

# Bollinger County Health Center

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## Health Center Personnel

<u>Juanita Welker</u>	<u>Administrator</u>
<u>Lucy Welker</u>	<u>Administrative Office Support Assistant</u>
<u>Amanda Thiele</u>	<u>Administrative Office Support Assistant</u>
<u>Betsy VanGennip</u>	<u>Office Support Assistant</u>
<u>Stephanie Wall</u>	<u>Office Support Assistant</u>
<u>Bethany Friese</u>	<u>Office Support Assistant</u>
<u>Amber Mock</u>	<u>Public Health Nurse</u>
<u>Julie Elfrink</u>	<u>Public Health Nurse</u>
<u>Emily McCormick</u>	<u>Public Health Nurse</u>
<u>Erin Cook</u>	<u>Public Health Nurse</u>
<u>Kylee Jones</u>	<u>Public Health Nurse</u>
<u>Shelby Mills</u>	<u>Nutritionist, Health Educator</u>
<u>Katherine Lindsey</u>	<u>Nutritionist, Health Educator</u>
<u>Amanda Koch</u>	<u>Registered Dietician, Health Educator</u>
<u>Cortney Cox-Rodgers</u>	<u>Breastfeeding Peer Counselor</u>
<u>Blair Reagan</u>	<u>Breastfeeding Peer Counselor</u>
<u>Kevin S. Cooper</u>	<u>Emergency Health Planner, Environmental Public Health Specialist</u>

## County Commissioners

<u>Leo Arnzen</u>	<u>Presiding Commissioner</u>
<u>Tim Shelby</u>	<u>Southern Commissioner</u>
<u>Chad Hulvey</u>	<u>Northern Commissioner</u>

# Bollinger County Health Center 2021 Annual Report



573-238-2817



[www.bollingercountyhealth.org](http://www.bollingercountyhealth.org)



107 Hwy 51 North Marble Hill MO



## From the Administrator...

On behalf of the Bollinger County Health Center Board of Trustees and staff, I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report. For the second year in a row, COVID-19 response was the activity requiring the most time of our staff members. However, our focus shifted towards education and prevention, which included on-site delivery of COVID-19 immunizations as the vaccine became more readily available at the beginning of 2021. Late in the year, we began offering COVID-19 testing. Our facility was set up for drive-thru vaccinations and a separate testing spot. This allowed for the increase in services while allowing clients to stay in their vehicles, thus minimizing possible exposure to staff and clients, as well as allowing for greater numbers to receive services.

Key partners in COVID-19 prevention and response were the Bollinger County Commissioners. They saw the need for funding for staff, supplies, and equipment, and graciously allocated CARES Act Funds to the Health Center. These funds assisted in updating the mobile Medical Reserve Corp trailer to allow off site immunizations and testing. This funding will continue supporting the Health Center's mission of service to Bollinger County residents for many years in the future, and will ensure equipment and opportunities are available for staff to interact, communicate, and train with other local, regional, and state partner organizations.

While 2021 was a stressful year, the Health Center Board of Trustees and employees worked together providing guidance to prevent, promote, and protect the health of residents and visitors of Bollinger County.

Respectfully submitted,



Juanita Welker  
Administrator



The Heroes Award, presented by Duayne Williams to Bollinger County Health Center Administrator Juanita Welker.

