



Public Health Issues in 2021

Community, Health & Housing
Committee
January 13, 2021

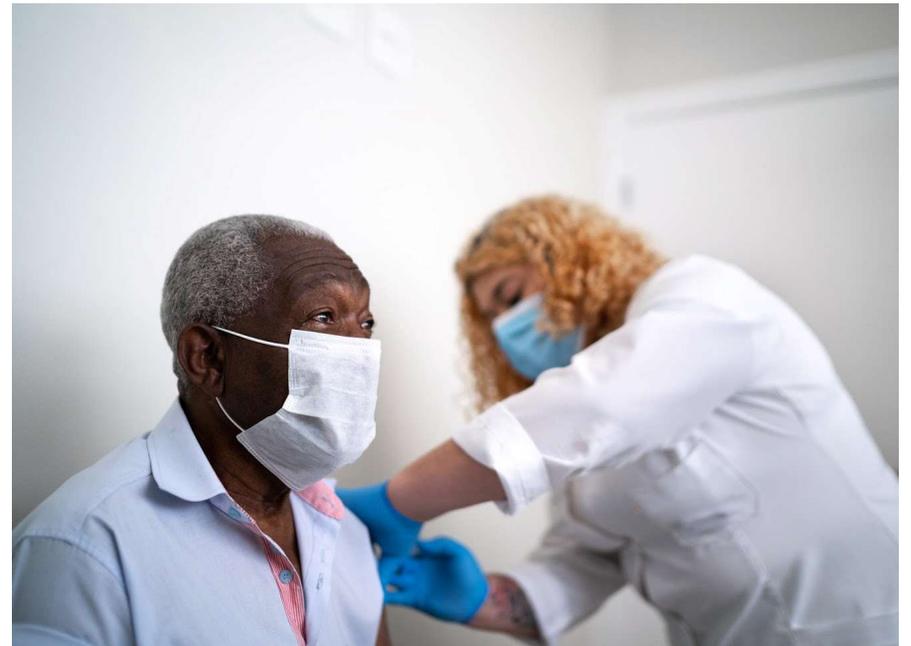
Public Health
Seattle & King County



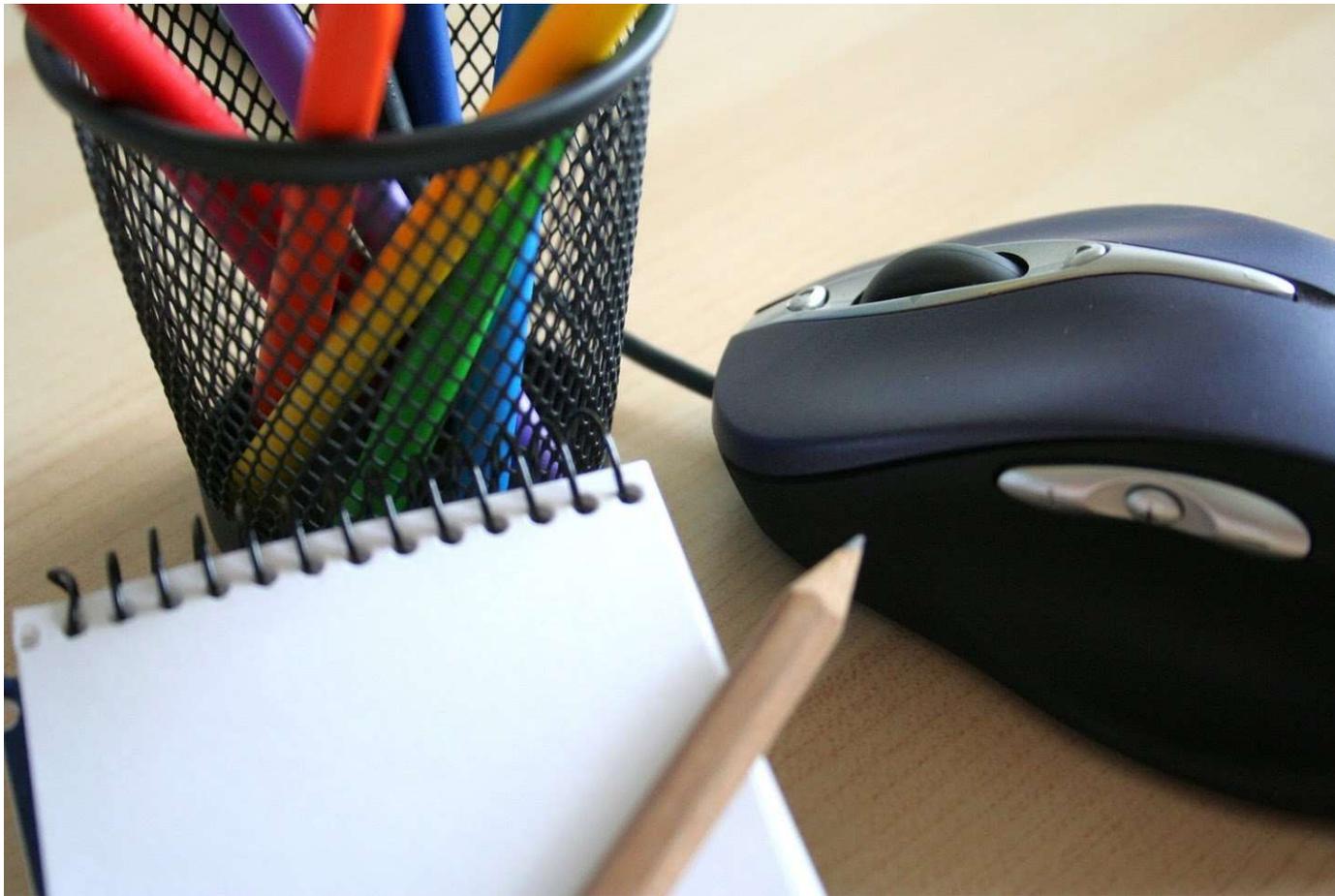
Overview

- *Prevention Division*
- *Community Health Services Division*
- *Other program highlights*
- *Questions*

Prevention COVID-19 Response



Ongoing and Adapted Routine Work



Delays and Challenges



Community Health Services Division

Purpose Statement: “CHS strengthens King County’s safety net services and partnerships to deliver equitable and responsive care for marginalized communities.”

COVID-19 Response - since Jan. 2020:

- approx. 290 CHS employees redeployed to COVID-19 response; many temporary employees hired
- New services include HEART, MAT, I&Q, Testing
- Existing programs adapt/pivot
- Currently planning to implement high-volume (with DCHS as operational lead) and mobile COVID-19 vaccination strategies

CHS COVID-19 Response: New Services

HEART – Health Engagement Action Resource Team

- [Homeless service sites and encampments](#) (hygiene, sanitation, infection prevention/control)
- [Proactive and reactive](#): respond to positive COVID cases; on-site [clinical assessment](#), provide [education and training](#) to prevent further transmission
- Rapid referral to isolation and quarantine
- Nurses and Environmental Health staff

Isolation & Quarantine Medical Services

- DCHS oversees operations; CHS provides medical services
- For people who [cannot isolate or quarantine at home](#), including people experiencing homelessness, due to COVID19 infection or exposure
- Currently 3 locations – Issaquah, Aurora, and Kent
- Approx. 2,000 people have used these sites to isolate and quarantine

Mobile Assessment Team (testing)

- [On-site COVID-19 testing](#) homeless sites and encampments; senior congregate settings
- Reactive testing at sites with confirmed positive cases
- Proactive testing in high-risk homeless service sites
- Rapid referral to isolation and quarantine
- Nurses and Community Health Workers

No Barrier COVID-19 Testing

- 6 high-volume testing sites perform 500 to 1,200 tests daily, 6 days/week
- Auburn, Bellevue, Federal Way, Highline, Renton, Tukwila
- Key partners: HealthPoint, International Community Health Services, CHI Franciscan, Puget Sound Regional Fire, labs (UW, Atlas Genomics, Altius)
- Enumclaw - three/times weekly
- Downtown Public Health Center – Mon.-Fri.

