
ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MARCH 2024

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



Director's Updates

First and foremost, it is an honor to serve the Essex County Board of Supervisors and represent our County at a State level. I want to again welcome our new town Supervisors and share my contact information with all of you. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Linda L. Beers, MPH
(Pronouns she/her/hers)
Essex County Public Health Director
Linda.Beers@essexcountyny.gov
(w): 518-873-3515
(c): 518-593-7288

I have been working with my team to streamline the report and provide concrete numbers that we will chart and provide comparison data as we move forward in the year.

I attended the NYSAC Conference as the Chair of the Public Health & Mental Health standing committee:

Standing Committee on Public Health and Mental Health Resolutions.....	39
Resolution Requesting Improved Enforcement Authority Regarding Flavored E-Cigarette Products	40
Resolution Calling for the SFY 2024-25 Enacted Budget to Include Reforms for Determining the Capacity of a Defendant to Stand Trial.....	43
Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the Implementation of the 2019 Elevated Blood Lead Level Mandate and 2023 Lead Rental Registry and Restoring the 2022 Administrative Cuts to Lead Poisoning Prevention Grants	46

Also as a member of the Children with Special Needs Committee:

Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs Resolutions	17
Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Move the Administrative Responsibility for Preschool Special Education Transportation Services to Local School Districts	18
Resolution Supporting an Extension on the Allowing School Psychologists to Provide Services in the Early Intervention.....	20

EARLY INTERVENTION PLANS SOFTWARE UPDATE

Early Intervention is transitioning from the current case management/billing program NYEIS to the EI HUB with a date slated for June 3, 2024. Though this transition has been pending for many years, there is growing fear that the new program is not as user friendly and will negatively affect our already low provider pool. Some providers may choose not to continue, especially if the new program is more complex and time consuming to learn.

Health Department Highlights

MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

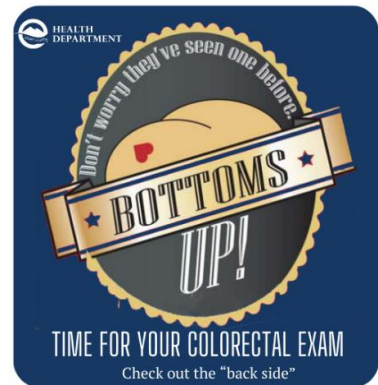
Our popular coaster campaign is back for another year! Planned distribution of over 2,000 drink coasters at approximately 18 local restaurants/bars/sporting and member clubs.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new public service announcement (PSA) videos focused on colorectal cancer screening -

45 is the NEW **50**

These impactful videos aim to raise awareness about the importance of regular colorectal cancer screening for individuals at average risk, starting at age 45. These PSAs aim to empower residents of Essex County to take charge of their health and prioritize potentially life-saving screenings.

Check them out on our website! <https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/colorectal-cancer-screening/>



SOLAR ECLIPSE – APRIL 8, 2024


ECHD is working with local, regional, and state partners to prepare for the solar eclipse. We have added a page to our website, where residents can find out more information.

<https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/total-solar-eclipse-april-8th-2024/>

What does the eclipse mean for people living in Essex County?


You can expect large crowds and an influx of tourists. You should anticipate congestion and traffic delays, and some businesses may be closed or have changed hours.

Here's how you can plan ahead. ➡



Plan Ahead


- ✓ Fill your gas tank before Monday, April 8th.
- ✓ Avoid any non-essential travel and try to schedule appointments for another day.
- ✓ Have a communication plan in case there is a disruption in cell service.



Weather

The weather in April can be warm and sunny or be cold, snowy, muddy, or have inches of rain.

Know Before You Go: Check public land regulations and conditions, especially of trails.




Safely Watch

You can see the sun and an eclipse with special eclipse or solar viewing glasses.

- ⚠️ **NEVER** look directly at the Sun without appropriate eyewear.
- ⚠️ Regular sunglasses are **NOT safe** to view an eclipse.

[Suppliers of Safe Solar Viewers & Filters](#)




Where to Watch

You can view the eclipse anywhere you will have clear visibility.

The easiest way to see the eclipse is from your home. There is no need to travel through all the expected traffic.

[Map of Viewing Areas](#)



When & How Long

The total eclipse visits the Adirondacks beginning at 2:11 pm and exits the northeastern part of the state at 3:29 pm.