## Annual Financial Report

Bollinger County Health Center					2021	
Agency Fiscal Year					Previous Year Ending Balance	
From:	Through:					
January 1 2021	December 31 2021			\$149,760.98		
<b>Local Revenues</b>		<b>DHSS Revenues</b>		<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Other</b>
Local Taxes	\$37,770.64	Core Public Health			\$18,628.06	
Interest	\$2,343.45	MCH		\$17,992.09		
Vital Records	\$26,278.00	School Health				
Donations	\$634.00	WIC Administration		\$73,982.44		
Fees	\$664.00	Child Care Inspections		\$70.00		
Other Total (attach detail)	\$20,303.56	Child Care Nurse Consultant		\$5,184.08		
<b>Total Local Revenue</b>	<b>\$423,993.65</b>	AIDS Funding				
<b>Other Revenues</b>		PHEP		\$18,611.53		
Medicaid/MCR (non Home Health)	\$7,356.85	BCCCP/Show Me Healthy Women		\$2,296.22	\$806.78	
Medicare (non Home Health)	\$21,374.50	Chronic Disease Prevention				
Family Planning Title X, etc.		Worksite Inventory				
Other MO Departments (DOC, DISE, etc.)		Immunizations/Vaccine				
Insurance Billing	\$47,048.04	Other DHSS Total (attach detail)	\$425,312.16	\$40,969.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Public Health Revenue Total (attach detail)	\$11,751.32	<b>Total DHSS Revenue</b>	<b>\$543,448.52</b>	<b>\$60,403.84</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Home Health (all pymt. sources)		<b>TOTAL REVENUE \$ (from all sources)</b>				<b>\$1,242,227.41</b>
Other Non-Public Health Revenue Total (attach detail)	\$126,850.69					
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>\$214,381.40</b>	Annual Basis Adjustment (+/-)				\$14,292.97
<b>Balance on hand as of the close of the fiscal year.</b>						<b>\$226,474.52</b>
<i>(Balance at the end of previous fiscal year, plus revenues, minus expenditures)</i>						
<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Expenditures from Local Funds</b>				
Salaries/Wages	\$521,730.34	<b>Total Expenditures</b>				<b>\$1,179,806.84</b>
Fringe Benefits	\$141,259.62	Less actual expenditure of DHSS funds.				\$603,852.36
Supplies/Equipment	\$79,210.10	Less actual expenditure of other source funds.				\$214,381.40
Contracted Services	\$43,393.23	Less actual expenditure for Capital costs.				\$210,567.81
Travel	\$4,121.71					
Utilities/Rent	\$18,265.78					
Capital Expenditures	\$210,567.81					
Other Total (attach detail)	\$161,258.25					
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,179,806.84</b>	<b>TOTAL LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE \$</b>				<b>\$151,005.27</b>
Report completed by (Name, Title)	Juanita Welker				Date:	4/5/2022
<b>Local Revenues</b>		<b>DHSS Revenues</b>		<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Other</b>
Other (source)	Amount	Other (source)	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
Private Pay Immunization	\$5,193.79	CHIP		\$40,969.00		
Contract Services	\$14,609.77	Increasing Adult Vacc	\$3,022.93			
Home State Health Grants	\$500.00	LPHA COVID-19 & Adult ELC CARES Act	\$71,263.01			
		CARES Act	\$224,876.23			
Other Local Revenue Total	\$20,303.56	Other DHSS Revenue Total	\$425,312.16	\$40,969.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Other Revenues</b>		<b>Expenditures</b>				
Other (source)	Amount	Other	Amount			
Other Public Health Revenue		Meeting, Training & Con	\$276.91			
Grants:		Maintenance & Repairs	\$13,049.97			
Federal (HRSA, etc)		Insurance	\$14,750.99			
WEARS	\$2,900.00	Lab & Other Testing	\$2,015.97			
HCFQKC		Fees	\$24,821.33			
Childrens Trust Fund		Computer & Consulting	\$7,175.57			
Other Grants		Vaccine	\$94,542.60			
Misc Public Health Revenue	\$8,851.32	Misc Expenses	\$220.91			
Other PH Rev. Total	\$11,751.32	Fiber Internet Expense	\$4,404.00			
Other Non-Public Health Revenue		<b>Other Expenditure Total</b>	<b>\$161,258.25</b>			
Hospice (all pymt. sources)		<b>Comments:</b>				
Primary Care (all pymt. sources)		Misc Non-Public Health Revenue includes the following:				
Misc Non-Public Health Revenue	\$126,850.69	1. FEMA 2 4490DR-MO Grant: \$49,646.69				
Other Non-PH Rev. Total	\$126,850.69	2. Idemia Fingerprinting Services: \$22.00				
		3. PPP loan: 76,382.00				

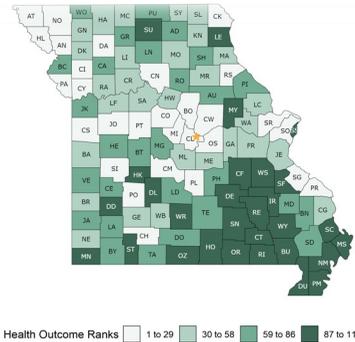
## Health Highlights for Bollinger County

**County Health Rankings:** Bollinger County ranked 66 out of 115 counties on health outcomes in 2021. Residents have an overall lower quality of life compared to other counties in the state (ranked 79 out of 115). Bollinger County has average rates for poor mental and physical health days. Bollinger County was ranked 109 out of 115 counties for health behaviors. The county has a higher than average rate of adult physical inactivity (32%) and smoking (27%). Additionally, access to

exercise opportunities is lower than the state average at 26%. Sixteen percent of Bollinger County residents are uninsured, compared to 11% of Missouri residents. The county also has a higher-than-state teen pregnancy rate (29 per 1,000 female residents age 15-19). The percentage of children in Bollinger County living in poverty is 21% compared to 17% statewide. However, there are fewer children

living in single parent households in the county (13% in Bollinger, 25% in Missouri).

