

Board of Health Regular Minutes
Valley County Health Department
500 4th Ave South
Glasgow MT 59230

This Zoom meeting will allow 100 participants. All participants will be muted upon entry to Zoom. Participants who comment during public comment will “raise their hand” in the Zoom meeting, state their name, and will be limited to two (2) minutes.

September 10, 2025

Roll Call Members in attendance were Darcel Wesen, Pam Lee RN, Cori Radakovich RN, Wes Thompson, and Melanie Blount-Cole.

Also present were Shirley Baumgartner, Health Officer; Jeff Alsberg, Commissioner; Cam Shipp, Sanitarian; Michelle Merritt, Director, Jayme Due, Teri Meche, and Angie Peterson. The meeting included online Zoom and in-person participants.

Public Comment on agenda items –No comments received on agenda items.

Approval of Minutes – Melanie made a motion to approve, Pam seconded and the motion passed.

Board of Health Michelle reported that there will be a board of health training in October offered by the State of Montana for any board members or commissioners that are interested. Several board members have attended in the past and found it to be valuable.

Sanitarian Report**SANITARIAN'S REPORT
Valley County****September 10, 2025****Sanitarian Inspections**

	<u>Completed for Quarter</u>	
July-Sept. 3 rd Quarter	31	Retail Food Est.
	6	Schools
	2	Public Accommodations
	<u>2</u>	Body Art/Tattooing
	41	

**Food Safety Training/Programs/Other Inspections, Trainings & Meetings
Environmental Health-Food Safety Section (EH-FSS)**

- July 8 - EH-FSS Monthly Conference Call
- Aug. 5-9- Northeast Montana Fair Concessions Inspections
- Aug. 12 - EH-FSS Monthly Conference Call
- Aug. 12- Pre-Opening Oasis Loung & Eatery- Change of Ownership
- Aug. 13- Selling Homemade food 101- webinar
- Aug. 13- Scotty Day Care Inspection
- Aug. 20- Head Start Daycare Inspection
- Sept. 9 - EH-FSS Monthly Conference Call

Health Complaints

- July 10- Bedbugs in an apartment
- July 14- Sewer pumped ran onto neighbor's property
- July 20- Fort Peck Theatre Concessions

Septic Permits


- 8 systems to be permitted for 2025 at this time

Sanitation in Subdivision Review

- Scottish Hills Estates – Phase II
- Myles Minor Subdivision- over 20 Acres

09/10/2025 Valley County Health Department Quarterly Report – Jun / Jul / Aug 2025

Fiscal year 2025-2026

	2024 2 nd quarter Sept/Oct/Nov	2024/2025 3 rd quarter Dec/Jan/Feb	2025 4 th quarter Mar/Apr/May	
Family Planning	Total Visits: 17 Total Clients: 15	Total Visits: 24 Total Clients: 18	Total Visits: 15 Total Clients: 13	Total Visits: 23 Total Clients: 18
Newborn Outreach	12	14	18	17
Animal Bites	7 Dogs 0 Cats 1 Referred for PEP	6 Dogs 2 Cats 2 Referred for PEP	1 Dog 1 Cat 2 Referred for PEP	4 Dogs 3 Cats 1 Muskrat 4 Referred for PEP
Immunizations Total	1443 vaccines to 808 people	396 vaccines to 191 people	472 vaccines to 219 people	558 vaccines to 267 people
IMZ Non-flu Non-COVID	306 vaccines to 109 people	308 vaccines to 130 people	434 vaccines to 181 people	553 vaccines to 264 people

IMZ Influenza	HD - 428 Reg - 187	HD - 18 Reg - 25	HD - 0 Reg - 6	HD - 0 Reg - 0
IMZ COVID	53	45	32	3
coverage rate for 24-36 months (4DTap, 3IPV, 1MMR, UTD Hib, UTD Hep B, 1VAR, UTD PCV20) on last day of quarter	63% (51 complete out of 81 total)	48% (33 complete out of 69)	86% (60 complete out of 69)	88% (60 complete out of 68)
6-7 yr olds MMRV/Dtap/IPV	83% (130 complete out of 156)	77% (118 complete out of 154)	86% (141 complete out of 163)	78% (126 complete out of 161)
Teens 13-18 Tdap 1 HPV 1 MCV4	T - 68% (374/547) H - 50% (274/547) M - 50% (274/547)	T - 72% (387/537) H - 50% (271/537) M - 64% (341/537)	T - 72% (378/526) H - 50% (263/526) M - 72% (332/526)	T - 75% (382/510) H - 54% (273/510) M - 72% (341/510)

Lot Usage and Recall Report / Vaccination totals

COVID and FLU Vaccines given during "flu season"	COVID	FLU	TOTAL
09/29/2024 - 05/31/2025	590	667	1257

COVID and FLU vaccines given YTD (01/01 - 12/31)	COVID	FLU	TOTAL
01/01/2025 - 08/31/2025 (ONGOING)	50	22	72


