

2019 Annual Report

West Windsor Township Health Department



West Windsor Township



Robbinsville Township



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Borough of Hightstown

A REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

West Windsor Township
Robbinsville Township
Hightstown Borough

GOVERNANCE



West Windsor Township 2019

Hemant Marathe, Mayor

Council and Board of Health Members

Alison Miller, President

Yingchao "YZ" Zhang, Vice President

Linda Geever

Ayesha Hamilton

Virginia Manzari

Administration

Marlena Schmid, Business Administrator/Director, Health & Human Services

GOVERNANCE



Robbinsville Township 2019

David Fried, Mayor

Council and Board of Health Members

Ron Witt, President

Dan Schuberth, Vice President

Vincent J. Calcagno

Christine Ciaccio

Mike Cipriano

Administration

Joy Tozzi, Business Administrator

GOVERNANCE



Hightstown Borough 2019

Lawrence D. Quattrone, Mayor

Borough Council

Charles Stults, President

Susan Bluth

Joshua Jackson

Steven Misiura

Patrica Egan, Board of Health Liaison (January – November)

Dimitri Musing

Joe Cicalese, Board of Health Liaison (November – December)

Board of Health

Nancy Distelcamp, President

Walt Hewitt, Vice President

Jennifer Bernal

Edyth Duffy

Skye Gilmartin

Dr. John Laudenberg

Elizabeth Morley

Deb Napolitano

Jean Ray

Board of Health Secretary – Robert Gilmartin

Administration

Debra Sopronyi, Business Administrator

Overview of Public Health Services

West Windsor Township Health Department provides public health services to the communities of West Windsor, Robbinsville and Hightstown through municipal shared services agreements. West Windsor Township is the primary employer while each community is governed under a separate Board of Health. The services and programs offered reflect mandates established in the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, N.J.A.C. 8:52 and the specific needs of each community. The Health Department is administered by the Health Officer with the support of the Public Health Nurse, Manager of Environmental Health Services and several Registered Environmental Health Specialists. Clerical support is provided by full-time professionals in the Health Department. In addition, Robbinsville Township and Hightstown Borough designate clerical staff to assist in Board of Health functions such as licensing and vital statistics. Throughout 2019, the professional services of a Health Educator and Clinic Physician were provided by contractual professionals. The West Windsor Health Department provides full time coverage for public health functions to the community and is available for emergency response 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The Department is located at 271 Clarksville Road in West Windsor Township. The Health Officer and inspectors perform numerous types of investigations, compliance inspections, meetings, and conferences on a routine basis. The Health Officer and inspector travel throughout the three communities on a daily basis to provide services and meet with residents. The professional staff are licensed by the State of New Jersey and are required to attend trainings regularly to maintain annual continuing education credits on a variety of public health topics.

The Health Department is accountable directly to the Board of Health and to Township and Borough administrations. West Windsor and Robbinsville Townships have Boards of Health which are composed of the members of Township Councils. The Hightstown Board of Health is an autonomous Board composed of volunteer members of the community. Members are appointed by the Mayor with advice and consent of Council. The Board of Health makes policy decisions, appoints staff, reviews reports prepared by the professional staff and passes ordinances which are deemed necessary to protect the health of the community. Board of Health meetings are open public meetings and are scheduled periodically throughout the year.

Health Department Vision, Mission and Values

Vision Statement

Our vision is to develop and maintain thriving communities whose residents are focused on promoting lifelong personal and family health.

Mission

To achieve our vision, the Department is committed to provide public health services intended to protect, promote, assess, and assure the health, safety and environment of our communities through programs in health education, preventative health services, environmental and consumer health, communicable disease control, public health emergency preparedness and environmental regulation enforcement.

Values

We value an evidence-based approach in providing diversified and high quality programs based on public health needs and government mandates. We embrace the core values of:

Integrity We act in a fair, consistent and impartial manner. We approach all situations objectively, with respect for both individuals and cultures, with sensitivity and without prejudice. We are accountable for our actions.

Efficiency We are committed to making sound and fiscally responsible use of the resources available to us.

Diversity We recognize the value and uniqueness of all persons and cultures. Individuals are treated fairly with respect and our staff is nonarbitrary/noncapricious in the performance of our mandated duties.

Collaboration We seek to establish partnerships with colleagues, agencies, businesses and community groups to enhance our ability to positively impact the health of our communities.

Service We strive to be viewed as an asset to the community through the provision of high quality interventions and the dispatch of prompt, efficient and professional services.

Knowledge We embrace continuous learning as a standard practice for our public health workforce and the sharing of information with our community.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Jill Swanson.....Health Officer
Licensed Health Officer, Certified Health Education Specialist
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Geetanjali Jain..... Community Health Nurse
RN,BSN

Douglas Davidson..... Manager, Environmental Health Services
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Nikita Patel.....Full-time REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Greg Guttadora.....Full-time REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Cheryl Wnek.....Part-time REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Anthony Ravino.....Part-time REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Lorna Bonorand.....Part-time REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Deonna Amos-Whitfield.....Secretary/Registrar

Eileen Lang.....Secretary/Registrar

Contractual Professionals

Tiffany Neal Master Certified Health Education Specialist
Samantha Bunsu.....Certified Health Education Specialist

Dr. Radhakrishnan..... Clinic Pediatrician

Hightstown

Registrar of Vital Statistics.....Debra Sopronyi

Board of Health LicensingPeggy Riggio

Robbinsville

Registrar of Vital Statistics.....Michele Siegfried

Board of Health Licensing.....Carlos Reyes

RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

The retail food program licenses and monitors food safety and sanitation at restaurants, schools, markets and churches to ensure food safety and prevent incidence of foodborne illnesses. Unannounced compliance inspections are conducted annually at all Retail Food Establishments for conformity with Chapter 24 of the New Jersey State Sanitary Code. Follow-up inspections are performed when critical



CDC estimates that each year 48 million people get sick from a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die.

