

# 2018 Annual Report

## West Windsor Township Health Department



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**A REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITIES**

**West Windsor Township  
Robbinsville Township  
Hightstown Borough**

Jill M. Swanson  
Health Officer

# GOVERNANCE



## **West Windsor Township 2018**

Hemant Marathe, Mayor

### **Council and Board of Health Members**

Alison Miller, President

Jyotika Bahree (January – November)

Linda Geever, Vice President

Ayesha Hamilton

Virginia Manzari

Yingchao "YZ" Zhang (November-December)

### **Administration**

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

## **GOVERNANCE**



### **Robbinsville Township 2018**

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 2018**

Lawrence D. Quattrone, Mayor

### **Borough Council**

Charles Stults, President  
Susan Bluth  
Denise "Denny" Hansen  
Steven Misiura  
Conner Montferrat, Board of Health Liaison  
Dimitri Musing

### **Board of Health**

Jean Ray, President  
Nancy Distelcamp, Vice President  
Jennifer Bernal  
Edyth Duffy  
Skye Gilmartin  
Walter Hewitt  
Dr. John Laudenberg  
Elizabeth Morley

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



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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 2018, 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.

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 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 representatives from 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

Sharon Black.....Full-time REHS  
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Nikita Patel.....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

Dr. Radhakrishnan..... Clinic Pediatrician

### **Hightstown**

Registrar of Vital Statistics.....Debra Sopronyi

Board of Health Licensing .....Peggy 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.

### 2018 Retail Food Establishment Program Summary\*

	<b>HT</b>	<b>RV</b>	<b>WW</b>
RFE Licenses Issued	<b>38</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>165</b>
Risk 1	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>
Risk 2	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>49</b>
Risk 3	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>82</b>
Risk 4	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
Mobile	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
Compliance Inspections*	<b>48</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>241</b>
Non-Routine Investigations	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>
Enforcement Actions	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Plan Reviews	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Temporary RFE Licensed	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>293</b>
Temporary RFE Inspected	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>293</b>



## 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

Quickchek  
Be Bio Café  
PJ's Pancake House and Tavern  
Thai Ginger

### West Windsor

Crown of India  
Whole Foods Market Renovation  
Institute of Islamic Studies  
Saravanaa Bhavan Renovation  
Carnegie Center Renovation

### Hightstown Borough

4 Seasons Deli & Café  
Ralph's Ice Cream

## Emergency Response for Retail Foods [3]

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 2018, 3 establishments required emergency assistance 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

### 2018 Complaints Investigations\* - Quick Stats

	<b>HT</b>	<b>RV</b>	<b>WW</b>
Total Complaints	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>111</b>
Enforcement Actions	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>

**\*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.**


## 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 harm and danger.

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 during the operational season. Year-round facilities are inspected while in operation. Additionally, laboratory water analysis results are reviewed on a weekly basis. New facilities and renovations planned for existing facilities are subject to a technical plan review and approval process.

### 2018 Public Recreational Bathing Program Quick Stats

	<b>HT</b>	<b>RV</b>	<b>WW</b>
Licensed Issued	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>
Annual Licenses	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
Seasonal Licenses	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>
Pools	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>
Wading Pools	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
Spas	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Pre-operational Inspections	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>
Compliance Inspections	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32</b>
Unsatisfactory/Closure	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>



**NATIONALLY, DROWNING IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL INJURY DEATH AMONG CHILDREN AGED 1-4 YEARS. DROWNING IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL INJURY AMONG CHILDREN 5-9 YEARS.**  
CDC. Drowning –United States, 2005-2009. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2012;61(19):344-347

## 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.

### 2018 Potable Water Activity

	HT	RV	WW	Totals
Well Inspections	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>
Investigations	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Public Water Complaints	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

## 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 reviews and review of third-party inspection reports for property transfers.