Total vaccines given during "flu season"	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	TOTAL
09/29/2024 - 05/31/2025	415	1830	2245





Total vaccines given YTD (01/01 - 12/31)	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	TOTAL
01/01/2025 - 08/31/2025 (ONGOING)	479	805	1284

COVID		
<u>09/10/2025 for Valley County</u> - 3 - active cases today - 2681 - total known positives		
Confirmed COVID deaths of Valley County residents: - 45 total -		
INFLUENZA		
09/29/2024 – 05/31/2025	Montana	Valley County
Total this season	15,609	85
Deaths	68	0
Hospitalizations	1053	4
West Nile Virus (WNV)		
2025 – 1 Non-Neuroinvasive		
STI		
Valley County last 3 months 06/01/2025 – 08/31/2025		

Chlamydia – 3
Gonorrhea – 0
Syphilis – 0

Montana STD Update

 STD Tracker - Week ending 8/30/25*
(MMWR Week 35)

Condition	Cases Reported MMWR week 35, 2025	2025 Year to Date (YTD) Cases, as of MMWR week 35, 2024	2024 YTD Cases, as of MMWR week 35, 2025	% Change in 2024-2025 YTD Cases, as of MMWR week 35, 2025
Chlamydia	66	2147	2301	-7% 
Gonorrhea	11	563	505	11% 
Syphilis (P & S)	2	86	142	-39% 
Syphilis (All stages)	11	339	434	-22% 

*2025 data are provisional and may undercount the final number of disease events.

Get Tested [mt.gov](https://gettested.mt.gov)

Staffing update:

1. No updates

Grants – all have deliverables, quarterly reports, yearly renewal of contract:

1. **MTUPP –**
 - a. **Fair Outreach:** Jayme hosted an educational table highlighting the health effects of vaping, including information on *Popcorn Lung*
 - b. **Community Survey:** A survey was distributed to gather input on tobacco-free parks.
 - c. **Clean Air Reporting System (CARS):** One report was received; Jayme responded by providing educational materials on the Clean Indoor Air Act.
2. **Family Planning – Condom distribution:**
 - a. Free condom grab bags continue to be available at the front entrance, each containing information on birth control, healthy relationships, and other community resources. The grab bags remain popular and are being well utilized.
 - b. Distribution to local bars and businesses continued throughout the summer.

- c. Our next family planning clinic is scheduled for **Thursday, October 2nd, 2025**.
- d. We have noted an increase in visits this quarter, putting us at 22 out of 45 for our annual patient goal.

3. Immunization Action Plan – all IMZ – federal VFC/Vaccines for Children and VFA/Vaccines for Adults program

- a. **WIC Outreach:** Monthly outreach continues with updated immunization lists.
- b. **Back-to-School Clinics:** Our August clinics were successful and well-attended.
- c. **Policy Revision:** We are currently working with the MT DPHHS System Improvement Office to update our Vaccine Administration Policy.
- d. **Nurse Consultant:** We are coordinating with the State Immunization Program to schedule a site visit for workflow and vaccine storage assessment.
- e. **Electronic Health Record (EHR):** We are evaluating **Patagonia Health** for implementation. Features include:
 - i. **ImMTrax Integration:** Displays vaccine due dates and records administered doses directly into ImMTrax.
 - ii. **Barcode Scanning:** Includes a double-check system and automatically inputs billing information.
 - iii. **Inventory Management:** Links directly to ImMTrax vaccine inventory.

4. PHEP – Public Health Emergency Preparedness

- a. **Disease Surveillance:** Ongoing CD/EPI work, including STI follow-up and treatment.
- b. **LEPC/DES:** Still seeking a Public Information Officer (PIO).
- c. **Respiratory Season:** Begins September 28th, 2025, and runs through May 31st, 2026.
- d. **Flu & COVID-19 Clinics:** Planning is underway for October. Locations and dates will be finalized soon.

5. **MCH/FICMMR** – Maternal Child Health/ Fetal, Infant, Child & Maternal Mortality Review of any death in these categories to look for preventable cause and endorse change in the community.
 - a. Ongoing newborn outreach and parent education.
 - b. Lydia created a Diabetes Education display for the county fair, which included informational materials and giveaways.
6. **DIS grant** – Disease Investigation Specialist/Health Promotion Specialist; funding for one FTE