CDC, NCEZID, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases, 2019

violations are found during an initial inspection. Establishments which serve vulnerable populations or engage in high risk food preparation are inspected twice a year. Inspectors also investigate potential foodborne illness reports, outbreaks, and consumer complaints related to food establishments. The Health Department conducts site visits in response to product recalls, power outages, emergency events, and provides specialized educational materials.

Designs for new establishments and plans for renovations to existing businesses are reviewed to ensure compliance with rules and regulations. Inspections are conducted prior to opening and shortly after opening, to audit the operational food safety practices. Design reviews involve close coordination with the Construction Code Officials. Grease control measures are also evaluated during the plan review phase in an effort to protect the municipal sewerage systems.

2019 Retail Food Establishment Program Summary*

	HT	RV	WW
RFE Licenses Issued	38	53	160
Risk 1	11	12	43
Risk 2	9	20	54
Risk 3	17	21	50
Risk 4	0	2	10
Mobile	1	4	5
Compliance Inspections*	51	77	220
Non-Routine Investigations	10	9	18
Enforcement Actions	1	0	5
Plan Reviews	3	5	17
Temporary RFE Licensed	53	61	304
Temporary RFE Inspected	31	16	234

Plan Reviews

Technical plan reviews are conducted of new facilities or renovated retail food establishments. During the plan review process inspectors review design plans and equipment specifications to ensure code compliance prior to construction, remodel or change of ownership. Inspectors work closely with the design professional and construction code officials during this process.

Robbinsville

Wawa
Tacorito
Bagel Fresh
PJ's Pancake House and Tavern
Thai Ginger

West Windsor

214 Carnegie Center Renovation
Whole Foods Market Renovation
Institute of Islamic Studies
Bristol Meyers Squibb Renovation
Wegmans Food Market Renovation
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Woori Mart Renovation
Burlington Coat Factory
HomeSense
TJ Maxx
Starbucks Renovation
The Eatery at Overlook Renovation
Chuck E Cheese Renovation
Stumpy's Hatchet House
Starbucks at Target Renovation
More Than Q Restaurant
Residence Inn Renovation

Hightstown Borough

Little Key Coffee
Antojitos Ecuatorianos
Old Hights Brewing

Emergency Response for Retail Foods [59]

Fires, floods, electrical outages and sick food handlers create emergency situations for food establishments serving the public. The Health Department responds 24 hours a day, 7 days a week when a crisis occurs that requires immediate attention in a food establishment. In 2019, 3 events prompted emergency response from the department. The incidents involved a fire, non-fire related release from sprinkler system, and complex-wide power outages. During annual visits to food establishments, inspectors encourage operators to establish emergency plans and train employees on best practices for ensuring food safety during events.



ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Inspections and site investigations are performed based upon complaints, referrals and requests from Township/Borough Officials or other government agencies. Local, state and federal regulations and guidelines are utilized to address these concerns. Inspectors apply evidence-based approaches to address substantiated public health problems identified in the community. In addition to investigations aimed at preventing and correcting conditions of public health significance, inspectors assist residents in the resolution of quality of life issues and aesthetic concerns.

The response time and resources invested in resolving these issues varies greatly from case to case and the allocation of resources is dependent upon public health significance. Inspectors may successfully resolve an issue in one or two site visits; however many cases require repeat visits to allow for investigation, documentation, education, and repeat follow-ups to ensure abatement. Habitual, unabated issues or conditions which pose an immediate threat to human health and/or the environment are handled through legal enforcement action in court.

COMMON ISSUES

Animal Concerns, At-risk Individuals, Bed Bugs, High Weeds, Hoarding, Housing Complaints, Noise, Odors, Obstructed Sidewalks, Poison Ivy, Restaurants, Solid Waste, Stagnant Water/Mosquito Breeding, and Tobacco-related Nuisances

2019 Complaints Investigations* - Quick Stats

	HT	RV	WW
Total Complaints	11	99	162
Enforcement Actions	2	9	41

***Hightstown Borough and Robbinsville Township have established property maintenance and housing enforcement programs which are administered by municipal Code Enforcement Officials. The Health Department provides consultative support to these programs upon request.**

Topic in Focus

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Requires Property Maintenance

Every year, the Department responds to a wide range of complaints concerning obstructed walkways and bikeways. Complaints involve bushes, tree branches, and weeds which are overgrown, unmaintained and creating unsafe conditions. These hazards are often found along reverse frontages. Some homeowners are unaware they are responsible for maintaining the vegetation along pathways located at the rear of the property. Clear sidewalks and bikeways promote healthier lifestyles, and encourage behaviors such walking, jogging, biking and similar physical activities. The Department responds to complaints, educates homeowners, and conducts enforcement, when necessary to gain compliance. In 2019, a single complaint, resulted in notification to fifty four (54) separate property owners for impeded pathways. Property owners can help alleviate these issues by proactively inspecting all the sidewalks and paths on the perimeter of the property and ensuring trees, branches, bushes, and grasses are safely maintained to allow clear, unobstructed passage and that safety hazards are addressed.

