

Public Health Advisory Committee Report June 2023

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Program Highlights

Chronic Disease Prevention

Well Fed Collaborative



Meetings with Cornell Cooperative Extension was FRUITFUL and it was decided Essex County Health Department will remain the backbone organization for the Well Fed Collaborative.

Well Fed is focused on increasing healthy food access for all people in Essex County, with a focus on vulnerable residents through mutually reinforcing projects. All projects are heavily focused on distribution and consumption with the overall goal of increasing access to healthy (and local if possible) food.

The Collaborative wants to support the advance SNAP navigation here in Essex County so will be working on this project most immediately.

Skin Cancer Prevention

A mini-grant was awarded by the New York State Association of County & City Health Officials (NYSACHO) to expand publically located sunscreen dispensers.

Essex County has a higher melanoma cancer mortality rate than the North Country Region, and this rate is over double that of New York State as a whole.

In a 2021 Skin Cancer Awareness Campaign Survey conducted by the Essex County Health Department, 88% of participants were in favor of adding sunscreen dispensers throughout the community. Most people desired the dispensers at local parks, beaches and sports fields. Six sunscreen dispensers have already been distributed at public locations throughout the county:

Existing Locations 2021:

- ORDA: Van Hovenberg, Whiteface (2)
- Bulwagga Bay (Moriah)
- Mirror Lake Beach in Lake Placid
- Black Point Beach in Ticonderoga

Target Locations 2023:

- Schroon Lake Beach
- Port Kent Beach
- Wilmington Beach
- Keene Town Beach
- Minerva Town Beach





Communicable Disease



Camp Outreach

As we do each year, our Department collaborates with our Environmental Health District Office to ensure camps run smoothly and Directors and Health officials have good points of contact for all matters of health.

Did you know?

Essex County has 14 overnight camps & 11 day camps operating this year!

Outreach included:

- * assessment of COVID antigen tests & offering COVID vaccination clinics on site;
- * how to respond to ill campers, report possible outbreaks & how our Department will support testing for bug identification;
- * preventing rabies exposures with wild animals – mainly bats – and what to do if a possible exposure occurs;
- * tick-borne diseases and the importance of daily tick checks; and
- * NYSDOH website links for regulations, safety plan templates, fact sheets, forms & more.

MPOX Vaccine

The New York State Department of Health launched a multi-media campaign to encourage eligible New Yorkers to start or complete their two-dose mpox vaccine series now to help prevent another Mpox outbreak. ECHD has begun incorporating these campaign materials in locally developed communications. and **has VACCINATED** residents seeking MPox Vaccine!

School Immunization Clinics

ECHD is partnering with schools to offer end-of-the-year immunization clinics for those who express interest or a need. The clinics will have three target areas of focus: **school required immunization** catch-up; **HPV Vaccinations** for children 9+; and **Meningitis B vaccines** for students transitioning to congregate living settings, like college. The purpose of these co-located clinics is to reduce some of the barriers to immunization, such as transportation, cost, and access.



Videos Released!

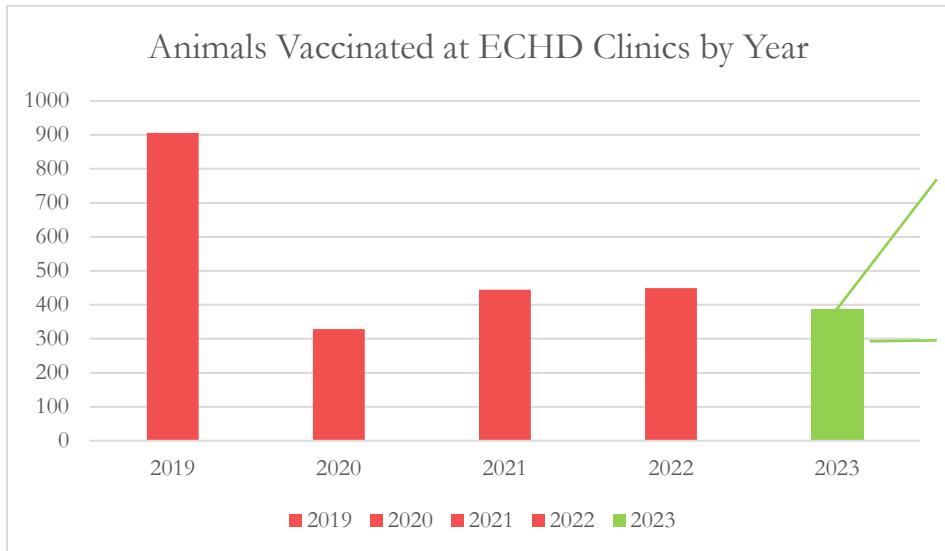
Health News Happening Now...

