

Public Health Advisory Committee Report

December 2024

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Communicable Disease

Vaccine Program

(Two/2 vacancies) 0 nurses May-September (5 months) in the Public Health Unit.

1 Public Health Nurse hired and started in October!

1 Supervising Public Health Nurse anticipated to start in December!

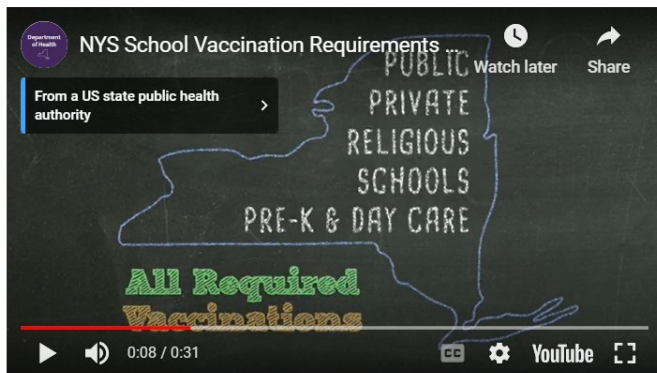
Onboarding and training during the busy start of school, flu and COVID season.

2 Day IQIP Training attended by 2 staff to ensure proper training to conduct visits.

Training new staff highlighted the need to make significant updates to Vaccine Program Policies & Procedures and create new documents where it was identified there was a gap. These include:

- *Vaccine Storage and Handling
- *Vaccine Emergency Storage and Handling
- *Vaccine Scheduling and Billing
- *Vaccine Administration
- *Vaccine Emergency Management in Community Settings
- *Vaccine Errors and VAERS Reporting

School Vaccination Requirements



"All kids going to public, private and religious schools, pre-K and day care, must get all required vaccinations unless they have a valid medical exemption"

Since September our Department has been in regular communication with School Nurses about school required immunizations. We serve as a source of information for our school nurses and families as they strive to navigate the requirements of NYS laws around immunizations.

As we saw last spring, New York State Department of Health Division of Vaccine Excellent (DOVE) was out again this fall making rounds across the state to visit local school districts to audit school immunization records.

In October DOVE made an appearance at Boquet Valley Central School and in November visited Minerva Central School.

At both schools, even when nurses thought they had correctly advised on immunization requirements, students were identified for exclusion due to not meeting immunization requirements.

Our staff are trained in understanding NYS immunization requirements for school attendance and working with school nurses and families in understanding immunization records and catch up schedules. While many students are under the excellent care of local pediatricians and healthcare providers, others may not have a strong relationship with a provider. Some are new to the area from out of the region or state; some are here as exchange students. All are required to meet NYS requirements and this is where we can help. For each unique situation, we can provide needed immunizations or connect families with healthcare providers and insurance.

SCHOOL VACCINE SUPPORT

Communications

NYSDOH School Immunization Requirements Handbook

Immunizations Requirements Slide Presentation

Promotion of Training on the School Nurse Survey

Specific Consultation provided

Public Schools: Keene, Minerva, Newcomb, Ausable Valley, Willsboro, Saranac Lake, Boquet Valley

Private Schools: Mountain Lake Academy, Northwood School, North Country School

School Vaccine Clinics - 3

*Boquet Valley - School-Responsive (at Health Dept.);

*Minerva - School Based;

*Northwood School-School-Based

COMMUNITY CLINICS - 1

*Essex County Employees Flue & COVID

CDMS & NYSIIS Communications

COVID, FLU, RSV



MPOX

We fielded a request from the Trudeau Institute for MPox vaccine for about 20 staff. Because they are located in Franklin County we directed to Franklin though agreed we could and would serve them and do have public vaccine available to support this request. This offer is still underway.

CDC announced that are sun-setting their Mpox vaccine finder as of 11/22/24 on the website. Directing people to PCP or LHD for the vaccine.

Legionella

Scenarios ----If legionella is associated with a rental property - how do we handle those - like a hotel or a private property? Hot tub at a Vrbo - treat them as a house or a commercial property? Fuzzy.... NYSDOH will continue to work on how to clarify & we can consult with them for handling those situations.

Marburg

Refer to flow chart previously distributed (green, orange, red).

Nosocomial cases are under control per CDC (orange) so CDC has dropped orange.

NYS still getting travelers in; ~ 1/week; none high risk; all green category = regular self-monitoring through CDC.

Has been more than a week since last Marburg case reported, but now there is 1 new community-acquired case in a miner (potential exposure from bats). Sets the clock back in terms of saying the outbreak is over.

Just one traveler in NYC flagged for monitoring.

Rwandan resident only planning on being here short term. Not a high risk person.

Mycoplasma Pneumoniae (Camp Outbreaks 2024 into School Outbreaks 2024)

of cases seeing this year compared to last is ~10-11X last year.

It continues to go up month by up.

Not reportable.