A total eclipse can last up to 4 minutes, depending on your location.

[Timeline of eclipse by town](#)

INSTAGRAM LAUNCHED



Check us out on Instagram as we find new ways to engage with as many Essex County residents as possible!

RABIES CLINICS ANNOUNCED

ECHD's 2024 FREE Rabies Clinic Schedule is ready! We have expanded our services to include an extra clinic and two new locations, making it easier than ever for people to get their pets vaccinated. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be completed on our website at:

<https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/rabies-clinics/> or by calling our main office at 518-873-3500.



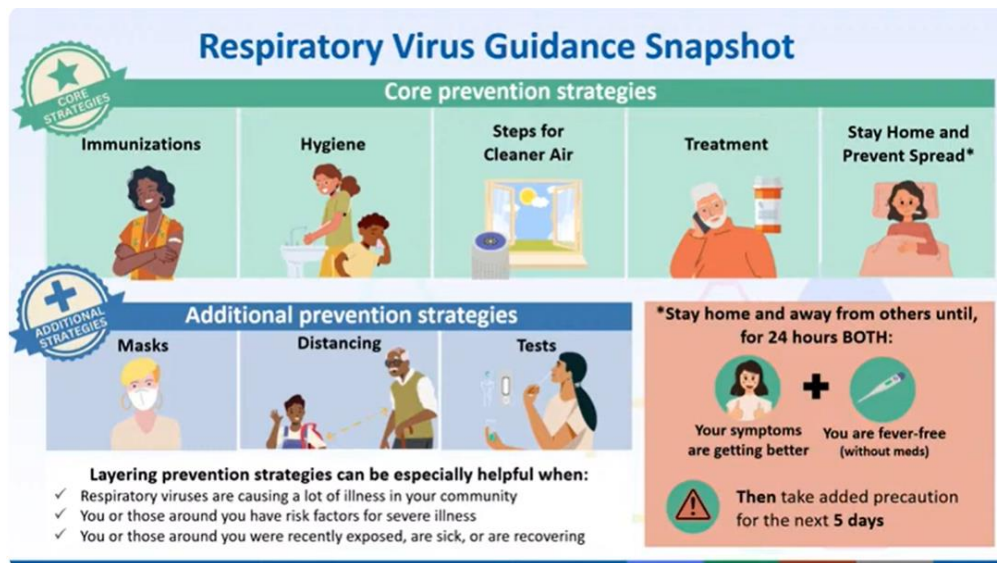
2024 Essex County Rabies Clinics
Who needs their rabies shot? **FREE**

Wednesdays 6p-8p

March 27th - Westport	June 26th - Chesterfield
NEW April 24th - Jay	July 31st - Ticonderoga
May 29th - Moriah	NEW August 28th - Ray Brook
	Oct 30th - Schroon Lake

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CDC LAUNCHES NEW RESPIRATORY VIRUS GUIDANCE



Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot

Core prevention strategies

- Immunizations
- Hygiene
- Steps for Cleaner Air
- Treatment
- Stay Home and Prevent Spread*

Additional prevention strategies

- Masks
- Distancing
- Tests

Layering prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- ✓ Respiratory viruses are causing a lot of illness in your community
- ✓ You or those around you have risk factors for severe illness
- ✓ You or those around you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering

***Stay home and away from others until, for 24 hours BOTH:**

- Your symptoms are getting better
- You are fever-free (without meds)

Then take added precaution for the next 5 days

CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance

WIC TURNED 50 IN FEBRUARY



Did you know our first clinic started in Pineville, Kentucky? Visit wic50th.nwica.org to learn more. #WIC50

February, we explore the countless reasons “Why WIC Matters” and reflect on how the program has and will continue to be a transformative force, adapting and expanding to meet the needs of millions of families. For the past five decades, WIC has not only delivered comprehensive services such as nutrition education, health screenings, and breastfeeding support; it has also cultivated an inclusive community where families can learn, connect, and feel a sense of support while making informed decisions about their health and the health of their baby.

From a WIC family: *I signed up with WIC 4 ½ years ago when our son came home from the NICU. He needed a very specific and expensive formula that I used to fortify my breastmilk. Beyond that and some groceries, I had no idea what WIC would do for us. Over the years, Krista and her team have blessed us in countless ways.*

ECHD Program Data – February (unless otherwise noted)

Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning

CHA Progress Updates & Special Reports

NYSDOH is requesting local health department insight as they develop the 2025-2030 Prevention Agenda. The Prevention Agenda is the state's health improvement plan, which guides the work of LHDs. ECHD submitted our responses to the 2025-2030 Prevention Agenda survey on March 5.