Let's roll up our sleeves to foster a community of immunity. We have produced a series of Public Service Announcements from local families and health care providers sharing their experiences, expertise, and to connect people with resources they need to be healthy and protected. Find a medical home and please know we as a health department are here when and if you are ready to vaccinate.





Rabies



June-October 2023
Ticonderoga
Lake Placid
Schroon Lake

146-Westport
125 Moriah
116 Chesterfield



Second rabid fox in Ticonderoga

Residents urged to check rabies vaccination status for pets and keep them UTD

Emergency Preparedness & Response



Essex County Health Department confirmed Cooling Center locations throughout Essex County.

Initially established in a relationship with local libraries and the CEF Library System, all of these locations offer air conditioning and welcome all seeking shelter from the heat on our hottest days and every day!

Family Health

Newborn Universal Home Visiting Program: Baby Steps to Bright Futures

- Case Management System build is underway!
- Marketing pieces are underway & outreach has been conducted
- Birth Hospital introductions occurred with UVM in Burlington & Ported Medical in Middlebury. Additional introductions scheduled for Adirondack Health, CVPH & Glens Falls
- Agreement with UVHN on birth notifications is underway

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Staff attended new trainings from NYSDOH on most current regulations & expectations of LHDs. Care coordination with providers & families is underway!



Communications

Working on a website redesign.

Changes:

*Improve accessibility

*change perspective from who we are & what we do to community-member driven: I want to; I am a; etc.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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I Want To | I Am A | Programs | A-Z Index



Popular Topics

- ✿ Cannabis
- ✿ COVID-19
- ✿ Environmental (permits/licensing...)
- ✿ Follow us on Facebook
- ✿ Immunizations
- ✿ Immunization Clinics
- ✿ Monthly Fitness Challenge
- ✿ Naloxone (Narcan)
- ✿ Out & About Activities
- ✿ Rabies
- ✿ Rabies Clinics
- ✿ Ticks

Community Health Assessment & Planning

- Update meetings underway to determine status, barriers, solutions to interventions for our 3 priority areas:
 - Chronic Disease
 - Well-Being and Substance Use & Mental Health Disorders
 - Women, Infants & Children
- <https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/community-health-assessment/>

Work-plan Development

Mandated Program & Services Work plans that are consistent with NYSDOH Guidance and SAA Questions.

- Staff have an improved understanding of what NYSDOH expects of the program/service
- Evidence based interventions are identified & local application plan identified
- Activities are documented
- Outputs and outcomes are measured





STAFFING UPDATE

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Re-signed.

Registered Nurse (Dawn Haase of Moriah) Hired.

We had experience working with Dawn during COVID pandemic response in her previous position. We're delighted she decided to join our team! As all very small Health Departments do, we are regularly adapting and trying to use each team member to the best of their talents, abilities and skills while serving the needs of the Department and our community.

VACANCY -Outreach Coordinator

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Public Health Outreach Coordinator

Work within the Children's Services & Family Health Programs at the Essex County Health Department to:

*Positively impact the lives of children, youth & families in Essex County

*Ensure the coordination and delivery of medical, educational, and community-based services to improve health & quality of life outcomes for children up to age 21

*Support activities of the Baby Steps to Bright Futures program - a first of its kind universal home visiting initiative for ALL families bringing home babies in Essex County



FISCAL UPDATES

State Aid (Article 6) \$577,000 + 36% for dollars over base

CDC PH Infrastructure and Workforce Funding

Amount: \$618,740 over 5 years or \$123,748/year

Purpose: address long-standing weakness due to chronic underinvestment in NY's public health system and strengthen preparedness to address new challenges and future public health emergencies.

Local Plan:

- Extending (1) Communications Specialist and
- Extending (1) Nursing position once current grant funding expires;
- Funding ½ of an Outreach Coordinator position.
- \$5,000 towards professional development, workshops, etc.

REGULAR/STANDARD GRANTS FROM NYSDOH

- PH Emergency Prep & Response
- Immunization Action Plan
- Rabies
- Lead Poisoning Prevention

COVID FUNDING

- Epi & Lab Capacity (ELC) COVID-19
- Epi & Lab Capacity (ELC) School Testing
- CVD Vax
- Public Health Fellows

OTHER GRANTS

- Child Passenger Safety Initiative
- NYSACHO – Climate Smart Community
- Adirondack Foundation – Kinder Closet for Baby Steps to Bright Future Program

Policy Review & Plans for 2023 and Beyond

- Create 1 comprehensive list of policies that link to current policies (we currently have over 100 individual policies).
- Continue policy prioritization; consolidate & simplify
- Make necessary changes/improvements to ensure onboarding of staff is as smooth as possible

EXAMPLE- Rabies Program changes – mailing of specimens; human euthanizing of bats; PrEP for staff handling potentially rabid specimens.