### 2018 Septic System Activity

	HT	RV	WW	Totals
New Installations	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
Repairs	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
Alterations	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
Expansions	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
Advance pre-treatment systems	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Commercial facilities	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Approximate Number of Systems	<b>1</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1966</b>	<b>2779</b>
Realty Transfer Reviews	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>
Investigations	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>

## 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.

### 2018 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	2
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	1/2
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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. 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.

<b>Massage Quik Stats</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>WWT</b>
Licensed Establishments	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Satisfactory Rating	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Investigations	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Enforcement Actions	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## **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.

*[New Jersey Animal Rabies Specimen Testing 2018](#)  
163 Terrestrial Animals  
and 36 Bats  
tested Positive  
for the Rabies Virus*

*"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 16 cats infected with rabies annually."*

*New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Rabies Cases by County and Species, January 1 – December 31, 2018*

### **Rabies Control Quick Stats**

	<b>Investigations</b>
HB	<b>8</b>
RV	<b>34</b>
WW	<b>17</b>
Total	<b>59</b>

### **Pet Licensing**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
HB	<b>288</b>	<b>57</b>
RV	<b>1055</b>	<b>0</b>
WW	<b>943</b>	<b>163</b>



## 2018 Rabies Vaccination Clinics

Clinics	Dogs Vaccinated	Cats Vaccinated	Total Vaccinated
January 18, 2018 Robbinsville	<b>101</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>112</b>
January 20, 2018 West Windsor	<b>128</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>148</b>
April 21, 2018 West Windsor	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>
December 6, 2018 Hightstown	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>
Total Vaccinated	<b>273</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>329</b>





## **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.

### **2018 Animal Facility Activity (#licensed/#inspections)**

	<b>RV</b>	<b>WW</b>
<b>Kennels</b>	<b>2/2</b>	<b>2/2</b>
<b>Pet Shops</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>1/1</b>
<b>Shelter/Pound</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3/3</b>
<b>Plan Review</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3/3</b>	<b>6/6</b>

## **HEALTH EDUCATION/PROMOTION**

Health education is part of the job 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 education is incorporated into all facets of the health department programming, with a focus on providing education and health promotion services that help the public make informed decisions and encourage a healthy lifestyle. 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.

## Highlights

A selection of the health promotion programs and initiatives conducted during the the year are highlighted below.amples of some of the outreach conducted by staff in 2018 are listed below.

- ❖ “Tools for Schools” presentation provided to the Mercer Division of the NJ School Buildings and Grounds Association
- ❖ Radon Awareness Program – Education, promotion and free home test kits provided to residents in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- ❖ Healthy Kidz presentations to kindergarten classes in West Windsor, Robbinsville and Hightstown schools
- ❖ Employee Health Fair
- ❖ Healthy Senior Presentations: Nutrition, Stress Management, Focus on Hand Hygiene
- ❖ CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) training offered to after-school programs and implemented by Robbinsville’s Extended Day Program.
- ❖ Robbinsville High School Wellness Fair – Healthy Meal and Snack Choices
- ❖ Nutrition for Kids program - Hightstown Library
- ❖ Electronic Smoking Devices Policy Development Presentations: West Windsor and Hightstown Boards of Health
- ❖ *Walking Works* Step Challenge – West Windsor Employees
- ❖ Sun Safety Outreach – West Windsor Community Day, Robbinsville Community Day, National Night Out (Hightstown/West Windsor), Better Beginnings
- ❖ Community Nurse Wellness Chats – Hightstown Library, Community Dinners
- ❖ Health and Wellness Fair – Robbinsville Senior Center

## Community Health Improvement Planning

### Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership



The Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP) is a collaboration of four hospitals, seven municipal health departments, the Mercer County Department of Health and Human Services, and local non-for-profit organizations whose missions are to measurably improve the health of residents in the greater Mercer County community. The Health Officer and participate on the Board of Directors and Community Advisory Board (CAB).

During the past year, the primary objective of the collaborative was completion of the 2018 Mercer Community Health Needs Assessment. This work involved examination of data on health trends in Mercer County and the gathering of feedback from the community members through interviews with key informants, focus groups and individual surveys. The information collected through this process was presented to the CAB and prioritization sessions were held to identify areas of focus for future health improvement efforts. This work will shape the 2019 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the greater Mercer County area.

