

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE to: Columbus Telegram; Columbus News Team; Boone County News; Mundo Latino; Nance County Journal; Buenos Dias NE**

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**LOCAL FLOOD RESPONSE**

Columbus, NE March 20, 2019

Over the past seven days, East Central District Health Department (ECDHD) has coordinated with local and state agencies to provide shelter, information and health services to persons in Boone, Colfax, Nance and Platte counties who have been affected by the recent widespread flooding. East Central District Health Department is a state-approved district health department that provides public health services to its four-county service area of Platte, Colfax, Boone, and Nance Counties in Nebraska.

On Thursday, March 14, while flood waters continued to rise, ECDHD Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator Tyler Woodard was meeting with his team to begin the implementation of an incident response plan. As their first action, ECDHD's Incident Command Team set up a shelter in the agency's FEMA room at 4321 41<sup>st</sup> Ave. in Columbus. This was a designated emergency shelter, capable of holding up to 30 persons for up to 72 hours. On Friday, March 15, ECDHD employees loaded a large flatbed truck with donated supplies they had collected, including water, personal care items and hand sanitizer. These supplies were delivered to the nearby town of Fullerton, which was without water.

Now that flood waters have begun to recede and clean-up efforts are getting underway, ECDHD will be providing a variety of public health services to area residents including:

- Tetanus immunization clinics. Tetanus boosters will be provided through special mass immunization clinics set up in Columbus, Schuyler and St. Edward. Other clinics will be set up as needed in the flooded areas.
- Water test kits. These free kits are available to the public. Please call the Environmental Health Coordinator at ECDHD, (402) 562-7500 ext. 266 for more information on how to get and use your test kit.

ECDHD's Mission is to complement community health services in order to make a positive difference in the quality of life to all individuals and families. Its vision is to improve the health and well-being of our community. ECDHD has and will continue to work with its many community partners to assist our counties as they recover from the effects of the flood.

For more information about ECDHD and any of its programs, please contact Julie McClure, Director of Communication and Public Information Officer for ECDHD at (402) 562-7500.

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