CHIP Highlights

ECHD is working on three media campaigns that align with our CHIP goals and interventions:

Vaping Prevention – May-June

Tick-borne Disease Prevention – April-May

Colorectal Cancer Screening Promotion – March

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - **418**

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - **2**

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

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations - **13**

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – **0**

Immunization Program

Clinics in the community - **0**

Individuals immunized - **7**

Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities - **2**

Screening Services

HCV Screenings - **4**

HIV Screenings - **5**

TB Screening - **0**

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – **0** (7 clinics scheduled for 2024)

Pets Vaccinated - **0**

Rabies investigations - **6**

Specimens submitted for testing - **1**

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis - **0**

Emergency Preparedness & Response

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

Training/Continuing Education - **8**

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings - **9**

Volunteer Coordination - **1**

Plan Updates/Revisions - **0**

Chronic Disease

Campaigns/Events - **2**

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings - **5**

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

Direct Community Outreach Initiatives – **4** (24 local businesses; 2 health fairs)

Training/Continuing Education - **2**

Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Narcan Kits Distributed - **26**

Groups Trained – **3**

SUDOR Submissions/ODs - **7** non-fatal; **1** fatal

Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program - **15**

Families enrolled in the program - **4**

Families that were sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – **9** (awaiting response for 2 more)

Referrals out to programs and services – **4**

Reached through Little Feeders Support Group – **0** in-person; **1,777** viewed the Facebook Live session

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children) – **8** active; **6** pending confirmatory testing

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

Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics – **0** (Clinics offered to ACAP Head Start sites – response pending)

Car seats checked - **3**

Car seats issued as new & installed - **2**

School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting

Topic(s) covered: common illnesses circulating, such as COVID, RSV, Flu, norovirus

Sexual/Reproductive Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – **2** (NCCC & BVCS Mountain View Campus)

Classes - **6**

Students reached - **~60**

Children's Services

Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **8**

Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **32**

Children awaiting evaluation - **7**

Speech Therapy - **20** receiving; **8** waiting

Occupational Therapy - **1** receiving; **1** waiting

Physical Therapy - **3** receiving; **2** waiting

Special Instructional Services - **7** receiving; **2** waiting

Preschool Program

Children enrolled - **102**

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **19**

Children waiting for services - report pending; will update next month

Children Attending Center Based Classrooms in County; Out of County - **8**

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

Children enrolled - **21**

WIC – January Data

High Risk Families - **46**

Nutrition Education sessions/contacts - **203**

Referrals made to other programs/services - **105**

Breastfeeding initiation rate – **86%**

\$ Redeemed (spent) through the WIC program - **\$28,150**

Home Health Care – January Data

Services Delivered:	Jan 2024	Jan 2023 Comp	YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021
Referrals Accepted	75	66	75	741	800	835
Patients receiving services	161	143	161	818	868	925
Nursing Care	92	87	92	378	369	472
Physical Therapy	66	75	66	322	314	379
Occupational Therapy	24	24	24	63	84	38
Speech Therapy	2	1	2	9	7	11

RABIES CLINICS

2024 ESSEX COUNTY

FREE for all pet dogs, cats & ferrets



Wednesday, March 27th
Westport Fairground
6p-8p



Wednesday, April 24th
Jay Fire Department
6p-8p



Wednesday, May 29th
Moriah Center Firehouse
6p-8p



Wednesday, June 26th
Chesterfield - KOC
6p-8p



Wednesday, July 31st
Ticonderoga Highway Dept
6p-8p



Wednesday, August 28th
Ray Brook NYSDOT
6p-8p



Wednesday, October 30th
Schroon Lake Firehouse
6p-8p



****Keep pets in vehicles unless directed otherwise.****

Who needs their rabies shot?



\$5 Donation Appreciated

To ensure the safety of our staff, residents & pets, please:

1. Pre-register for the clinic online/qr code below or call 518-873-3500.
2. Expect a "drive-up" clinic flow. Remain in your vehicle & await instructions.
3. Anyone with proof of previous vaccination is asked to snap a photo & email it to health@essexcountyny.gov. All others will be given a 1 year certificate. Those that bring proof of prior vaccination (certificate) will be mailed a 3 year certificate.