The reports are available on the partnership's website at:  
[www.Healthymercer.org](http://www.Healthymercer.org)

### Penn Medicine Princeton Health

In 2018, Penn Medicine Princeton Health completed a separate Community Health Needs Assessment. The local health department encouraged resident participation in completion of the community health surveys to share their views on the current health needs. The health department attended a focus group which included public health partners to share insight from the local health official perspective.

The 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment is available at:  
<https://www.princetonhcs.org/community>

## 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. In 2018, staff participated in Point of Distribution exercise with fellow municipal and county staff. A Point of Distribution or POD is a large-scale clinic designed to 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 for additional Fixed Facility or “closed POD” partners.

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.

# BE INFORMED

about what kind of disasters might occur  
where you live, work or visit.



## **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.

	<b>HT</b>	<b>RV</b>	<b>WW</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations	<b>19</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>188</b>
Confirmed	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>70</b>
Probable/Possible	<b>4*</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>
Not a Case	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>61</b>

### **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.

### **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.

	<b>HT</b>	<b>RV</b>	<b>WW</b>	<b>Total</b>
Direct Observe Therapy Visits	<b>16</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>68</b>

## 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 and sixth grade 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 (# of facilities operating in 2017/# of audits conducted)

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

## 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 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.

## **Elevated Blood Lead Investigations Quick Stats**

Nurse Case Management Patients	8
Environmental Investigations Initiated	3

### **Child Health Clinic Services**

The Child Health Clinic is a joint program sponsored by Hightstown Borough, East Windsor and West Windsor Townships. Children without health insurance receive preventative services that address the needs of infants and preschool children. The clinic also provides well visits and vaccinations to school-aged children. The clinic is staffed by contractual medical professionals and the 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 and vision/hearing screenings. Robbinsville residents are served by the Hamilton Township Health child health clinic through a separate shared services contract.

### **2018 Child Health Clinics**

	Total
Clinics Held	<b>25</b>
Patient Visits	<b>154</b>
TB Tests	<b>18</b>

## 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 programs with partner agencies. 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

Public health nursing home visits	43
Doses of influenza vaccine administered	428

### Cardiovascular Disease Screenings

Screenings for hypertension	335
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## 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.

	<b>HT</b>	<b>RV</b>	<b>WW</b>
Marriage Licenses	<b>37</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>80</b>
Certified Copies of Vital Records	<b>128</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>207</b>
Death Certificates	<b>1406</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>

## **Looking Forward 2019 Departmental Goals and Objectives**

During the 2019 year, the Department plans to:

- ❖ Transition from paper-based inspection records to electronic reporting. The selected software program is designed to interface with various departments and to enhance communication within and between Departments.
- ❖ Identify and implement a plan to validate the Department's septic and well inventory.
- ❖ Implement licensing and educational outreach for electronic smoking device establishments in an effort to reduce youth access and use of vaping products.
- ❖ Collaborate with partners across the county through the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP) to help drive the health assessment and planning processes. The 2019 Mercer County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will be released in the spring and identified priorities will be reflected in our local health educational outreach plans.
- ❖ Expand wellness promotion in childcare facilities by focusing on train-the-training programming and offer programs such as NAP SACC and CATCH programs.
- ❖ Exercise the Health Department's Risk Communication Emergency Preparedness Plan and address identified gaps and/or weakness by formal revisions to the current plan.
- ❖ Establish an ongoing worksite wellness initiative using lesson learned from past programs.
- ❖ Increase community resilience and emergency preparedness by:
  - establishing partnerships to assist with educational outreach/response;
  - recruiting additional partners to serve as fixed facilities; and
  - increasing the number of individuals/organization 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.
- ❖ Promote the Radon Awareness Program to encourage every homeowner to test and to increase the public's awareness of the potential negative health consequences associated with exposures to radon.