WALKING IS THE MOST POPULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ACCORDING TO CDC. KEEPING SIDEWALKS CLEAR AND SAFE HELPS INDIVIDUALS IMPROVE WELLNESS, LONGER LIVES, LOWER RISK OF HEART DISEASE, STROKE, DIABETES, DEPRESSION AND SOME CANCERS.

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL BATHING PLACES

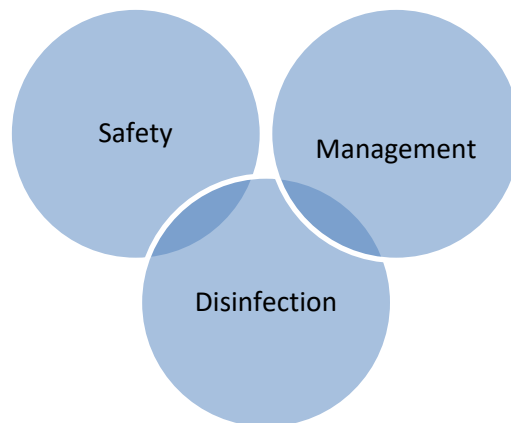
Local health departments conduct safety and sanitation inspections of public recreational bathing facilities to reduce the spread of communicable diseases and protect consumers who use these facilities from illness and injury. The CDC reports that swimming is the most popular recreational activity in the United States for children ages 7 to 17; which emphasizes the importance of this function.

Annual inspections are conducted of all public bathing facilities for compliance with Chapter IX of the New Jersey State Sanitary Code. Seasonal facilities are inspected prior to opening for the summer and at least once again during the operational season. Year-round facilities are inspected at least twice annually. Bacteriological water analysis are conducted weekly by private laboratories and reviewed by the Department. New facilities and renovations planned for existing facilities are subject to a technical plan review and approval process.

2019 Public Recreational Bathing Program Quick Stats

	HT	RV	WW
Licenses Issued	4	4	24
Annual Licenses	2	1	8
Seasonal Licenses	2	3	16
Pools	4	4	34
Wading Pools	0	1	10
Spas	0	0	3
Pre-operational Inspections	8	11	37
Compliance Inspections	5	6	42
Unsatisfactory/Closure	1	1	11

Public Recreational Bathing Code - Areas of Emphasis

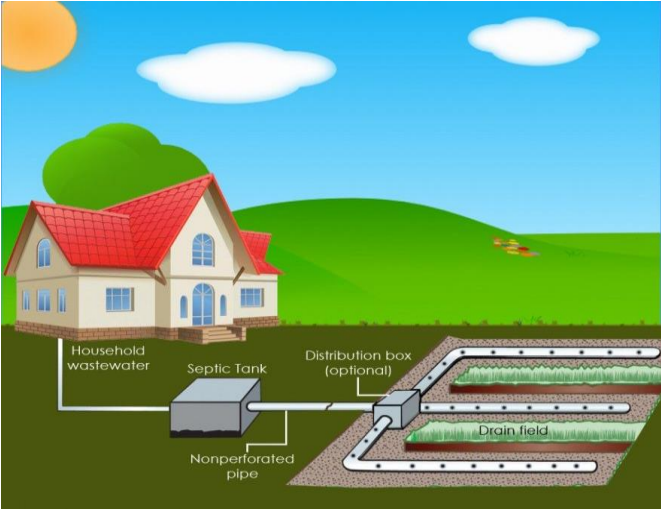


POTABLE WELLS AND DRINKING WATER SAFETY

The installation and abandonment of wells are permitted and inspected by the Department to ensure compliance with state regulations. Inspectors often provide consultation to residents in interpretation of lab analysis conducted on private wells and during real estate transfers of property. The inspection and review of a new well is a multi-step process and involves multiple site visits to the property in addition to documentation review. The Department also inspects installation of geothermal wells to help safeguard the integrity of our ground water resources.

2019 Potable Water Activity

	HT	RV	WW	Totals
Well Inspections	0	7	5	12
Investigations	0	5	8	13
Public Water Complaints	2	3	6	11



ONSITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM SAFETY

The health department conducts education, permitting, and inspections of low-volume residential and commercial onsite wastewater treatment systems (e.g., septic systems) to ensure that systems are designed, constructed, and maintained properly, thus improving the state’s water quality and protecting both human health and the environment. Activities include soil evaluation, investigations, installation inspections,

technical design and third-party inspection reports reviews for property transfers.

2019 Septic System Activity

	HT	RV	WW	Totals
New Installations	0	4	1	5
Repairs	0	6	43	49
Alterations	0	8	12	20
Expansions	0	2	8	10
Advance pre-treatment systems	0	1	2	3
Commercial facilities	0	0	0	0
Approximate Number of Systems	1	810	1961	2771
Realty Transfer Reviews	0	12	33	45
Investigations	0	6	5	11

YOUTH CAMPS

Youth camps are inspected prior to operation for compliance with state regulations which address sanitation and safety standards. Inspectors meet with Camp Directors to review records, plans and certifications. The physical components of the camps such as kitchens and swimming pools are inspected for compliance with local and state regulations. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Health periodically conducts operational inspections of youth camps during the season.