Goes through cycles - every 7-9 years there is a bad year.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) A - H5N1

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/pdfs/mm7344a3-H.pdf>

Since April 2024, sporadic infections with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5) viruses have been detected among dairy farm workers in the US mostly through worker monitoring, and mild despite the possibility of more severe illness.

Rabies Cases:

6 Positive Specimens in 2024

2 skunks in Westport - April

1 woodchuck in Port Henry, Moriah – May

1 raccoon in New Russia, Elizabethtown - May

1 raccoon in Moriah- May

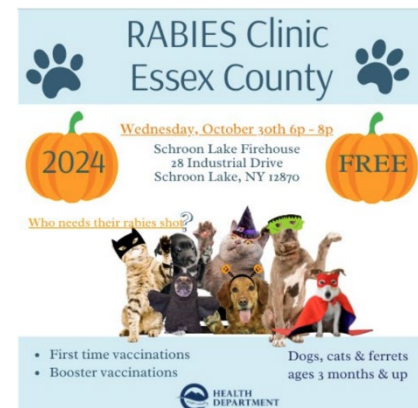
1 raccoon in Westport- August

Rabies Clinics:

7 Clinics offered

583 pets vaccinated.

Unable to arrange fur-well clinic in November
as could not secure a Vet Tech to support the vet.



Sexual & Reproductive Health

October-December

Schools/Camps/Groups – 3

CAP Pack Distribution:

- New CAP locations at Minerva Town Hall; Schroon Lake Town Hall
- **17** CAP packs were distributed at the Harvest Festival

*Training: Attended the Healthy Teen Network National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona week of November 17

*HIV/HCV Screening remains available.

*Contract with Planned Parenthood of Greater NY to increase accessibility to services to people in southern Essex County.

Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

1 Staff currently training for CLC!

1 staff currently conducting home visits

Sept:

Babies born & families offered the Program – 22 (5 pending)

Families enrolled in the program - 2

Families that were sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – 15

Referrals out to programs and services – 1;

Reached through Little Feeders Support Group – 0 in-person sessions provided; 0 Facebook Live sessions

Oct:

Babies born & families offered the Program – 24 (2 pending)

Families enrolled in the program – 9 (4 born in August or September but accepted in October)

Families that were sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – 15

Referrals out to programs and services – 0

Reached through Little Feeders Support Group – 0 in-person sessions provided; 0 Facebook Live sessions

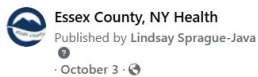
Nov:

Babies born & families offered the Program – 16 born (7 pending offers)

Families enrolled in the program -3

Families that were sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – 6

Referrals out to programs and services – 4



**What support did you need most in
the early days of parenthood ? ?**



Car Seat Program



Car seat check clinics –8
 Car seats checked - 18
 Car seats issued as new & installed – 12
 Training attended – 1

In honor of Child Passenger Safety Week we offered a pop up car seat check at The Clubhouse Daycare Center in Willsboro!



Hillary Perkett attended a training for Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs in November. As she works within our Children with Special Healthcare Needs Program we're excited she is now well trained to serve and connect children and families of Essex County.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Did you know around 1/3 or 5,300 houses in Essex County were built before 1940?



Homes built before this time are 87% more likely to contain lead. The older your home is, the more likely it is to contain lead. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. Children 6 and younger are most at risk to the effects of lead. Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, slowed growth, and hearing problems.

8-12 Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children)
 9-12 pending confirmatory testing;
 1 released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated.
 0 - Lead levels screenings performed by our Department



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health Unit

Community Health Assessment & Planning



As another Community Health Assessment cycle approaches, ECHD is planning to launch a Community Needs Survey, similar to previous cycles. The survey, a collaboration with our local hospital partners UVMHN-ECH and Adirondack Health, will feature questions that assess the health and healthcare landscape of Essex County, as well as social needs that influence the health of our residents. The survey will be available through May 2025. Keep an eye out for a press release and periodic reminders on our social media pages. Encourage your constituents to participate!

The Program Coordinator responsible for managing CHA and CHIP activities is participating on a work group with representatives from various agencies across the state to identify goals, objectives, and interventions for the 2025-2030 Prevention Agenda Domains and Priority Areas. The final product will be the framework used by local health departments and hospitals to develop their respective CHAs and CHIPs.

CREDIBLE MIND



As part of a joint initiative with Essex County Mental Health, ECHD announced the launch of Credible Mind, a new online platform designed to support the mental health and wellbeing of the community with resources for anxiety, depression, stress, substance use, caring for aging loved ones, parenting, nutrition, and so much more.

With funding from UVHN – ECH the platform has been advertised to Essex County employees, schools, the billboard in Port Henry, and Facebook posts. Additional advertising will be newspaper ads, coffee cups sleeves, gas pump advertising at Stewarts and other modalities. The site is enjoying lots of visits and the focus is now on increasing engagement time with topics, assessments & learning labs.