Booster Vaccinations

Bring the most current vaccination certificate for your pet. Tags are unable to be accepted as proof of vaccination.

First Time Vaccinations

Required for pet dogs, cats & ferrets by 4 months of ages per NYS Law*Expire in 1 year
*All pets must be at least 3 months old.

Need Help?

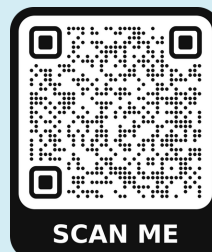
Call us at 518-873-3500

Pre-Registration Required

www.essexcountyny.gov/health or scan.



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



SCAN ME



Essex County Committee Form

Miscellaneous Resolution Request

Department:

Committee:

Date:

Submitted By: *Linda L. Beers*

Nature of and Reason for Request:

Nature of Request: Contract with Mountain Lake Services (MLS) in the amount of \$70,000 to support and make more robust their Early Intervention services to include evaluations within 45 days BEI NYS timeline and therapies OT, PT, Speech and Special Instruction.

Reason for Request: ECPHD Children's Services Unit has allocated funds for a Speech Language Pathologist in the current budget. This money would be better allocated to support Mountain Lake Services. They provided documentation that shows \$100,000 deficit. This deficit threatens the future of the program.

ATTACH TEXT OF ANY SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE FINAL RESOLUTION
Additional language can be submitted as an email attachment, or physically attached to this request.

Budget Impact:

A. Will Resolution impact current budget and/or future budgets: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Explain:

B. Is appropriation from contingent account required? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes" amount: Transferred to What Account #:

C. If a Budget transfer is required, please complete the following:

From Account #: which has a current balance of:

To Account #: which has a current balance of:

Transfer amount:

D. Were funds originally budgeted for this item or purpose? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes" amount: Account #:

E. Funds or Costs to be paid from: Account #:

Current Account Balance: Balance after Expenditure:

F. Is there any State and/or Federal reimbursement? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" amount: Program:

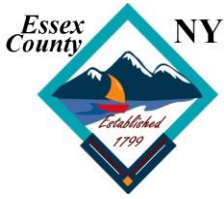
CERTIFICATION BY SIGNATURE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.

Name:

Title:

Signature: _____

Date:



**Essex County Committee Form
Miscellaneous Resolution Request**

Department-WIC

Committee: Human Service

Date: 1/29/24

Submitted By: Linda Beers

Signature: _____

Nature Of Request: to accept a \$5,000 donation from the Lake Placid Rotary Club for the WIC and Pick Summer 2024 Project.

Reason for Request: To accept funds and increase the budget and appropriations in our 2024 budget by \$5,000
:

Budget Impact:

A. Will Resolution impact current budget and/or future budgets: Yes ☐ No
2022

Revenue (increase) Rotary Club Funds a4082-427050 \$5,000
Appropriation (increase) Rotary Club Funds a4082-547001 \$5,000

B. Is appropriation from contingent account required? ☐ Yes x No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Transferred to What Account#: _____

C. If a Budget transfer is required, please complete the following:

From Account #: _____ which has a current balance of: _____

To Account #: _____ which has a current balance of: _____

Transfer amount: _____

D. Were funds originally budgeted for this item or purpose? ☐ Yes x No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Account #: _____

E. Funds or Costs to be paid from: Account#: _____

Current Account Balance: _____ Balance after Expenditure: _____

F. Is there any State and/or Federal reimbursement? ☐ Yes x ☐ No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Program: _____

(To be completed by the County Manager when required)

County Manager Action:

County Manager Approval: ☐ Yes ☐ No Signature: _____

Budget Amendment Request

Page 2

(To be completed by the Clerk of the Board)

Board Action:

Action Required:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Record of Committee Action:

<i>Human Services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	<i>Human Services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
<i>Public Safety</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	<i>Economic Devel.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
<i>Dept. of Public Works</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	<i>Personnel</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
<i>Finance, Tax Reduction</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	<i>Other</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected

Ways & Means Approval:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Record of Board Action:

Date of Board Action: _____ Resolution #: _____

Vote Type: ☐ Majority ☐ Two Thirds ☐ Three Quarters:

Roll Call Vote: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Vote Results: For: _____ Against: _____ Absent: _____ Abstain: _____