2019 Youth Camp Inspections

	HT	RV	WW
Pre-operational inspections	1	0	5
Satisfactory Rating	1	0	5

BODY ART REGULATION

State regulations require licensing and inspections of establishments performing piercings, tattooing, and permanent cosmetics. There is one (1) body art establishment licensed under Department's service area. This facility is located in Hightstown and is inspected annually for compliance with health and safety standards established under the State Sanitary Code. The primary focus of this program is to ensure safe practices and prevent bloodborne pathogen transmissions or infections.

Hightstown Borough Body Art Inspections

Licensed Establishments/Inspections Conducted	1/2
Procedures Performed	2
Satisfactory Rating	1
Enforcement Actions	0

TANNING ESTABLISHMENTS

Tanning facilities are licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and inspected by local health departments. Robbinsville is home to one facility.

Robbinsville Tanning Facility Inspections

Licensed Establishments/Site Visits Conducted	1/1
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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that SKIN CANCER is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, and most cases are PREVENTABLE!

MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

Local ordinances in West Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough mandate licensing and operational requirements for massage establishments. Annual inspections focus on safe and sanitary operations; including the proper use of antimicrobial disinfectants, availability of handwashing facilities and licensing of personnel. Hightstown adopted the code in 2016 and there are currently no businesses in operation.

Massage Establishment Inspections

The Health Department conducts inspections of establishments providing massage or body work service in accordance with local ordinances adopted in West Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough.



Massage Quick Stats	HB	WWT
Licensed Establishments	0	4
Satisfactory Rating	0	4
Investigations	1	0
Enforcement Actions	0	0

RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM

The Health Department is the lead agency for rabies control activities. Rabies is a fatal, viral disease that continues to threaten the health of exposed residents, pets and wildlife in New Jersey. Pet licensing, vaccination clinics, exposure investigations, and educational outreach efforts are strategies used to prevent disease transmission.

Working closely with the Animal Control Officers and the Police Departments, health officials respond to and investigate potential rabies exposures to prevent disease in our community. Confinement notices are issued when a resident is bitten by a dog or cat to monitor the animal for potential illness. Exposures to wildlife require laboratory analysis and follow up. If warranted, exposed individuals are referred for medical evaluation and treatment. Encouraging residents to vaccinate pets and avoid exposures to wildlife are some of the strategies public health professionals employ to protect our communities. Free rabies clinics are hosted by the Health Department four (4) times per year.

Education and prevention are vital components of the rabies program and are ongoing throughout the year. Consultations on animal-related issues and disease control are provided to employees, businesses, volunteers, animal control and residents.

Rabies Control Quick Stats

	Investigations
HB	3
RV	56
WW	32
Total	91

Pet Licensing

	Dogs	Cats
HB	289	0*
RV	1035	0**
WW	901	153

* Hightstown extended cats licenses to align with dog licensing renewals in 2019.

** Cats are not licensed in Robbinsville.

N.J. Testing Mid-Year Stats

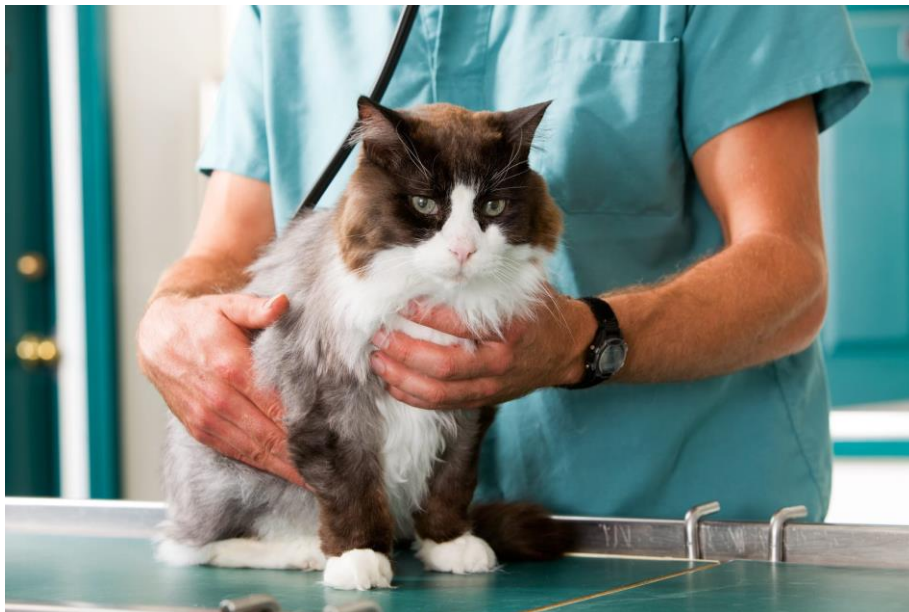
In New Jersey, 98 Terrestrial Animals and 15 Bats tested Positive for the Rabies Virus. In Mercer County, 2 Raccoons, 2 Skunks and 1 Fox tested positive. "Cats have accounted for 90% of the domestic animal cases in New Jersey since 1989. For the last 5 years there has been an average of 18 cats infected with rabies annually."

