

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 2026

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



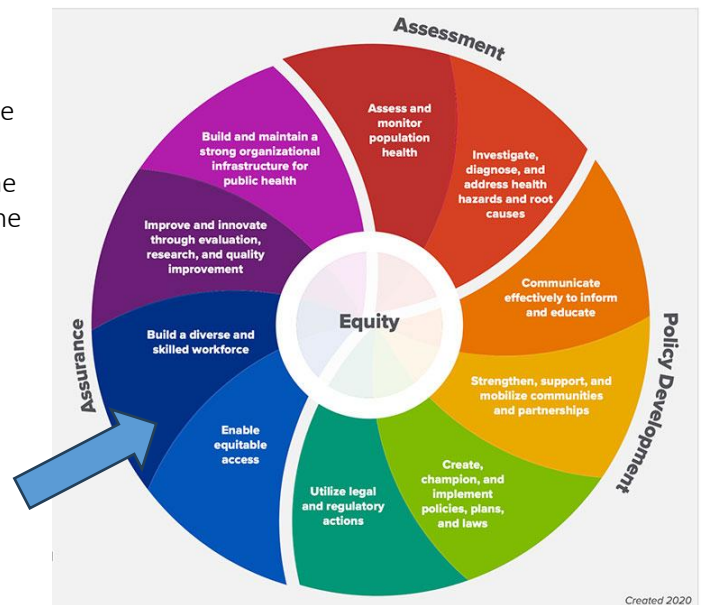
Department Highlights –

Investing in the Next Generation of Public Health

Each summer through the opportunity provided by the County Manager and endorsed by the Essex County Manager and Board of Supervisors/Board of Health the Health Department considers how we may invest in the future of Public Health by providing Summer Intern opportunities for local students.

This is an incredible win-win-win for the student, the Department, the community.

Our students this summer truly shine brightly as we strive to build a diverse and skilled workforce – one of the 10 Essential Services of Public Health.



Peyton Leerkes – of Willsboro – joined our Dept. for the 2nd summer in a row working mostly with our home care clinicians to gain an understanding of each of the clinical role of the home health team. She also jumps in willingly to all outreach events for public health, children's services and WIC with an incredible eagerness to listen and serve. Peyton is a dynamic student and will be an asset to any future employee team she joins – ours or otherwise!

Raegen Thomas – of Crown Point – joined our Dept. as a sophomore at UAlbany studying Biochemistry. We wrapped her into many aspects of public health including, preparing data and data visualizations, updating presentations for our Medical Reserve Corps, joining us for rabies and WIC Clinics, community outreach events including Ti Street Fest and Champ Day and our Community Baby Shower. She is a bright and brilliant learner that is a wiz with whatever we challenge her with and a yes-gal! We have every confidence that with this experience and her approach towards the field she will take on the world!

Mike Corey – of Minerva – was the first ever 1-day Job Shadow student of a fledgling North Country Community College Community Health Worker program. He had a whirlwind of a day from a staff meeting to Family Health to Children's Services to a WIC-n-Pick – a day in the life of Public Health!

ECHD Program Data – JULY (unless otherwise noted)

Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Improvement Planning (CHIP)

CHA/ARHN/Data Meetings – 0

CHA/CHIP Partner Meetings/Communication – 2

CHA Training/Webinars – 0

NYSACHO CHA/CHIP Workgroup – 1 (minutes reviewed)

Engagement with local hospital partners to plan for fall Community Health Coalition of Essex County Summit. Save-the-Date and agenda drafted for final release.

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiological Investigations

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - **8**

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - **8**

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations – **2 STI; 5 Hepatitis**

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations – **74**

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – **1**

Other investigations – **0**

*Highlights, campaigns, trainings –

Essex County Fair Table in Floral Hall: Distributed vaccination information, pencils, pens with vaccine messaging, as well as rabies and tick information to fair patrons:

50 tick activity books

30 tick check shower reminders

130 Bat magnets

40 Children's Hospital of Philly (CHOP) Immunization Coloring Books

25 CHOP Vaccinations for your Baby Books

30 Balto Dog Coloring sheets

30 American Cancer Society HPV vax handouts for parents

60 Immunization message pens

100 Immunization message pencils

Site visit to children's camp with NYSDOH Saranac Lake District Office personnel.

Amish neighbor outreach campaign: Hand-delivered **6** goody bags with crayons, coloring and activity book for children, and measles, tetanus, and rabies vaccination and schedule information for parents, with goal of increasing interaction, familiarity, and comfort level for that community with the Health Department staff. All packets were distributed in-person with friendly conversation, and received with good will. As reported by the parents, the children enjoyed last year's similar offerings. Two young families expressed interest: one in a rabies clinic for his dog, and the other possibly for vaccinating his children. More bags to go out in August.

Immunization Program

Clinics in the community - **0**

Individuals immunized – **1**

Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities: **3** healthcare provider calls, **2** provider e-mail interactions regarding immunizations; **1** IQIP 12-month follow-up completed for health clinic; **2** in-person school nurse interactions, **2** school nurse phone communications regarding immunizations; **3** daycare provider interactions. S-NY Center for School Health messages sent to school nurses.

