellents, wearing protective clothing, and eliminating standing water. By monitoring biting insects and sharing results with the community, we support prevention and protect the public from mosquito- and tick-borne illnesses.

Water Testing  
**REFERRALS**

**10** 

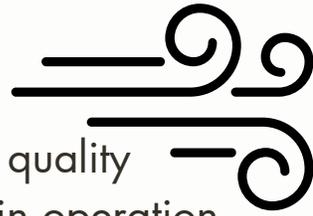
# ENVIRONMENTAL

Want to see  
our air quality  
in real time?



## PURPLEAIR MONITORS

Our department continues to expand local air quality monitoring efforts, with five PurpleAir sensors in operation across the region. These sensors collect air samples every 10 minutes and measure PM<sub>2.5</sub>, or fine particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or smaller, which is a key indicator of air pollution. Common sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> include vehicle emissions, wildfires, industrial activity, and everyday household activities such as cooking or burning candles.



## LEAD PREVENTION & CASE MANGEMENT

Lead exposure continues to be a serious public health concern, particularly for young children. LBPHD monitors elevated blood lead levels through the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System to ensure timely follow up and support. Lead poisoning is tracked because of its potential impact on a child's development, behavior, learning, and hearing.



Common sources of lead exposure in children include:

- Lead based paint in older homes
- Contaminated soil
- Drinking water from aging plumbing
- Imported toys or jewelry
- Parental occupations and hobbies involving lead
- Industrial pollution

When blood lead levels exceed 3.4 mcg/mL, staff contact guardians to provide education, recommend an environmental assessment, and recommend appropriate medical follow up. Educational materials and additional resources are mailed, and ongoing support is provided until levels decline below the threshold or case closure criteria are met.

# DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

LBPHD works to prevent disease by promoting health in communities, families, and individuals. Staff collaborate with local hospitals, schools, assisted livings, long-term care facilities, labs, and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to monitor reportable diseases, detect outbreaks, and control disease spread.

# PROJECT FIRSTLINE

<b>Loup Basin Health District</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Animal Exposure</b> (bite or non-bite)	38
<b>Bloodborne &amp; Invasive</b> (Ex: Hepatitis B & C, etc.)	14
<b>Enteric/Foodborne</b> (Ex: Salmonella, Campylobacter, Ecoli, etc.)	51
<b>Lead Poisoning</b>	26
<b>Parasitic &amp; Fungal</b> (Ex: Toxoplasmosis, Histoplasmosis, etc.)	4
<b>Respiratory Illness</b> (Ex: Streptococcus pneumonia, Q Fever, Influenza & COVID-19 outbreaks, etc.)	20
<b>Vectorborne</b> (Ex: West Nile Virus, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, etc.)	3
<b>Total Disease Surveillance cases in 2025</b>	156
<b>Annual Total Comparison from 2024</b>	179

Loup Basin Public Health District participated in Project First Line, a CDC-funded initiative that supports health departments nationwide in providing educational opportunities to keep communities safe. The main focus of the grant is understanding where germs live (reservoirs) and how they spread.

As part of this work, Sarah Raiford from LBPHD hosted five webinars with local hospitals and clinics on bodily and environmental reservoirs. LBPHD was also one of 14 health departments nationwide to attend the national Project First Line Conference in Washington, D.C. Through Project First Line, LBPHD continues to strengthen local knowledge about infection prevention, helping protect our communities from the spread of germs.

**Reservoirs** are places where germs live, either in the human body or in our everyday environment. There are four main bodily reservoirs: skin, gastrointestinal tract, respiratory system, and blood. Environmental reservoirs are countless but commonly include counters, shelves, doors, faucets/pipes, and water sources.



Sarah Raiford (left)

Danielle Thoene (right)



**PROJECT FIRSTLINE**

CDC'S National Training Collaborative for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control

# CAR SEAT SAFETY



**Terry Stutzman**  
Certified Child  
Passenger Safety  
Technician



Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians at LBPHD provide car seat inspections and installation assistance to families throughout our communities. Our technicians offer hands-on support and education on proper installation, selecting the right seat based on a child's age and size, and safe travel best practices—helping caregivers feel confident their children are riding safely and correctly.