*New Jersey Department of Health,
New Jersey Rabies Cases by
County and Species, January 1 –
June 31 2019*



2019 Rabies Vaccination Clinics

Clinics	Dogs Vaccinated	Cats Vaccinated	Total Vaccinated
January 17, 2019 Robbinsville	96	6	102
January 19, 2019 West Windsor	124	10	134
April 13, 2019 West Windsor	13	17	30
December 6, 2019 Hightstown	38	1	39
Total Vaccinated	271	34	305



KENNELS, PET SHOPS, SHELTERS/POUND FACILITIES

Animal facilities are licensed and inspected to ensure compliance with regulations which focus on safe, sanitary and humane operations. These facilities are inspected annually and new or remodeled facilities are required to submit plans for Health Department review and approval. Facilities are inspected at least once per year.

2019 Animal Facility Activity (#licensed/#inspections)

	RV	WW
Kennels	2/4	1/4
Pet Shops	1/3	1/4
Shelter/Pound	0	3/9
Plan Review	0	0
Total	3/7	5/13

HEALTH EDUCATION/PROMOTION

Health education is part of the mission for all staff in the Department and the work is coordinated by a Certified Health Education Specialist. A variety of programs, communications and displays are offered throughout the year on pertinent health topics. Additional materials are generated upon requests from the schools, work places, community groups and the news media. The municipal websites post information on a variety of topics and health promotion offerings in the area. Throughout the year, health advisories and alerts are distributed to partner agencies and shared with the residents when issues arise which may impact community health.

Health promotion is incorporated into all facets of the health department programming, with a focus on providing services that help the public make informed decisions and encourage healthy lifestyles. The Department strives to develop relationships with community partners and link individuals with established health and wellness resources. The Health Officer, Health Educator, Registered Environmental Health Specialists and Public Health Nurse attend community events held throughout the year to distribute public health information. The Department is an active member of the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership and works with community partners and stakeholders to align health promotion efforts through the development and implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan for Mercer County. The Health Officer attends regular meetings of the Board and staff participate in Community Advisory Board meetings and promotion initiatives.

Staff also participate in the various coalitions and groups in the effort to coordinate with partner agencies and remain informed on services available to members of our community. These include the Hunterdon-Mercer Chronic Disease Coalition, West Windsor-Plainsboro Municipal Alliance, Prevention Coalition of Mercer Council, Central New Jersey Lead and Healthy Homes Coalition, and various professional organizations.

Examples of some of the 2019 health education and promotion programs provided by the Department include:

- ❖ Radon Awareness Program – Education, promotion and free home test kits provided to residents in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- ❖ Water Watcher Program – drowning prevention for private pool owners - revised program materials, promoted and distributed to homeowners
- ❖ Hepatitis A Prevention – Outreach to high risk groups and retail food establishment managers
- ❖ Healthy Kidz presentations to kindergarten classes
- ❖ Monthly Newsletters and Monthly Health Topic Posters
- ❖ Healthy Senior Presentations
- ❖ CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) – Nutrition demonstration for program staff - Robbinsville Extended Day Program
- ❖ Robbinsville High School Wellness Fair – Youth Vaping Prevention and Nutrition Topics
- ❖ Nutrition for Kids programs - Hightstown Library
- ❖ Electronic Smoking Devices Prevention Messaging and Presentations
- ❖ National Night Out – tabling displays in West Windsor and Hightstown
Sun Safety Outreach – Multiple site -West Windsor Community Day, Robbinsville Community Day,
- ❖ Community Nurse Wellness Chats – Hightstown Library, Community Dinners
- ❖ Health and Wellness Fair – Robbinsville Senior Center
- ❖ Wellness Fair – Living Waters Church, Robbinsville
- ❖ Flu Prevention messaging

Health Promotion Initiatives in Focus

Skin Cancer Awareness

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. Sunburn during childhood increases a person's lifetime risk of developing skin cancer. Anyone, regardless of skin color, can develop skin cancer, including melanoma, the most deadly type. *Ray and the Sunbeatables* is an evidence based sun safety educational tool developed by the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and distributed through CATCH to promote sun safety behaviors to reduce lifetime risk of developing skin cancer. In the year 2019, Health Department facilitated and incorporated this program at various schools, community dinners (soup kitchen), summer camps and other community events engaging active participation from children and parents.



Wellness Fair at Living Waters Church in Robbinsville

The Health Department assisted a local congregation coordinate a first-time wellness fair and health screening event for individuals with language barriers and limited access to healthcare. The Department recruited eleven (11) partner agencies to assist with this event and the congregation organized translators to assist with the language barriers, provided the facility and engaged many participants to attend. Partner agencies provided health screenings and education services for vision, breast cancer, blood pressure, obesity, heart health, diabetes, nutrition, vaccinations and healthy homes. Attendees of all ages participated and providers were available to link those in need to available health resources if follow up was needed after the event. The time and energy staff members devote to partnership development with agencies serving our area make endeavours such as this a success.



Youth-Usage of Electronic Smoking Devices Prevention

E-cigarette use poses a significant, but avoidable, health risk to young people. Besides increasing the possibility of addiction, harm to brain development and respiratory health, e-cigarette use is associated with the use of other tobacco products that can do even more damage to the body. Even breathing e-cigarette aerosol that someone else has exhaled may have potential health risks. The popularity of e-cigs and vapes among youth is a concern for public health. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's report on youth vaping, nearly 2 in 5 students of 12th grade report vaping. Myths such as "Vaping is harmless; it's just water vapor" emphasize the importance of educating young people before they are lured into a dangerous and addictive habit.