CHS Adapts Service Delivery in Response to COVID-19

- March - May 2020 – **all CHS programs pivot delivery of essential services** (with changing guidance from CDC, WA-DOH, and funders). Repeat numerous times.
- Many employees begin **telecommuting** (when jobs permitted and/or those at high-risk). CHS provides laptops, other equipment, technical assistance, and new workflows/procedures.
- **Infection control measures** at all Public Health Centers/sites – PPE; social distancing; reduced # of in-person visits; screening clients/patients before they enter; physical screens/barriers.
- Introduce **telephone and/or video visits** in all PHC programs – Primary Care, Dental, Family Planning, and Parent Child Health/WIC. (More than 85% of Parent Child Health Health/WIC visits are currently by phone or video. In Primary Care and Family Planning, up to 20% of visits are phone or video.)
- **Services delivered in new ways** to meet patient needs, such as delivery of pharmaceuticals and lab specimen drop-off services.
- From March 16 – May 19, **Clinical Dental services shut down** (except emergencies) due to pandemic and DOH/Governor’s mandate. Most dental employees redeployed in COVID response. Starting in late May, Dental Program implements a three-phased reopening with increased visits and procedure types at each phase.

CHS Adapts Service Delivery

Due to COVID-19, PHC programs had reduced visits in 2020:

Program	Number of visits 2019	Number of visits 2020	Percent Decrease
Primary Care	44,493	37,162	16%
Dental	37,057	22,685	39%
Family Planning	9,505	7,292	23%
Parent Child Health	44,943	37,162	16%

Demand for services is rebounding:

- **WIC:** caseload increased by almost 12% from Dec. 2019 (19,434) to Oct. 2020 (21,732) (the most recent month available)
- **Parent Child Health:** monthly visits rebounded to 2019 levels by the last half of 2020, reversing the decline in the first half of the year.
- **Dental:** Due to cessation of many dental procedures and phased reopening, there is great demand and appointments are booked out further than acceptable levels. Now in the Phase 3 reopening, the program is providing about 75% of its pre-COVID visits.
- **Primary Care & Family Planning:** During the last five months of 2020, in-person visits increased. There is especially greater demand for adult Primary Care at the Eastgate Public Health Center.

CHS Adapts Service Delivery

Parent Child Health redesign – implementation delayed but on track

- Increased **field visits** on-hold (guidelines developed for in-person visits during the pandemic)
- **Four Regional Teams** established; two new community locations (Skyway and High Point), for a total of 23 sites.
- With 6 community partners, CHS developed the new **Family Ways program**; implementation starts Q2 2021, w/focus on groups experiencing the most persistent racial birth disparities: African Americans, Indigenous People, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders.

CHS Partnership Programs also pivot service delivery:

- **Access and Outreach:** Many enrollment services through telephone/video visits. In-person access at King Street Center and Federal Way Storefront. Also holding virtual and in-person Open Enrollment events.
- **Health Care for the Homeless Network** (including Mobile Medical Programs): Focus on COVID response and continuing health services for people experiencing homelessness.
- **School-Based Health and Child Care Health:** Providing mix of virtual and in-person visits (including childhood and flu vaccinations). School-based health center services including behavioral health and reproductive health services; creatively providing education/support to caregivers & teachers through telephone/video and social media.
- **BSK Home Visiting and Parent/Caregiver Support:** Supporting contracted community organizations to pivot services to families primarily through telephonic visits and connection to resources.

Other Program Highlights

- **Environmental Health: Safe Start for Taverns and Restaurants (SSTAR) Program**
- **APDE: Food Security Assistance Program**