Public Health Nurses manually added immunization records of **3** children from local school districts/private schools and **0** adults to NYS vaccine registry.

Immunization trainings/meetings/coalitions attended - **2**

Monthly Sensaphone Drills – **2** (Public Health and Public Safety Building)

Screening Services

HCV Screenings - **0**

HIV Screenings – **0**

TB Screening - **1**

STI Screening Services – referrals and/or services rendered – **Services rendered tallies were reported recently for:**

April – 2; May – 1; June – 0; July - 1

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – **1** (Ray Brook – Town of North Elba)

Pets Vaccinated – **35**

Rabies investigations - **78**

Specimens submitted for testing – **24 (all negative)**

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – **40**

Next Rabies Clinic: **Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at the Schroon Lake Fire Department from 6-7:30PM**

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises – **0**

Training/Continuing Education – **1**

Volunteer Coordination – **1**

Plan Updates/Revisions – **1 in progress** (Essex County Emergency Operations Plan)

Meetings/Coalitions/Community Engagement– **1** (Capital District PHEP Coordinators Monthly Meeting)

*Highlights, campaigns, activities – Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff organized the trailer containing POD supplies and other storage areas, conducting a full inventory of items.

PHEP staff will be conducting site visits at three designated Point-of-Dispensing (POD) locations in the county in August. These sites include the Ticonderoga Elementary School, the Horse Show Grounds in Lake Placid, and the Community Center in Jay. The site visits allow us to evaluate each location to ensure it is suitable for large scale, community-wide distribution of medical countermeasures (medications/vaccines) during a public health emergency. Staff will review both indoor and outdoor areas to plan walk-in and drive-thru style clinic flows. These visits help us map out the POD setups, while considering the many needs of a multi-hour event, including electricity and Wi-Fi access, ingress and egress points, lighting, bathrooms, access and functional needs accommodations, and more. We are grateful to our Town Supervisors and school partners for their cooperation and for making time for these tours.

Chronic Disease

July 1, 2026 – July 30, 2026 Reporting Period

Public Health Detailing - # **0**

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings & Highlights

- Coalitions Coordinated by ECHD
 - Well Fed Essex County Collaborative - **1**
 - TURN (Tobacco Use Reduction Network of Essex County) – **0**
- AFSN (Adirondack Food Systems Network) Food Access Subcommittee – **2**
- Heart Network – **0**
- Mercy Care - **1**
- NYSDOT & Town of Keene Traffic Safety Study Planning Meeting - **1**

Trainings and Webinars – **3**

- Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health Extreme Health and Health
- Addressing Vape Product Use on College Campuses Part 1
- NYSAC Maximize Your Opioid & JUUL Settlement Funds: Evidence based Awareness & Prevention Campaigns

Campaigns & Awareness – **7**

- #getfitessexcounty – July Move 250



Visiting the fair? Be sure to stop by our table inside Floral Hall!

We're handing out health essentials and helpful local resources:

Sunscreen and bug wipes

Family health program details

Rabies and tick safety information

FEATURED DEMO: Put your balance to the test! Try on our new impairment goggles to see firsthand how alcohol and drugs alter visual perception and coordination.



- Outreach at the Essex County Fair and Ti Street Fest including, but not limited to sun safety, extreme heat preparedness, pedestrian safety, safe and sober driving, alcohol awareness and its link to 7 types of cancer. The Fatal Vision Goggles, purchased as part of a grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, were demonstrated at the Essex County Fair, and very well-received by the community. At various times, up to 9 teenagers were in line to try them and learn how alcohol impairs coordination, and the NYSP even joined in to partner for a Standard Field Sobriety Test!

Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (COOP)

Narcan Kits Distributed – **29 at community events** (not including those distributed from Community Care Kiosks)

SUDOR Submissions/ODs – **0 Non-Fatal; 0 Fatal**

2026 ODs Non-Fatal/Fatal* – **10 (8 Non-Fatal/2 Fatal); 18 pending non-fatal hospital ED visits**

Community Care Kiosks – Three (3) Community Care Kiosk Locations remain in place in Port Henry (MLS Consignment Shop), Elizabethtown (DMV), and Lewis (Public Safety Building).

Kiosks were not filled this month; supplies were earmarked for community events.

Environmental Health

Air, Water and Food Health & Safety

Air Safety/Quality/Excessive Heat Alerts – **Canadian wildfire smoke air quality alerts beginning week of July 15**

Public Water Notices

Boil Water Orders – **2 (Schroon & Chesterfield)**

Blue-Green Algae Notices – **3 (Ballard Park Beach – Westport; Port Douglas Beach – Chesterfield; Port Henry Beach – Moriah)**

Climate and Health

Activities - UV Safety Month. The ECHD partnered with Essex County Office for the Aging and Essex County Adult Protective Services to distribute sunscreen and cooling towels, along with extreme heat education to vulnerable populations.

Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – **21 (5 pending)**

Families enrolled in the program – **4** (all were born in a previous month)

DSS Collaboration Families - **1**

Families that sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – **16**

Referrals out to programs and services – **0**

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children) & ensure appropriate follow-up care:

Active Children - **13**



Pending confirmatory testing - **4**
Released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated – **0**
Released due to not following up on venous confirmatory testing – **0**

Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics – **6**
Car seats checked - **3**
Car seats issued as new & installed – **0**

School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting – **0** (Summer break)

Sexual/Reproductive/Relationship Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – **0** (Summer break)
Classes/Students – **0**
CAP Pack Distribution (not including Kiosks) – **76** (Camps, Lobby, Ti Street Fest, Essex County Fair)

Children’s Services

Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **5**
Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **33**
Children awaiting evaluation - **5**
Speech Therapy - **7** receiving; **16** waiting
Occupational Therapy - **5** receiving; **4** waiting
Physical Therapy - **4** receiving; **0** waiting
Special Instructional Services - **9** receiving; **4** waiting

Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **22**
Children enrolled – **51***
Children waiting for services
 Counseling - **0**
 Occupational Therapy - **4**
 Physical Therapy - **0**
 Speech Therapy - **7**
 Special Education/Itinerant Teacher - **3**
Children Attending Center Based Classrooms
 In County – **12**; Out of County - **3**

*Preschool numbers are dramatically different due to July being summer programming. Many students are not recommended for services in the summer as they are aging out into kindergarten in the fall. Boquet Valley did not have a summer integrated classroom. Whereas, Early Intervention is a year-round program.

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHN)

Number of families supported this month – **6** (examples of resources and referrals: Healthy Alliance, Families First, C-YES, Children's Health Network for Health Home services).

CYSHN Staff Hillary Drake attended a conference focused on spina bifida through the Spina Bifida Association of New York State to enhance her knowledge of current best practices, care coordination, and resources for children and youth with special healthcare needs. The conference provided valuable information on supporting individuals with spina bifida across the lifespan, promoting assistive tech/adaptive clothing, improving access to specialized services, and addressing the complex medical, developmental, and social needs of children and youth living with this condition. The knowledge gained will help strengthen care coordination, family education, and connections to community resources.

The New York State Department of Health (Department) has determined under Sections 616 and 642 of Part C of IDEA for the period from July 2024 – June 2025 that Essex County Early Intervention Program Meets Requirements. To make this determination, the Department reviewed local EIPs for the following federal compliance indicators for the period of July 2024 – June 2025. For each of the following indicators performance standard is 100%:

- Percentage of infants and toddlers with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner, which is defined by New York State as 30 days
- Percentage of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an initial evaluation and initial assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within Part C’s 45-day timeline
- Percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C with timely transition planning who have an IFSP with transition steps and services at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler’s third birthday

- Percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C with timely transition planning for whom the local education agency (LEA) where the toddler resides was notified at least 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services (consistent with any opt-out policy adopted by the state)
- Percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C with timely transition planning for whom the transition conference was held with the approval of the family at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool service

WIC

Target Enrollment – **600**

Enrolled - **484**

Women enrolled - **84**

Infants (0-1) enrolled - **90**

Children (1-5) enrolled - **309**

Referrals made to other programs/services - **104**

High Risk Families - **34**

Nutrition Education sessions – **160**

In person families - **44**

Remote families – **110**

Breastfeeding Initiation Rate – **70%**

Highlights:

In July, Essex County WIC kicked off our 6th year of WIC n' Pick. Families visited the Creative Kitchen Garden at DaCy Meadow Farm on two evenings to pick vegetables and flowers! WIC staff conducted food demonstrations to teach families how to prepare healthy food from the garden using WIC's mobile kitchen, the Charlie Cart. We will continue



to visit the garden over the course of August and September. Essex County WIC would also like to welcome our new Maternal Health Worker, Kerry Lucid, to the team. Kerry started on July 27th and will be acting as a breastfeeding peer counselor to pregnant and postpartum moms, assisting with outreach activities, and providing program support. We are so excited to have her on board!

Home Health Care

June 24, 2026 – July 24, 2026 Reporting Period

Referrals accepted – **39**

Patients receiving services – **138***

Nursing Services – **76**

Physical Therapy - **68**

Occupational Therapy – **28**

Speech Therapy – **1**

Home Health Aid – **7**

*Includes Remote Patient Monitoring

Per Medicare Care Compare: Updated July, 2026 - The latest update is not accurate due to pulling in remote patient monitoring and immunization patients. This has been corrected.

Patients rate the overall care from our home health agency at 95% which is better than our competition, National average and NY average of 83%.

This past reporting period our patients who were re-admitted to the hospital after discharge from home health was 3.7% which was better than the national average, and our competition at 5.2%. This past reporting period our patients who would recommend the home health agency to friends and family was 91% which is better than our competition, NY state and the national average of 79%.