West Windsor Township Council recognized the dangers associated with youth vaping. The Department took action by adopting an ordinance requiring retailers to license and take responsibility to educate sales clerks on the importance of age of sale adherence. Licensing took effect in 2019, inspections were conducted and education provided by the REHS staff to 5 retailers in the township.

An emphasis was also placed on increasing awareness on the dangers associated with youth vaping. Throughout the year, the Health Department provided outreach using newsletters, posters, flyers, handouts, web posts, table top displays and facilitated educational sessions for youths. Some of the activities included:

- Developed and piloted a lesson plan in two high school health classes.
- Partnered with Mercer Council to facilitate a presentation to high school health teachers and coaches.
- Partnered with Water Works lifeguards in developing messaging for younger children and incorporated "Escape the Vape" and sun safety messaging into daily routines at the pool.
- Created a demo board display of vaping devices for awareness building for adults.
- Developed and distributed *Escape the Vape – Ready to Quit* cessation resource cards to youths throughout the communities.
- Conducted one-on-one vendor education to retailers of electronic smoking devices.

Staff Member Promote Health & Wellness in the Community



West Windsor Trunk or Treat



Oral Health - Hightstown Community Dinner with TCNJ Student Nurses



National Night Out



Pond Road Middle School Wellness Fair

National Lead Prevention Week



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING AND RESPONSE

The Health Department develops, updates, and exercises preparedness plans for potential public health emergencies. An emphasis is placed on coordinating our plans with a broad range of partners. Plans are integrated with county, state and federal plans to facilitate a strategic, coordinated public health response.

Exercising Plans

Risk Communication Drill: In 2019, staff participated in a risk communication exercise with the county and state health department. Staff prepared for the exercise by renewing training and reviewing the department's current plan.

Call Down Drills: The Department conducts call down drills to test staff and POD site contact information for emergency calls. Throughout the year the County also conducts drills to verify emergency contacts in preparation for a larger response event.

Community Preparedness

Medical Countermeasures: A Point of Distribution or POD is a large-scale clinic designed for distribution of medications to mass populations over a short period of time. During public health emergencies, local health departments in Mercer County will work as a coordinated team to implement emergency plans designed to prevent the spread of disease. Community partners are play a key role in the response and outreach efforts continued throughout the year to identify and recruit additional Fixed Facility or "closed POD" partners within the community to help in the distribution of medications to prevent illness when widespread risk exists.

All-Preparedness Messaging: In addition to planning for our response during emergencies, the department helps spread the word to residents and businesses about steps they can take to be better prepared for storms, outbreaks, natural disasters and bioterrorism events. Educational materials are distributed through a variety of venues and staff actively discuss the importance of having plans in place during routine compliance visits to establishments. Efforts to promote Nixle use by residents remained a priority in 2019, banners were developed and displayed throughout the community.



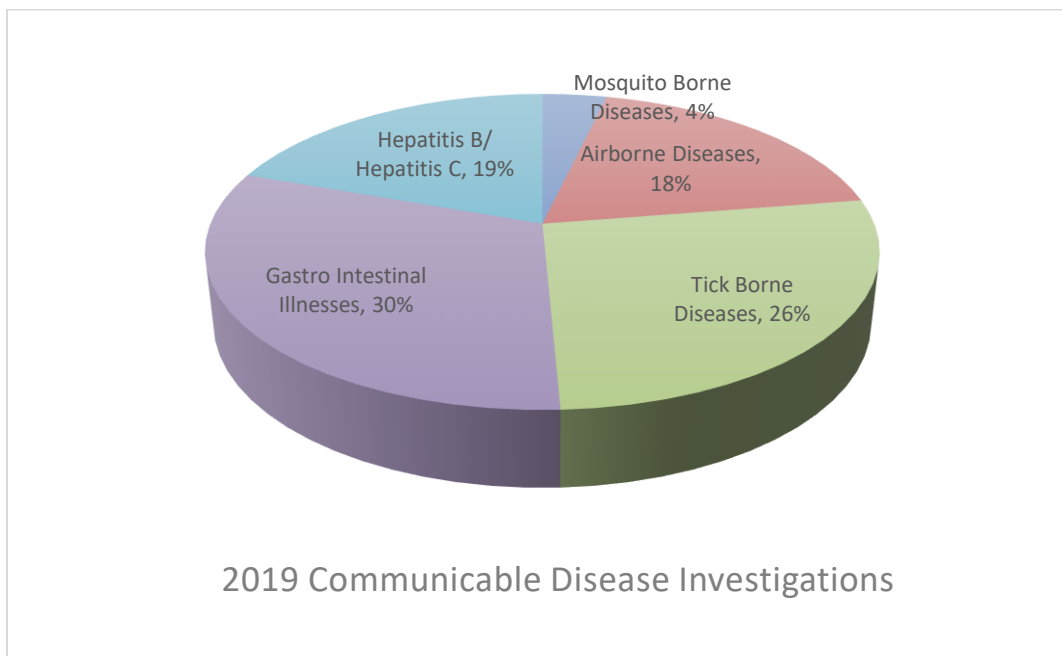
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING ACTIVITIES

Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases are reported to the local health department by physicians, laboratories, hospitals, schools and institutions in accordance with the parameters set forth in the New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 8, Chapter 57. The health department conducts a case investigation, institutes follow-up activities and reports those which meet the "case definition" as defined by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. In New Jersey, a web-based reporting system, CDRSS, is used to facilitate information sharing between entities and track reportable diseases. This important function of the local health department helps to prevent the spread of disease by ensuring that residents are followed and counseled through testing, treatment and medical supervision. Public health control measures such as exclusions from school or work, home confinements and preventative prophylaxis are initiated when indicated.