\*The image below as well as all information and more can be found at: [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)\*



### Vital Records

Bollinger County Health Center provides certified copies of Birth and Death Certificates. This service is available through the Missouri Department of Health, Bureau of

Vital Records. Birth certificates are \$15 per copy for births after 1920. Death certificates are \$14.00 per copy for deaths occurring after 1980. In 2021, the Health

Center fulfilled 1,825 death certificate requests and 530 birth certificate requests for a total of 2,355.

### Emergency Response

The Health Center continued its mission of disaster preparedness by planning, training and coordinating with other county, state and federal partners. Our Emergency Health Planner has been in the position for 1 year. During this time, he strengthened relationships with partner agencies by coordinating resources, personnel, and sup-

plies to ensure emergency response plans are inclusive for all Bollinger County residents. These duties were in direct conjunction with Bollinger County Emergency Management and Medical Reserve Corp unit #1033. Health Center staff participated in various levels of emergency response drills, exercises, and trainings in 2021.

These included the Great American Shakeout, as well as state and regional health directed exercises. Health Center staff are integral participants in disaster response, as information in disease management and medical countermeasures is paramount to other county emergency responders.

## Environmental Public Health

The Environmental Public Health Specialist (EPHS) inspects school cafeterias, restaurants, taverns, retail grocery, retail food, daycares, head start facilities, and lodging establishments within the county. The EPHS is also responsible for follow-up with complaints made about all of these establishments, as well as private sewage complaints. During the past year, there were 34 food establishment inspections conducted based on their risk assessment to prevent food-related illnesses. There are currently six daycares inspected annually for safety and sanitary issues.

Hotels/motels, if licensed, are inspected annually to ensure public safety. Based on the violations and findings, some of the businesses undergo multiple rounds of re-inspections until they conform to health and safety guidelines. All facilities inspected by the EPHS, if using private wells, have water samples collected from them at least annually to assure safe drinking standards. Water samples from private wells may also be collected when requested. This sample collection is provided free of charge as a public service to county residents. However, a nominal pro-

cessing fee to the Missouri state laboratory is required on all samples for private individuals. In 2021, 73 water samples were collected and sent to the state lab via the courier system. Onsite sewage permits are provided via Department of Health and Senior Services by calling 573-751-6095. Sewage complaints are investigated locally, with findings reported to state DHSS, and subsequent violations issued by the EPHS. All violations are required to be corrected under current state law. There were 9 sewage complaint visits conducted in 2021.

### CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Training is available through the MRC when requested on an as-needed basis. School districts, religious institutions, and civic organizations have all previously received this

instruction. The 24-hour training covers disaster preparedness, terrorism, disaster fire suppression, light search and rescue operations, disaster medical operations, disas-

ter simulation, disaster psychology, and team organization. This training gives the community an opportunity to be better prepared to survive a catastrophic disaster.



## Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The mission of the MRC is to engage volunteers in efforts to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency. CPR/ First Aid training classes are available through the MRC. Bollinger County has had a Medical Reserve Corps since the founding of Unit #1033 on February 15th, 2007. Its primary reason for establishment was to assist our county's Local Public Health Agency in emergency operations and events when the needs of our

community exceed on-hand resources. MRC members have been of great assistance with the implementation of mass treatments, including the use of National Strategic Stockpile assets, the administration of Influenza vaccinations, and the distribution of Health Education information at local events. The most important work MRC members undertook in 2021 was their assistance with the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

We were able to continue modifications to the MRC trailer/mobile clinic in 2021, thereby increasing availability and expanding our capability to take services to other locations within Bollinger County. By becoming a more regional asset via grant opportunities and the coordinated efforts of other MRC units within region E of Southeast Missouri, these much-needed capabilities have continued to expand services to our citizens.



The MRC mobile trailer set up at Bollinger County Health Center for a drive-thru vaccination clinic.

Health Center nurses Amber Mock and Kylee Jones, along with partnering health care workers, fill syringes inside the MRC mobile clinic at the mass vaccination event sponsored by the State of Missouri/Missouri National Guard.



