



Last year, 11,176 individuals were trained through food handler classes.

2,128 food sanitation inspections were performed.

Education and Regulation are the Keys to Food Safety

1. The Health Department, in partnership with the Lancaster County Extension Office, developed food safety materials to promote in recognition of September as Food Safety Education Month.
2. A handwashing poster was developed and distributed to schools, WIC clinics, Head Start, grocery stores, nursing homes, City and County offices, and other locations.
3. A promotion for "Cleaning up the Office Refrigerator" included an article, poster and six table tents distributed to WorkWell sites and City/County Offices. The article and materials are available on the extension website (article - 2,110 hits; poster - 4,109 hits; table tents - 7,006 hits).
4. A Food Safety Quiz was distributed at health fairs and senior centers and a special on-line quiz was promoted to UNL students.

FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002

Nebraska - One of Few States to Use Tobacco Settlement Dollars Exclusively for Health Improvement

A portion of Nebraska's tobacco settlement dollars (Legislative Bill 692) is being used by LLCHD to improve the health status of residents in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Programs and services include:

"Lincoln On The Move" to promote physical activity, nutrition, and oral health.

Partnerships with Cedars, Community Learning Centers, the Salvation Army, Good Neighbor Center, and Parks and Recreation (F Street Recreation Center) to provide education, services, and support programs for citizens in the neighborhoods.

Programs to improve local emergency response, manage public health information, and reduce the risk for communicable disease outbreaks in childcare centers.



PUBLIC HEALTH STARTS WITH EFFECTIVE DISEASE CONTROL



West Nile Virus

The Health Department and state health officials had anticipated and prepared for the West Nile Virus reaching Nebraska and Lancaster County in 2002, however, the extent was far greater than expected. Lincoln was the first to report the virus in a dead blue jay, and Lancaster County had the first equine case in Nebraska. An informational brochure was developed and a hot line established to make information available to the public. State health officials provided oversight and worked with the Department on surveillance, which included maintaining four sentinel chicken flocks, collecting of dead crows and blue jays, and trapping of mosquitos.

NEBRASKA (lab positive human cases as of 10/31/02)

- ✓ 115 West Nile Virus cases as of 10/31/02
- ✓ 5 West Nile Virus human fatalities

LANCASTER COUNTY

- ✓ 16 West Nile Virus human cases
- ✓ 1 West Nile Virus human fatalities



Smallpox Activity

The Health Department, in cooperation with federal and state health officials, has developed a mass smallpox vaccination plan that would be used to vaccinate the citizens of Lancaster County in the event of a smallpox outbreak. The smallpox vaccination program will be implemented in phases starting January 2003 beginning with health care providers, first responders and eventually the general public.

Disease Control and Biological Terrorism Preparedness

The Health Department has been improving its capacity to respond to biological terrorism events long before 9-11. Disease Control works collaboratively with local laboratories, the State Public Health Laboratory, physician offices and hospital infection control specialists to assure rapid reporting of positive lab tests or unusual clusters of illness. As a result, 392 epidemiologic investigations were completed. This year the Department was assigned the lead role in the development of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Plan for Lancaster County.



Public Health Emergency Response Vehicle