2018 Visits/2019 Visits

	HT	RV	WW	Total
Investigations	19/43	69/64	100/118	188/225
Confirmed	10/23	23/18	37/36	70/77
Probable/Possible	4/10	14/16	39/39	57/65
Not a Case	5/10	32/30	24/43	61/83



Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Clinics are provided by the Hamilton Township Health Department through shared services agreements which covers patient visits, diagnosis, treatment and contact tracing. Residents of West Windsor, Robbinsville and Hightstown are eligible for free, confidential services.

In 2019, 100 cases of sexually transmitted diseases were reported within the Department’s jurisdiction.

Tuberculosis Control

Residents testing positive for Tuberculosis (TB) are followed by a nurse case manager at the Mercer County TB clinic operated by the Trenton Health Team under a cooperative agreement between the County of Mercer and the local municipalities. Assessments, consultations, clinic services and transportation are provided by a specially trained nurse case manager. Direct observe therapy (DOT), if prescribed, remains the responsibility of the local public health nurse. During DOT visits, the nurses visits the patient daily at home or work to ensure medication compliance and monitor for side effects.

	2018 Visits/2019 Visits			
	HT	RV	WW	Total
Direct Observe Therapy Visits	16/0	7/0	45/0	68/0



Disease Surveillance Infographic. Digital image. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved 1/2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/>

Immunization Audits

Annual immunization audits are conducted at each educational institution and childcare facility within our jurisdiction for compliance with mandated immunization requirements. During the audit process the Public Health Nurse provides assistance and guidance to ensure compliance with the state-mandated immunization requirements. Preschool, kindergarten, sixth grade, and high school student records in both public and private schools are audited for compliance with state requirements. The nurse works closely with facility directors and school nurses to ensure consistent implementation of these policies as well as to educate on the allowance of specific vaccination exemptions.

School Immunization Audits (# operating in 2019/# of audits conducted)

	HB	RV	WW
Kindergarten & 1 st grade	3/3	1/1	4/4
Childcare/Preschools	7/7	4/4	14/14
Grade 6	2/2	1/1	2/2
High Schools	2/2	1/1	2/2

Hot Topic – Vaccination Exemptions Policy in Support of Public Health Initiatives

Statewide legislation was proposed to tighten current regulations that allow broad exemptions from mandatory vaccinations requirements for children attending schools in New Jersey. The Hightstown Board of Health reviewed the proposal and joined public health advocates across the state by supporting this initiative. Resolution 2019-BOH-3 was passed to support the amendments aimed at increasing vaccination rates in schools and preventing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles.

Prenatal/Postpartum Referrals

The Health Department occasionally receives referrals from medical professionals concerning high risk mothers and children within our communities in need of prenatal and postpartum services. The public health nurse provides education to parents about the physical, nutritional and cognitive development of infants and plays an important referral role in connecting families to health and social services available to assist the family.

Childhood Lead Poisoning

Children in New Jersey should be tested for lead exposure at 12 and 24 months of age. Children under the age of six years who have not previously been tested and those under 72 months of age known to be exposed must also be tested. Testing can be coordinated through the Child Health Clinic for uninsured children. Parents are provided with information on ways to reduce their child's potential exposure to lead and the importance of proper nutrition. Lead poisoning prevention materials are also distributed to the general community through a variety of channels to raise awareness regarding the potential exposures in homes, consumer goods and the environment. Children, identified as having elevated blood lead levels, are visited by a public health nurse case manager for follow up counseling. Some cases warrant an environmental hazard investigation which is conducted by a staff REHS specially trained in lead risk assessment and enforcement. Nurse case management services are provided by a registered nurse through a shared services agreement between West Windsor Health Department and the City of Trenton Health Department. The Department's public health nurse is an experience nurse case manager for lead cases and actively monitors medical reports through the State's electronic reporting system, LeadTrax.

Elevated Blood Lead Investigations Stats

Nurse Case Management Patients	5
Environmental Investigations Initiated	3
Environmental Home Inspections /Visits	19

INSPECTORS DEVOTED APPROXIMATELY 70 HOURS TO ONSITE HOME VISITS FOR THREE (3) EBL CASES IN 2019!

Environmental Home Inspections

Environmental lead inspections are conducted when a child is identified through blood testing with an elevated blood lead level. The department has two staff inspectors specially certified as lead inspectors/risk assessors (LI/RA). During an initial visit they conduct dust wipe sampling and take readings using specialized equipment, an XRF, of paint surfaces in the home such as windows, doors, floors, walls, and stairs to identify lead hazards. If levels of concern are found, property owners are required to hire licensed contractors to perform lead abatements to address the problems. The LI/RA review the proposed scope of work and monitor the abatement work performed at the home. An independent firm conducts clearance testing and certifies that the lead levels are within the established standards set by regulation at the completion of the project. Over the span of 2019, the LI/RAs devoted approximately seventy (70) hours to the three (3) environmental investigations.