LBPHD is able to provide car seats to qualifying families through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office. Thanks to this funding, we have provided 16 car seats to families who might not otherwise have the resources to obtain a seat for their child.

We are proud to offer this vital service to our community, helping to keep our youngest passengers safe on the road!



Our car seat technicians inspected 27 car seats in 2025.

# LACTATION & COUNSELING SUPPORT

We are proud to offer lactation and counseling support through our Certified Lactation Counselor, Claire. This service provides individualized guidance to parents on breastfeeding, infant feeding, and early postpartum wellness. By offering accessible, compassionate support, we help families build confidence, address challenges early, and promote healthy outcomes for both parent and child.



Call our office or email us at [info@lbphd.ne.gov](mailto:info@lbphd.ne.gov) to schedule an appointment with Claire.

# CPR TRAINING

## Classes Offered:

- Basic Life Support
- Basic Life Support Renewal
- Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid



# SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

## Strengthening public health through social media

In 2025, Loup Basin Public Health District's social media presence reached new heights, generating 4,049 reactions, 232 comments, and 1,108 shares. Social media has become an essential tool in public health, allowing agencies to share timely information, connect directly with the community, and promote health education.

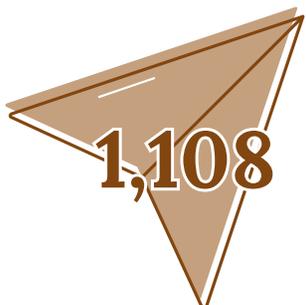
These interactions demonstrate that our messages are not only reaching people, but also engaging them, sparking conversation, and encouraging the sharing of critical health information. From outbreak updates to prevention tips and educational campaigns, social media is a powerful platform for keeping our communities safe and informed.

