

# ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JULY 2024

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



## Health Department Highlights

### HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) A - H5N1

#### Current situation

##### H5N1 Monitoring in People

CDC influenza (flu) surveillance systems show no indicators of unusual influenza activity in people, including avian influenza A(H5N1).

[Monitoring Current Situation](#)

##### Humans

Total Reported Human Cases in the United States: **4** (since 2022)

**3** following exposure to dairy cows (reported between 4/01/2024 and 5/29/2024 |

[Full Report](#)

**1** following exposure to poultry (reported on 4/28/2022) | [Full Report](#)

States with Reported Case(s): **3**

[Learn More](#)

Federal and state partners are engaging local health departments on preparedness for the spread of H5N1, also known as HPAI or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The initial advisory regarding a H5N1 case in a human occurred in April of 2024. Since then there have been no positive test of dairy cattle or humans in New York, nor has there been documented human-to-human transmission anywhere in the US. While the CDC considers the risk of H5N1 viruses to humans to be low, LHDs across the state are planning for what could happen, if and when H5N1 cases occur in New York.

NYSDOH considers LHDs to be vital partners in

planning for potential scenarios and responding to real life scenarios. Our Department is staying current with ongoing federal and state updates, and working to be prepared for responses such as collaborating with CCE and local farmers; providing guidance on PPE; supporting specimen submission; planning for season influenza vaccines; conducting contact tracing and symptom monitoring to those exposed and supporting wrap around support for people who may need to isolate.

### STAFF TURNOVER – UPDATE

The Public Health Unit lost two nurses at the end of May and has not received any applications.

A Principal Account Clerk will start in July.

### CAMP SEASON OUTREACH

In-person training for municipal camps (9) was provided in collaboration with the Youth Bureau and connection was made with 85-100 summer camp staff. Major areas of content include ill campers (communicable diseases); Air Quality, Harmful Algae Blooms (Blue-Green Algae) and rabies.



### HELMET FITTING EVENTS

The Essex County Health Department in collaboration with Safe Kids Adirondack purchased, fitted, and distributed over 630 bike helmets to Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Moriah, CVES Mineville schools, and Essex County Head Start – PreK – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students!



## REFUGEE/MIGRANT HEALTH COLLABORATION

The Department continues to network with town supervisors, local programs and DSS on improving situational awareness, bridging connections and ensuring the health and safety of refugees/migrants as they enter Essex County.

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## ECHD Program Data – June (unless otherwise noted)

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

#### CHA Progress Updates & Special Reports

NYSDOH Office of Public Health Practice confirmed that the next iteration of the Prevention Agenda (2025-2030) will transition to priority areas based on social determinants of health (SDOH) and utilize the Healthy People 2030 framework. Notably, the cycles for completing full CHA/CHIP activities will move from three years to six years.

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## Communicable Disease

### Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations – No Update

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - 20

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - 6

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations - 6

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations - 56

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – 0

Other Investigations (Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive Group A/B Strep) - 2

### Immunization Program

Clinics in the community - 0

Individuals immunized - 0

Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities - 0

IQIP visits - 0

Stethoscoop meetings – 0

### Screening Services

HCV Screenings - 0

HIV Screenings - 0

TB Screening - 0

Referrals to Planned Parenthood for STI Testing – 0

### Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – 1 (Chesterfield)

Pets Vaccinated - 89

Rabies investigations - 27

Specimens submitted for testing – 13

**Positive Specimens – 0 (June); 5 total for 2024**

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – 2

**\*Highlights – ACO/DCO training at Public Safety Building on 06/07/2024**

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## Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises - 0

Training/Continuing Education - 7

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings - 2, CART (County Animal Response Team) planning meetings have resumed

Volunteer Coordination – 0; updated the MRC Volunteer page on the Health Department Website

Plan Updates/Revisions – 0; currently reviewing/updating the Pandemic Viral Respiratory Disease Response Plan, and The PHAD (Public Health Asset Distribution Plan).

