
ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JULY 2026

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



Department Highlights –

Do You Know an Expecting or New Parent ? 🧑🍼

Help us spread the word about our upcoming Locally Grown Community Baby Shower! 🌱👶👶

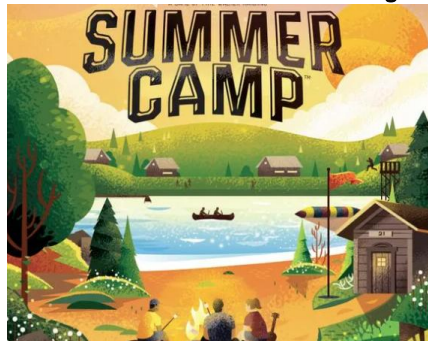
This special event is designed to support and celebrate expecting parents/caregivers and families with infants under one year old in County.

We are bringing together valuable resources to help new and soon-to-be parents connect with: 📶

- 👤 Local resources
- 👤 Health education
- 👤 A fun photo station
- 👤 Car seat checks
- 👤 Breastfeeding support
- 👤 ECHD nurses available to discuss vaccines & more!!!



Collaboration with NYS District & Regional Offices of Health



ECHD staff accompanied NYS District and Regional Office staff on their summer camp pre-inspection visits, meeting with program directors, maintenance, and health office personnel at almost every overnight camp in the county in the month of June. These visits are important to reinforce messaging, and offer resources and supports around topics like communicable disease, rabies/wildlife interactions, harmful algal blooms, and general camper health and safety. Perhaps more importantly, they establish and strengthen lines of communication and build trust between the camps and us – ensuring any issues are addressed promptly and successfully.

ECHD staff also provided a training presentation at an annual Municipal Camp meeting for camp counselors. This session shares similar information to that of overnight camps, with a focus on concerns that are more often encountered in the day camp setting.

ECHD Program Data – JUNE (unless otherwise noted)

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

CHA/ARHN/Data Meetings – 1

CHA/CHIP Partner Meetings – 1

CHA Training/Webinars – 1 (Data Storytelling Webinar)

NYSACHO CHA/CHIP Workgroup – 1 (minutes reviewed)

Key finding and priorities from the 2025 CHA and 2026-2030 CHIP were presented to the Public Health Advisory Committee (06/02/26) and the Lake Placid Rotary Club (06/18/26).



Andrea Whitmarsh (L), ECHD Program Coordinator, is shown with Rotary Club President, Stephanie Pianka.

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiological Investigations

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - **6**

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - **4**

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations – **3**

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations – **73**

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – **1**

Other investigations – **0**

*Highlights, campaigns, trainings – **3** (Foodborne Illness Trends, CDMS Training, CDRO Office Hours)

Immunization Program

Clinics in the community - **0**

Individuals immunized – **2**

Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities: **8** healthcare provider calls, **5** provider e-mail interactions regarding immunizations; **4** in-person school nurse interactions, **9** school nurse phone communications regarding immunizations.

Public Health Nurses manually added immunization records of **2** children from local school districts/private schools and **2** adults to NYS vaccine registry.

Pre K/ K school visits concentrating on pro- immunization messaging and education, oral care, rabies and tick-borne disease awareness and prevention: Ticonderoga Elementary and Moriah Elementary – **49** children, **67** parents/guardians, and **18** staff reached.

Immunization trainings/meetings/coalitions attended - **4**

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

Screening Services

HCV Screenings - **0**

HIV Screenings – **0**

TB Screening - **0**

STI Screening Services – referrals and/or services rendered – **0**

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – **1** (Chesterfield)

Pets Vaccinated – **109**

Rabies investigations - **33**

Specimens submitted for testing – **11** (all negative)

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – **11**

Next Rabies Clinic: **Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at the NYSDOT in North Elba from 6-7:30PM**

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises – **1** (Summer Camp outbreak response)

Training/Continuing Education – **6**

Volunteer Coordination – **0**

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 – Staff partnered with the Essex County Office for the Aging and Adult Protective Services to share information and resources about Cooling Center locations in Essex County. Essex County Cooling Centers can be located using the NYSDOH Cooling Center Finder at:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/weather/cooling/>

ECHD staff attended the **Cornell Cooperative Extension and Soil & Water Open House** at their new building on the Westport Fairgrounds. In addition to touring the facility and meeting staff, local leaders, and community partners, we were able to evaluate the suitability of this location as a future Point-of-Dispensing (POD) site for responding to public health emergencies.

Pictured below:

Jessica Darney Buehler & Andrea Whitmarsh from the Health Department connect with Elizabeth Lee, EC of CCE



Molly Lawrence from the Health Department learns about the new kitchen facility



Display of the local foods available during the open house



Chronic Disease

May 30, 2026 – June 30, 2026 Reporting Period

Public Health Detailing - # 0

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings & Highlights

- Coalitions Coordinated by ECHD
 - Well Fed Essex County Collaborative - **0**
 - TURN (Tobacco Use Reduction Network of Essex County) – **1**
- AFSN (Adirondack Food Systems Network) Food Access Subcommittee – **1**
- Heart Network - **1**
- St. Lawrence County Bridges to Wellness - **1**
 - The Essex County Health Department's Chronic Disease Outreach Coordinator, Molly Lawrence, was asked to present at this meeting about TURN. St. Lawrence County is investigating starting a similar coalition and requested information regarding the purpose of the coalition and why it is needed, current projects, who sits on the coalition, and member expectations.