 **CHECK US OUT!**  
Facebook



 Instagram





SHARES



COMMENTS



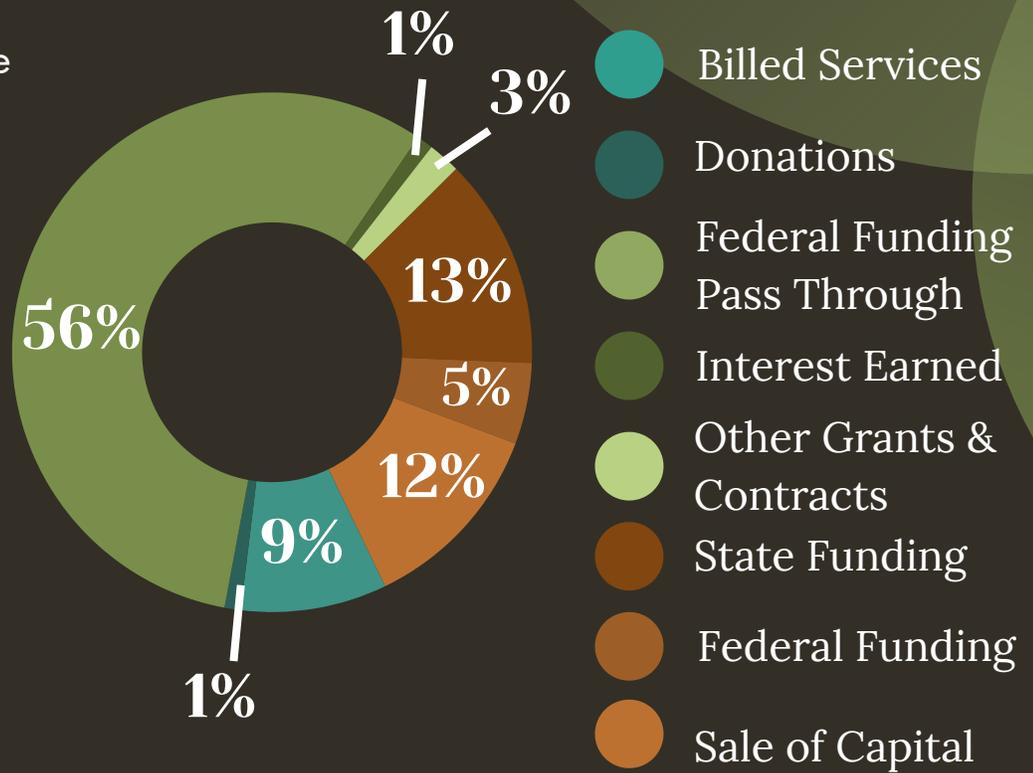
REACTIONS

# 2025 Financial Overview

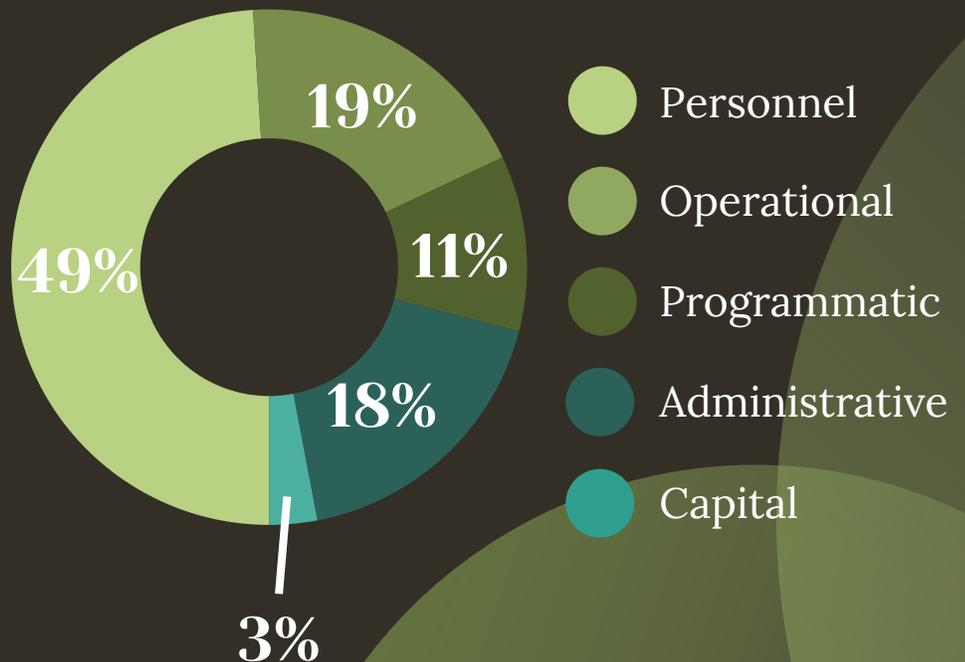
At LBPHD, we are committed to financial transparency and responsible stewardship of our resources. Serving nine counties, we carefully allocate funds to support essential public health services, including immunizations, disease prevention, maternal and child health programs, environmental health initiatives, and community wellness education.

LBPHD ensures federal, state, and local funds are used efficiently, with regular financial reviews and audits to maintain accountability. By keeping our communities informed, we strive to demonstrate how our resources are used to promote public health and well-being across the region.

## Revenue



## Expenditure



# OUR NEW FACILITY

The makings of LBPHD's new home

●  
**2012**  
**I STREET**  
**LOCATION**  
**BUILT**



J Street - 2021



●  
**2021**  
**J STREET**  
**LOCATION**  
**BUILT**

Plans for 327 N 8th



327 N 8th - 2025



●  
**OCTOBER**  
**21, 2024**  
Ground  
Breaking  
Ceremony

●  
**AUGUST**  
**10, 2025**

●  
Move into 327 N  
8<sup>th</sup> Ave Location

●  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**29, 2025**  
Open House



Open - August 2025



Loup Basin Public Health Department built this new facility to better accommodate the continued growth of our programs and services across the region.

Since 2012, the department has expanded significantly, increasing the number of initiatives, partnerships, and resources available to the communities we serve.

This new space was thoughtfully designed to support that growth by improving staff workflow, allowing room for future program expansion, and providing dedicated areas that meet the needs of both staff and the public.



**Loup Basin**  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITIES

327 N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Burwell, NE 68823

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 995  
Burwell, NE 68823

Office Number:  
308.346.5795

Fax Number:  
308.346.9106

We are grateful to the residents, partners, healthcare providers, schools, and local organizations across our nine counties who support and strengthen public health every day.

Your trust, collaboration, and commitment to healthier communities make our work possible. Together, we continue to promote prevention, education, and access to services that improve the health and well-being of all.

We look forward to serving our communities in the year ahead.