## Show Me Healthy Women and Wise-Woman

Early detection saves lives! Missouri women between the ages of 35 and 65 are at risk for certain cancers. Many cannot afford to get screened for early detection. Show Me Healthy Women is a free breast and cervical cancer screening program funded by the state of Missouri. In conjunction with Show Me

Healthy Women, the WISE-WOMAN program is offered to measure the cardiovascular and diabetes risks a woman faces. Women are screened for high blood sugar, diabetes, cholesterol levels, blood pressure, height, weight, and BMI. Education received can help each woman make an individual plan to set reasona-

ble goals, reduce her risks, and improve her health. These services are offered at no cost, and clients can call the Health Center to see if they qualify. We were unable to conduct Show Me Healthy Women and WISE-WOMAN services in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions, but had 19 participants in 2021.

### Walk-in Services

Though the office was closed to the public through most of 2021 due to the COVID-19, most walk-in services were still offered curbside and by appointment.

SARS-CoV-2 Investigations	1025	STD Tests	51
Blood Pressure Checks	32	Vision and Hearing Tests	0
Blood Sugar Checks	27	Other Injections	85
Hemoglobin A1C Levels	26	Show Me Healthy Women Visits	11
Hemoglobin Measurements	167	Pregnancy Tests	22
Cholesterol Checks	22	PPD Tests	81
Lead Screenings	117	Health Education Services	2,328

### Accepted Insurances

Cigna/Aetna	Medicare B	Medicare Railroad
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield	Humana	United Healthcare
Coventry	Medicaid (United Healthcare, Healthy Blue, and Home State Health)	UMR

\*Provider list and benefits subject to change

## Health Education Services

### Youth Tobacco Prevention:

Though the Youth Tobacco Prevention grant is no longer available, the Health Center continued to provide technical assistance to the schools. In 2021, The Health Center participated in Meadow Heights' annual anti-tobacco health fair by providing education and activities about the dangers of tobacco.

### Nutrition/Health Education:

At the Health Center, nutrition and health education services are provided as requested. Materials are provided at the annual Bollinger County Resource Fair, Bollinger County Fall Festival, Back to School Fair, and other events as requested. Representation is provided for school health boards and various area coalitions. The Health Center's Facebook page is utilized to distribute nutrition education to the community. Regular presentations for Community Counseling Center's Psycho-Social-Rehab were given until March of 2021. Classes were cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic.

**MCH:** The Maternal Child Health grant is a federal program dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families. In 2021, Health Center staff completed efforts on the 3-year work plan. The priority health is-

sues in Bollinger County were to prevent or decrease smoking among women of child-bearing age and pregnant women, and to prevent and reduce obesity among children and adolescents ages 6-17. In order to decrease the number of parental women who smoke, smoking cessation education and referrals were provided at WIC prenatal visits to women who were smoking. The results concluded that 28% of the prenatal women quit smoking. In order to reduce obesity among children and adolescents, Health Center staff performed height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) measurements at the four county schools. 1-2-3-4-5 Fit-Tastic education was distributed at the annual Bollinger County Resource Fair and at the Back to School Fair. The Fit-Tastic framework encourages a healthy, active lifestyle for children.

The Fit-Tastic program was developed to assist children and parents understand the importance of healthy habits that begin early in life.

The MCH grant will continue with a new 5-year work plan for 2022-2026. The priority healthy issue is to reduce obesity among children and adolescents ages 6-11 to impact the percent-

age of those in excellent or very good health.

### Childcare Health Consulta-

**tion:** The services of a Public Health Nurse trained in child care consultation are offered to all licensed, license exempt, and non-regulated child care providers within Bollinger County. One Head Start program, one licensed preschool, three licensed family-group providers, one license-exempt preschool, one license-exempt religious organization, and one license-exempt home provider were served in 2021. Though social distancing guidelines presented challenges, there were 12 Children's Health Promotion Presentations, 1 Health Issue Training, and 2 technical consults completed. A total number of 171 children were impacted by these services in 2021.



PHN Emily McCormick conducts a CCHC parachute activity at a local child care facility.

