Fact Sheet

North Dakota Public Health Unit Response to COVID-19

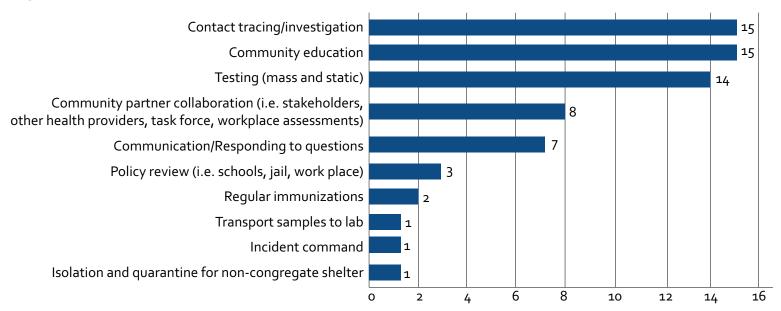
Kylie Nissen, SORH Program Director, Center for Rural Health

North Dakota local public health units (LPHUs) were emailed a survey in July 2020. The majority of the survey asked them about technical assistance needs, but given the climate at the time, they were also asked to indicate what role their LPHU had in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an open-ended question. The results have been summarized and categorized into ten categories (see Chart 1 and Figure 1). Sixteen of the 28 public health units in North Dakota responded to the survey.

Chart 1. North Dakota Local Public Health Unit's Roles in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Response Type	# of LPHUs
Contact tracing/investigation	15
Community education	15
Testing (mass and static)	14
Community partner collaboration (i.e. stakeholders, other health providers, task force, workplace assessments)	8
Communication/responding to questions	7
Policy review (i.e. schools, jail, work place)	3
Administer regular immunizations	2
Transport samples to lab	1
Incident command	1
Isolation and quarantine for non-congregate shelter	1

Figure 1. North Dakota Local Public Health Unit's Roles in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Summary

The LPHUs in North Dakota have had varying roles in assisting their service areas in response to COVID-19. Nearly all of the respondents, 15 of the 16 LPHUs that completed the survey, have performed contact tracing and investigations, and conducted community education. COVID-19 testing was completed by 88% of the responding LPHUs. These COVID-19 responses are ongoing as the pandemic continues to impact our state, our country, and the world.

For More Information

Kylie Nissen, BBA, Program Director

701.777.5380 • kylie.nissen@und.edu

Center for Rural Health

University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences 1301 North Columbia Road, Stop 9037, Suite E231 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037 701.777.3848 ruralhealth.und.edu