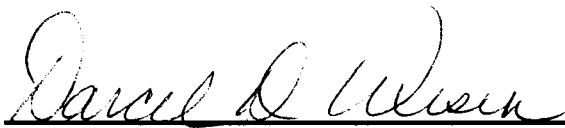
Long-term Commitments

1. **Cardiac Ready/AEDs** –
 - a. Expired pads and batteries have been replaced; awaiting final supply pick-ups.
 - b. Exploring additional funding opportunities to sustain this program.
2. **CARE Coalition** –
 - a. Planning a Trunk or Treat event on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 4:30–7:00 PM at the Reynolds Market parking lot (pending confirmation).
 - b. Coalition members will distribute goodie bags; VCHD will participate by handing out toothbrushes.
3. **Hygiene supplies for VC schools** –
 - a. Collecting student enrollment numbers to guide ordering. Supplies will include toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, body wash, and deodorant.
 - b. Donations to date include:
 - i. Valley County Community Foundation - \$1,000 donation
 - ii. Caring Hands – \$1,000 donation
 - iii. Valley CARE Coalition- \$500 donation
 - iv. First Lutheran church - \$222.12 donation

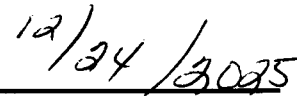
Public Comment on non-agenda items – Shannon Marsh was present to share her concerns about a vaccination experience at the VCHD. Shannon's full statement is attached. Darcel made a statement about the duties and responsibilities of the BOH under the Montana State statute. Darcel explained that the primary role of the BOH is to identify and control the spread of disease. She explained that they do not employ the health department employees or have a role in the day to day services provided by the health department. They must honor both HIPPA and employment laws. The board provides an advisory role but is limited on this kind of matter. The board and Commissioner Alsberg thanked Shannon for coming to this meeting and sharing her experience.

Adjourn Pam made a motion to adjourn, Wes seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 5:15.



Chairperson



Date

From: **Shannon Marsh**

Date: Wed, Sep 10, 2025 at 4:14 PM

Subject: statement

I am here tonight to share our situation that happened here at the Valley County Health Department, along with voicing the concerns we have.

A month ago now, on August 11th, I took my son, who is 5, to receive his last dose of varicella that was needed for kindergarten. However, after the shot was given, while waiting for his updated records, I was informed they made a mistake, grabbed the wrong box, and had given him MMR—one which he had only 7 weeks prior and one that I didn't consent for that day. I was told he would still need varicella but to wait 28 days. I was given a conditional form for his school.

I took him to the ER to get a second opinion and another form of documentation that this happened. The next day, I came back asking for copies of his records. At this time, we saw he was actually given the combo dose of MMRV. After this, when looking at the consent form I had signed, I noticed it was altered. Where I initialed my consent on the varicella line, an arrow was drawn from that to the wrongfully administered vaccine of MMRV. The same was done to the nurse's signature.

At this time, I was asked to write a formal written statement for the Health Department, which I was told would be turned in to the state. The following day, I went in to give it to them. At this time, I asked for board members' email addresses to also send this statement to, along with proof that this was reported to the state. I was told they were just about to go have a meeting with the county attorney because I had previously told them I wanted them to be responsible for the ER bill and that, until they talked to him, they wouldn't give me any information.

Later, I received a call stating I could no longer contact them regarding this matter and, if I had questions, to contact the county attorney myself. From here, I left a message with the county attorney's office asking for my son's records to be sent to the school, along with having some questions I needed to speak to him about. It has now been one month, and I still have yet to speak to Dylan Jensen.

Since then, I have filed a complaint with the Board of Nursing and have also been in contact with the Department of Health and Human Services, in which they told me to address my commissioners.

A couple of weeks ago, I attended and spoke at our commissioners' meeting about this matter, in which I received so much respect from them. I truly do feel like they are taking this matter seriously and have been the only ones in this situation to ask if my son is okay.

I understand mistakes happen, but I truly don't feel like this is one that is acceptable. It's honestly careless, and it was 100% avoidable. After sharing our story, the number of other people that have had similar experiences within this Health Department is shocking. It shows that our son's situation isn't an isolated one and these mistakes are happening all too often. In my opinion, I think this has happened multiple times where it has just been swept under the rug, and now it happened to a child whose parents aren't going to take it lightly and aren't afraid to be loud about it—because, at the end of the day, these errors could be deadly.

I know this isn't a Q&A, but these are the questions and concerns that I have had in the last month since this has happened:

- This first one is not directed to the entire board, because to my knowledge you all weren't properly informed about this situation, but to the board members and staff that did—my son is thankfully doing just fine. He was a patient in your care, but nobody once tried calling after this wrongdoing to even care if he was having a reaction or to check in. Would that have been too much accountability?
- Why did you go directly to the county attorney?
- Why were only certain board members informed?
- Why didn't you report this to our commissioners?
- Are you making the steps to change policies so these mistakes don't happen?
- Was disciplinary action taken?
- Why was the same nurse still working the following week?
- Out of all the other mistakes like this that have happened, were any others actually reported?
- Why am I treated differently and have to call the county attorney to speak to you? I am just a mom that was trying to get my son vaccinated for school. I did nothing wrong.
- And lastly, how would any of you feel if this was your child, grandchild, or family member?

I want it known I love the community we have here, and I love raising my family here. I just want to know changes will be made and that trust is restored.

Thank you.