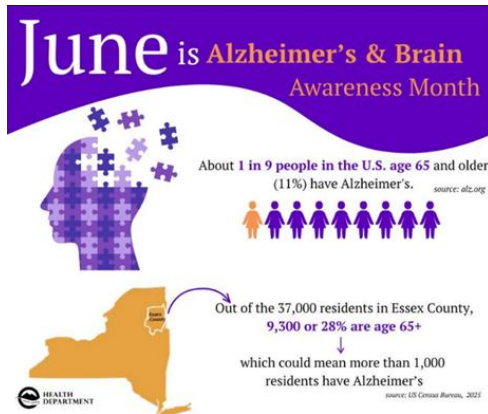
Trainings and Webinars – 1

- Mercy Care Educational Forum

Campaigns & Awareness – 7

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- #getfitessexcounty – June AMRAP Challenge
- Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month: Partnered with local food pantries to distribute brain health messaging to residents
- Men's Health Month
- Traffic Safety messaging with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee campaign "School's Out – Kids Out – WATCH OUT", and made reflective blinking lights (paid for with a grant from the GTSC) available to the community in the ECHD lobby



Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (COOP)

Narcan Kits Distributed – 10 (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); 7 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).

Total items dispensed in May (through May 22, 2026:

Location: DMV/ MLS Consignment/Public Safety	June
Tubby Tester	5
Personal Hygiene kits	19
Sunblock	17
Emergency plan	0
First Aid Kits	38
Forehead thermometer	19
CAP packs	12
Narcan kits	27
Fentanyl test kit	3
Xylazine test kit	4
Medetomidine test kit	37
Tick kits	27
Deterra bags	11
Nail kits	38
Gun locks	32
Shoe Deodorizer	21

Environmental Health

Air, Water and Food Health & Safety

Air Safety/Quality/Excessive Heat Alerts - 0

Public Water Notices

Boil Water Orders – 0

Blue-Green Algae Notices – 0

Climate and Health



Activities - Posted social media messaging reminding the community to consume alcohol responsibly and the importance of wearing sunscreen. Sunscreen and cooling towels with heat safety messaging were made available to vulnerable populations through the ECHD lobby, vending machines, Cornell Cooperative Extension – Essex, and Essex County Adult Protective Services.

Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – 18 (9 pending)

Families enrolled in the program – 2 (one born in May)

DSS Collaboration Families - 1

Families that sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – 9

Referrals out to programs and services – 1



Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

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

Active Children - 17

Pending confirmatory testing - 5

Released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated – 2

Released due to not following up on venous confirmatory testing – 0

Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics – 12

Car seats checked - 9

Car seats issued as new & installed – 2

School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting – 1 offered. Reminder to attend the School Nurse In-Service at the Public Safety Building in Lewis, NY @ 8:30 am on August 26, 2026.

Sexual/Reproductive/Relationship Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – 0

Classes/Students – 0

CAP Pack Distribution (not including Kiosks) – 51

Children's Services

Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **3**
Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **32**
Children awaiting evaluation - **3**
Speech Therapy - **7** receiving; **18** waiting
Occupational Therapy - **6** receiving; **4** waiting
Physical Therapy - **5** receiving; **2** waiting
Special Instructional Services - **9** receiving; **2** waiting

Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **22**
Children enrolled - **83**
Children waiting for services
Counseling - **2**
Occupational Therapy - **11**
Physical Therapy - **3**
Speech Therapy - **17**
Special Education/Itinerant Teacher - **10**
Children Attending Center Based Classrooms
In County - **19** Out of County - **4**

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHN)

Number of families supported this month – **5**

On June 4, Children's Services staff visited the TRIAD Center. The core functions of the TRIAD Program include assistive device re-utilization, device demonstration, device loans, and information dissemination and training. An assistive device is any item, product or piece of equipment that can be used to maintain or improve the functional abilities of individuals with disabilities. It can be something as simple as a modified toothbrush handle or as complex as a voice-activated computer system.

On June 11, staff attended the North Country Rural Resource EXPO, sponsored by AHI. This event connected local organizations to help address everyday challenges in rural communities including resources for food, behavioral health, transportation, substance use, social services, training and education.

WIC

Target Enrollment – **600**
Enrolled - **484**
Women enrolled - **90**
Infants (0-1) enrolled - **90**
Children (1-5) enrolled - **304**
Referrals made to other programs/services - **59**

High Risk Families - **33**
Nutrition Education sessions – **204**
In person families - **39**
Remote families – **119**

Breastfeeding Initiation Rate – **72%**



Essex County WIC distributed 192 Farmers' Market Coupon Books to WIC families in June. Each book is worth \$25 towards fruits and vegetables purchased at regional farmers' markets. Each WIC enrollee with a food package is eligible to receive coupons. This is a great way to encourage families to eat healthy while also supporting local farmers!

Home Health Care

May 18, 2026 – June 18, 2026 Reporting Period

Referrals accepted – **39**
Patients receiving services – **135***
Nursing Services – **74**
Physical Therapy - **65**
Occupational Therapy – **27**
Speech Therapy – **3**
Home Health Aid – **9**
*Includes Remote Patient Monitoring