

Grand Forks Public Health Department

2010 Top Accomplishments

- **Smoke Free Grand Forks – Protecting the Public:** --- Mayor Brown and the Grand Forks City Council passed an expanded smoke-free ordinance on April 5th that protects people in bars, truck stops and moves outdoor smoking to 15 feet from any entrance. The ordinance was implemented August 15, 2010. Noteworthy to mention is that 82% of Grand Forks residents surveyed supported strengthening the local smokefree ordinance to prohibit smoking in ALL workplaces.
- **Restaurant Ratings – Transparent Government:** Numerous citizens' over the past several years have requested that the city publish and allow them access to the health department restaurant inspection ratings. This was implemented in April 2010, and now all inspection ratings are available to the public by accessing the health department web page.
- **Rabies – Protecting the Public:** In March 2010 a dog with rabies was brought to the Grand Forks Humane Society and exposed 21 people and 35 other animals to rabies. A lot of public anxiety over rabies, which is almost 100% fatal, made quick careful response by public health, the Humane Society and Altru Hospital essential to protect the public. People who were at risk were immediately started on rabies vaccine and dogs exposed to rabies were tested or quarantined. **Measuring Success - No further rabies cases were observed.**
- **Protecting the Public - Grand Forks Public Health Vaccinated 6,150 residents for H1N1 “Swine Flu”:** Public Health administered 6,150 H1N1 vaccinations at 16 H1N1 pandemic flu clinics, over a six-month period with assistance from many community partners such as Altru Health System, Grand Forks Schools, and the University of North Dakota College of Nursing.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Grand Forks Public Health nurse **Terri Keehr received the North Dakota Public Health Worker of the Year award.** This is the fourth consecutive year that the Grand Forks Public Health Department staff received this award.
- **Helping New Americans - Refugee Resettlement – Grand Forks Community Interpreter Training** was provided to 23 people (including 17 refugees who had come to Grand Forks in the past three years). Sponsors who made this training possible included Grand Forks Public Health, ARCH Language Services of St. Paul MN, Altru Health System, Calvary Lutheran Church, UND Center for Community Engagement, and the Grand Forks Immigrant Integration Initiative.
- **Free Flu Shots for Kids – Protecting Kids:** The Grand Forks Public Health Department in collaboration with the Grand Forks Public Schools' provided free flu vaccinations to 1,600 students in 23 Grand Forks County schools during November 2010.
- **Protecting the Public - Mosquitoes *Measuring success* - Citizens get relief from Mosquitoes in 2010** --- In spite of a very wet summer, the 2010 Mosquito Control Program resulted in few mosquitoes and a no West Nile virus cases in Grand Forks this past summer. In addition, the program added a quick testing laboratory for fast identification and therefore fast elimination of disease carrying mosquitoes in Grand Forks. **Todd Hanson's** superb mosquito control efforts are recognized throughout the state. Grand Forks hosted over 100 attendees at the 2010 North Central Mosquito Control Association annual conference held at the Grand Forks Public Safety Center.