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## Chronic Disease

Campaigns/Events - **4**

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings - **4**

Public Health Detailing Screenings & Disease Concordant Care - **0**

Direct Community Outreach Initiatives – **3**

Training/Continuing Education – **2**

**June:**

- UV Safety Month
- Men's Health Month
- Men's Health Week
- #getfitessexcounty
  - the fitness challenge was to walk, hike, or bike 60 miles in 30 days
- Partnered with Tobacco Free Clinton, Franklin, Essex to promote a survey of Essex County resident's opinions about local tobacco issues
- Submitted a Funding Request Letter to the New York State Department of Transportation for \$100,000 for Active Transportation Studies in the Towns of Willsboro and Westport. The request was approved via email, and we are awaiting an official award letter/contract in order to move forward with the RFP.



## Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Narcan Kits Distributed - **6**

Groups Trained/Mained – **3**

Groups referred to Alliance for Positive Health for training: **2**

SUDOR Submissions/ODs – **3** non-fatal; **0** fatal

Total Overdoses for the year: 42 (38 non-fatal; 4 fatal)

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## Family Health

### Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program - **18**

Families enrolled in the program - **3**

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

Referrals out to programs and services – **0**; resources requested and provided for postpartum doula, radon removal, and baby proofing home environment

Reached through Little Feeders Support Group – **0** in-person sessions provided; **153** viewed the Facebook Live session

### Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children) – **7** active; **8** pending confirmatory testing; **3** closed as no longer elevated/Venus confirmed not elevated

Lead levels screenings performed by our Department – **0**

### Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics – **4** (Tech Check Tuesdays)

Car seats checked - **3**

Car seats issued as new & installed – **0**

Training attended – **0**

### School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting

On hold for summer months

### Sexual/Reproductive Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – **1** (Willsboro Central School)

Classes – **2** (6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade)

Students reached - **~25**

CAP Pack Distribution - **125** (various partners)

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## Children's Services

### Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **7**  
Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **38**  
Children awaiting evaluation - **4**  
Speech Therapy - **19** receiving; **17** waiting  
Occupational Therapy - **1** receiving; **5** waiting  
Physical Therapy - **4** receiving; **0** waiting  
Special Instructional Services - **8** receiving; **4** waiting

### Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **19**  
Children enrolled - **104**  
Children waiting for services: **37** Counseling – **9**; Occupational Therapy – **24**; Physical Therapy – **2**; Speech Therapy – **13**; Special Education Itinerant Teacher - **13**  
# Children Attending Center Based Classrooms in County - **0**; Out of County - **9**

### Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

Children enrolled – **30**

Children's Services staff members have been out in the community doing outreach and attending events, such as the Schroon Lake Farmers Market and Pride Fest. We also had our first in person Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC) meeting in June where EI topics were discussed. We reviewed EI Hub updates, the enacted budget, and capacity issues we are experiencing. We had a mix of parents and community partners at the meeting.

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## WIC -

Target Caseload – 600  
Current Enrollment - 522  
High Risk Participants - 39  
Nutrition Education sessions/contacts – 189 (in-person: 71 ; remote: 118)  
Referrals made to other programs/services - 96  
Breastfeeding initiation rate – 88%  
\$ Redeemed (spent) through the WIC program - \$33,246

\*In a recent survey of 88 WIC participants, 88 WIC participants struggled to afford protein foods, and fruits and vegetables weekly. Eighteen out 88 stated they did not have basic tools (cutting board, knives, can opener, etc.) to prepare food at home.

The WIC-n-Pick program is bringing families to two local farms again this summer. We love showing families where their food comes from and how to use it. Through a mini-grant from Rotary Club of the Adirondacks, WIC is able to purchase cooking utensils, show participants how to use them, and share simple, healthy recipes. Families go home with all the produce from each farm. The pictures shown below are from our first week at Craigardan-WICgarden. WIC families have their own garden at Craigardan this summer. Everything was planted with the help of WIC kids. Families can go to Craigardan throughout the summer and weed, water, and harvest anything from the WICgarden. We would love you to come out to any of our sessions!



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## Home Health Care - No update