Promoting Well-Being through thoughtful messaging on mental health is an intervention identified in our Community Health Improvement Plan.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises –

- Essex County Employee Flu/COVID Clinic
- 1 Tabletop Discussion exercise- Mock Joint Patient Interviews

Training/Continuing Education – 25

1 in person at the DSHES Training Center, FBI/CDC Joint Criminal Epidemiologic Investigations Workshop

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings – 10

(Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition, County Animal Response Team, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, etc.)

Volunteer Coordination –

MRC Workshop, working on completion of deliverables to receive the MRC STTRONG Grant,

Updated the MRC Unit Profile, and updated active volunteer count.

MRC Standard Operating Guideline/Plan

Finalized the MRC Playbook and the new Policy on Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers.

Plan Updates Finalized: Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Communication Plan

Plan Updates/Revisions underway: Essex CART Plan; Emergency Operations Plan



Climate Health:

Tick season is lasting longer due to warmer weather, and tick borne illnesses are on the rise in Essex County. Tick awareness promotion in the Sun Community News and on the ECHD Facebook page, reminding the public to stay vigilant and protect themselves from tick borne illnesses.

Chronic Disease Prevention

September Health Campaigns:

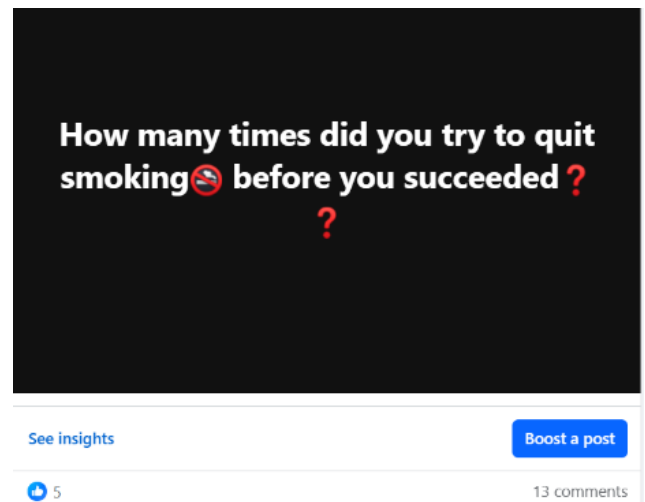
- Healthy Aging Month
 - 151 #Getfitessexcounty fitness bands with instruction cards and 167 jar openers with “BEFAST” stroke awareness messaging distributed to 8 senior housing/centers.
 - A Mobility and Aging presentation offered to 10 attendees at the Port Henry/Moriah Senior Meal Center, as part of a collaboration with Office for the Aging and Cornell Cooperative Extension – Essex County.
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
 - 83 “We Aim to Promote Health - Talk to Your Doctor about Prostate Cancer Screening” deodorizing urinal splashguards were delivered to 21 local businesses; mostly bars and restaurants.
- #Getfitessexcounty – “Back to School Boot Camp”

October Health Campaigns:

- #Getfitessexcounty – “Candy Corn Cardio”
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month – ECHD launched a social media campaign and distributed magnets reminding women to get their recommended mammograms
- The Chronic Disease Outreach Coordinator attended the two day AHI 2024 North Country Leadership Summit focused on leveraging partnerships to enhance the regional health and social care landscape.
- The Well Fed Essex County Collaborative partnered with the Adirondack Food Systems Network to host a roundtable at the Grange in Whallonsburgh to discuss challenges and opportunities in our local food system and bridge new partnerships. The Essex County Board of Supervisors was identified as a strength supporting farmers and access to healthy, local food.

November Health Campaigns:

- Mo-vember – Men’s Health Awareness
- #getfitessexcounty – Giving Thanks and Doing Planks
- Diabetes Awareness Month
- The Request for Proposals for active transportation studies in the towns of Willsboro and Lewis was issued to the firms on the NYSDOT Region 1 LDSA.



STAFFING UPDATE

- 1 Disease Specialist on Maternity Leave > ~4 months program covered by 3 different people
- 1Public Health Nurse position filled in October!
- 1 Supervising Public Health Nurse Position filled in December!

FISCAL UPDATES

Grants management

Statewide Financial System supposed to go into operations January 16, 2024; partial launch. System for the following grants:

- Lead
- WIC
- Children & Youth with Special Healthcare Needs
- Early Intervention

Bureau of Communicable Disease Control issues and manages through the Health Commerce System for just:

- Rabies

Bureau of Immunization Grants are managed under programs with email-only communication; including:

- Immunization Action Plan
- CVD Vax Grant

Office of Health Emergency Preparedness manages grants through Health Research Institute (HRI); including:

- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Fellows
- ELC COVID
- Public Health Infrastructure
- MRC Strong

NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee operates their own e-Grants platform for the following:

- Car Seat

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award to Essex County supports:

- Baby Steps to Bright Futures Program; and
- Essex County Heroin and Other (ECHO) Coalition.

New York State Association of County & City Health Officials (NYSACHO) funds:

- Climate activities (tick-borne disease prevention; sunscreen program)

Private funds through Adirondack Foundation and Safe Kids Adirondack support:

- Baby Steps to Bright Futures Program.