## FEMA Safe Room

The community safe room portion of our facility has been operational for slightly over one year (completed in April of 2020). Now, residents and visitors located within the Tornado Protection Zone (TPZ) of Marble Hill may take refuge at the shelter whenever a Tornado WARNING is issued. An on-call group of staff and community volunteers stand ready to open the shelter if a Tornado WARNING is issued. The safe room is designed and operated following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards. For this type of facility, the intended operation is for short duration stays, under two hours, or until the Tornado WARNING has passed. Individuals having long-term sheltering needs will be directed to a different type of facility where those greater duration stays can be achieved.



## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC is a supplemental nutrition education program that helps mothers and young children eat well and stay healthy. Women, Infants, and Children who meet income guidelines may go to any WIC provider in the State of Missouri to apply for WIC benefits. Income

guidelines are established by the United States Department of Agriculture. WIC provides breastfeeding education and support; nutrition and health education, referrals, health screenings; and funds to buy nutritious foods. The WIC program is very active in Bol-

linger County, with 2,880 client contacts in 2021. Eight clinic days are set aside each month to serve WIC clients.

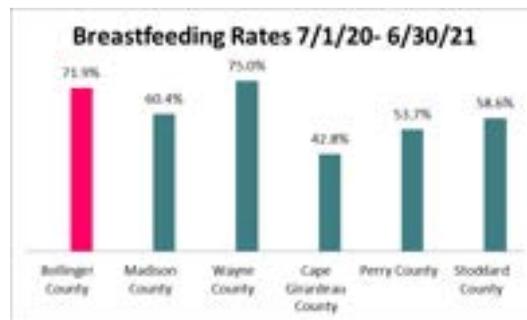
Number of Participants	
Women	682
Infants	683
Children	1,515

## Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program

The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program provides breastfeeding education and support to WIC participants. The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BFPC) teaches breastfeeding classes monthly, as well as hosts a quarterly support group. The BFPC also provides one-on-one counseling to moms. The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program loans both manual and electric breast pumps. The Health Center's BFPC made 184 contacts to prenatal and breastfeeding WIC participants in 2021. Breastfeeding initiation rates for fiscal year

2021 were 71.9%, which was above the State average of 68.8%. Breastfeeding duration rates were 19.1% at 6 months and 12.9% at 12 months. The Bollinger County WIC Program also received recognition as a "Breastfeeding Friendly WIC Clinic" for the eleventh year in a row, and was recognized as a Missouri Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite. The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

Program is coordinated by the WIC Nutritionist.



## Safe Cribs for Missouri

The Safe Cribs for Missouri program has continued at the Health Center under the direction of the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services. This program is funded through the State of Missouri and allows portable cribs to be made available to clients in

need of one. Clients must meet certain financial eligibility requirements set by the State of Missouri to receive one of these cribs. Requirements also include clients be at least 35 weeks gestation or have an infant less than 3 months old at the time of crib

application. Referrals and crib delivery are completed by Public Health Nurses employed at the Health Center. This program also requires office and/or home visits by a Public Health Nurse that includes education on child safety and safe sleep.

## COVID-19 & Adult Vaccination Supplemental

It became clear through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that many adults were not aware of all the vaccines recommended for them. Many adults were eager to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when it became available, and this opened the opportunity for further education about adult immunizations. The CDC partnered with state agencies to develop the COVID-19 & Adult Vaccination Supple-

mental (CAVS) program to give Local Public Health Agencies the necessary support to increase education and vaccination opportunities. Through CAVS, the Health Center was able to increase opportunities for adults to receive the vaccines they need. While the CAVS program's main focus is on COVID-19 and influenza immunization, it still gives the Health Center a foundation to expand on other

recommended adult vaccines. Through the CAVS program, the Health Center is now able to offer non-traditional vaccine clinics, once a month. These include off-site, non-Wednesday, and after-hours clinics. Several of these non-traditional clinic days were offered in 2021 to ensure that, regardless of their schedule, any adult was able to receive their recommended vaccines.



Vehicles line up at Bollinger County Health Center to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during a drive-thru clinic.



Vehicles wait under the nurse's tent as vaccines are prepared at their supply cart.



## Communicable Disease

### General Information:

According to the CDC, tick and mosquito-borne illnesses increased three-fold between 2004 and 2016. Nine new diseases spread by ticks and mosquitos have been discovered since 2004, including Zika in mosquitos and Heartland and Bourbon viruses in ticks. These diseases cause flu-like symptoms, and respond well to medical treatment if diagnosed early. Our agency gets many Hepatitis C reports. No vaccine exists yet to prevent Hepatitis C, but a large portion of infections now respond to recently-developed treatment. The Health Center provides Hepatitis C screenings at no charge through Hepatitis C Alliance. It is imperative to test any adult who has not yet received a negative test result.