Child Health Clinic Services

2019 Child Health Clinics Quick Stats

	Total
Clinics Held	25
Patient Visits	154
TB Tests	18

The Child Health Clinic is a joint program sponsored by Hightstown Borough, East Windsor and West Windsor Townships. Uninsured children, infant through 18 years if age, are eligible to attend. Infant and preschoolers receive preventative services that address the special needs for healthy development. The clinic also provides well visits and vaccinations to school-aged children. The clinic is staffed by contractual physician and nurse practitioner and the two (2) municipal public health nurses. The services include a full physical examination of each child, age appropriate immunizations and screening tests for tuberculosis. At each clinic, visiting parents are counseled regarding growth, development, nutrition and safety. Referrals are made to medical clinics and supportive resources, such as the Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC), blood lead testing, dental visits and vision/hearing screenings. Robbinsville residents are served by the Hamilton Township Health child health clinic through a separate shared services contract and receive similar services.

Families visiting the CHC are further referred to agencies which can assist them in applying for medical insurance and applicable social services. The public health nurses work closely with schools nurses to ensure children are properly vaccinated so they can safely remain in class. The nurses continuously seek out additional resources for families in need of medical services and provide links to these services. Visits to the CHC also present opportunities to link adults to wellness programs and wellness screenings. During 2019, the public health nurse engaged partners, such as student nursing programs, to assist with screenings and health education to families visiting the clinic.



Adult Health

Periodic health screenings for adults are offered to the public at events such as health fairs, community gatherings and at regularly scheduled programs at our Senior Centers. Many of these screenings are offered by community partners and coordinated through our Senior Centers. The Health Department provides consultation upon request and helps to link the Centers with partner agencies or emerging programs. The Public Health Nurse provides blood pressure screenings at a variety of sites within the community to support cardiovascular health awareness. The nurse also offers health information, screenings and referrals for to a variety of health resources available in the community. The nurse works to connect local organizations to connect with agencies that can provide free or low cost screenings. Annual influenza vaccination clinics are offered at the Senior Centers, Project Freedom and Rosehill Assisted Living Community.

The Senior Centers serve as the focal point for adult health services and offer an array of health screenings, lectures, wellness programs and health-related resources by utilizing a variety of partners. Health Department staff consult with the Directors of the Senior Centers and help to link the Centers with additional health resources.

Older Adults

Seasonal Influenza Doses Administered During Health Department Coordinated Clinics for Older Adults	394
Pneumococcal Vaccinations	18
Total Adult Vaccinations 411	
Screenings for Hypertension	369

Pilot Expanded in 2019 – Partnership with Pharmacy for Seasonal Flu Vaccinations Residents and Employees

In the previous year, the Department partnered with a local pharmacy to offer high dose flu vaccinations to seniors over the age of 65. The program was expanded in 2019 with a new local pharmacy to include both quadrivalent and high dose vaccinations for seniors over the age of 65, those 55 to 65 years of age and employees. The pharmacy-based model has become a more common strategy for local health departments and offers a mechanism for making several vaccine options available for participants. Attendees were surveyed following the clinic to evaluate customer satisfaction with the process and changes implemented.

Employees Help Promote Cardiovascular Health!



VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar of Vital Statistics maintains records of all the marriages, domestic partnerships, civil unions, births and deaths within the community. Each community appoints a separate Vital Statistics Registrar and Deputy Registrar. Each Registrar is required to attend formal training, pass a certification exam and maintain continuing education credits. Robbinsville and Hightstown have appointed the Office of the Clerk to perform this function. The Health Department is responsible for vital statistic services in West Windsor. The high number of death certificates issued in Hightstown is reflective of presence of two funeral homes located in the community.

issued in 2019/# issued in 2020

	HT	RV	WW
Marriage Licenses	25/37	50/66	80/77
Certified Copies of Vital Records	98/128	105/93	207/240
Death Certificates	895/1406	36/36	6/5

Looking Forward

2020 Departmental Goals and Objectives

During year 2020, the Department plans to:

- Implement the Spatial Data Logic (SDL) software for pet licensing and transition the Department's inspection processes to an electronic format utilizing SDL's Health Pro module. The Pet Licensing module was active during the January 2020 renewal and initiation of the Health Pro module is underway.
- Create an electronic inventory of historic septic and well records using the SDL property record database.
- Continue primary prevention outreach programs with an emphasis on preventing youth vaping behaviors.
- Conduct inspections of all retailers of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to monitor for illegal sales to underage persons. Youth volunteers will be utilized in this program.
- Implement procedures for REHS staff to monitor for carbon monoxide hazards during routine inspections.
- Research strategies for improved Housing Code compliance in multiple dwellings.
- Work with the partners of the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP) to implement the Mercer County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in our local priorities for health education outreach.
- Identify methods to improve our engagement with childcare facilities, schools and senior groups for health education outreach available through the public health nurse and the health educator.
- Increase community resilience and emergency preparedness:
 - Review and update of the Department's Emergency Standard Operating Procedures for public health events.
 - Expand partnerships to assist with educational outreach/response.
 - Recruiting additional partners to serve as fixed facilities. 2020 Goal: 3 new sites.
 - Identify new approaches to encourage individuals/organizations to register and actively monitoring Nixle for emergency communications.
- Increase and enhance our partnerships with community organizations and businesses to increase the number and diversity of resources available to residents.