### Sexually Transmitted

**Disease:** Public health nurses at Bollinger County Health Center provide no-cost screenings for chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, and Syphilis. Treatment is provided at no cost to clients with chlamydia and gonorrhea. Cases of HIV and Syphilis are handled by Missouri Department of Health staff and referred to specialists in our area. Approximately 50 patients

were seen for STD screening and/or testing at Bollinger County Health Center last year. Chlamydia was the most frequently reported sexually transmitted illness in Bollinger County in 2021.

**Tuberculosis:** The Health Center also conducts investigations and follow-up on all positive tuberculosis testing done on site or reported by another entity. Public Health Nurses provide case management services for Latent TB Infection (not contagious) and active TB Disease (contagious). Free TB screenings are offered at Bollinger County Health Center on Wednesdays and other week days by appointment. This skin test is placed one day, and results are determined 48 to 72 hours later. There are currently no active or latent TB cases in Bollinger County.

**Rabies:** Public health nurses investigate animal bite incidents to determine the risk of rabies transmission for the victims. Rabies is a deadly viral illness typically transmitted to humans through a bite from an infected animal. Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) treatment is available for individuals who may have been exposed to a rabid animal. There were no confirmed cases of rabies

disease in animal or human reported for Bollinger County in 2021. However, 38 individuals were reported to be victims of animal bites in 2021. **Pet vaccination against rabies by a licensed veterinarian remains the best protection from human exposure to rabies.**

**Surveillance:** Bollinger County Health Center receives weekly reports from daycares, schools, and a local long-term care facility on the number of adverse health conditions noted in attendees, residents, or clients. The communicable disease nurse reviews this information to help determine incidence, prevalence, and potential outbreak risks. We also receive mandated reports on conditions in our county from other entities such as labs, medical providers, hospitals, and the Missouri Department of Health. Investigations are done by the nurses with interventions as necessary to protect and promote the health of Bollinger County residents. Influenza is a reportable condition for all counties. According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bollinger County received a total of 65 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in 2021.

## Staff Pictures Cont.



### Staff Pictures



### Communicable Disease Cont.

Due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, weekly surveillance activities have been suspended at this time. Ongoing COVID-19 surveillance has been very challenging for all health-related entities in our region, including Bollinger County Health Center. We have recorded and submitted 2,236 cases of this novel, ever-changing viral illness to EpiTrax surveillance system, as well as 34 deaths in Bollinger County since the start of the pandemic.

**COVID-19:** The new year saw the COVID-19 pandemic continue into 2021. With the possibility of a COVID-19 vaccine on the horizon, the nurses worked to develop a plan for when it would become available for citizens. Bollinger County Health Center held its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Through the bitter

cold, staff members were able to vaccinate 200 individuals from our county and surrounding communities. Two mass vaccination clinics, sponsored by the State of Missouri and National Guard, were held in February and March at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Leopold, MO. The Health Center continues to offer COVID-19 vaccines every Wednesday by appointment.

COVID-19 cases rose once again in July/August when the Delta variant reached Bollinger County. The Health Center met with local school officials to prepare for the upcoming school year. We were able to host vaccine clinics within the school systems to help protect those eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine. The nurses contin-

ued to support the efforts of the schools by contact tracing positive cases when possible, by answering questions, and by providing guidance and education as needed. The nurses also worked closely with the Bollinger County Sheriff's Office for testing and vaccination needs. With the Omicron variant emerging in late November, the Health Center began to offer testing for the public at no cost. Investigation and contact tracing continued as time allowed.

Education, testing, and vaccination was largely supported through ELC CARES Act funding. This funding has been paramount to Bollinger County Health Center's operations through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



EPHS Kevin Cooper and Sheriff Casey Graham work the check-in table at a Health Center drive-thru clinic.



Office Support Assistants Stephanie Wall and Betsy VanGennip brave the cold at a Health Center drive-thru clinic.

### Mass Vaccination

The Missouri National Guard was deployed to Bollinger County on two occasions to oversee the operation of Mass Vaccination clinics for Missouri residents. These events were a huge success due to the cooperation and working relations with the Bollinger County Sheriff's Department, Missouri Department of Transportation, State Emergency Management Agency, St. Isidore Knights of Columbus Council 5898, Southeast Missouri University student nurses, and other volunteers.



### Mass Vaccination Cont.

