



Department Highlights

School Nurse In-Service a Success!



Nurses gathered for an in-person School-Nurse In-Service on August 28, 2025. The agenda was packed with Epilepsy Training, School Wellness Committee information, NYS Center for School Health Resources, Immunization Schedules and Requirements, Online Grooming & Human Trafficking Awareness, and Introduction to the Prevention Team Programs and Services. Nurses expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet and mingle, to learn and share experiences.

To keep the connection going the Department will continue with its monthly remote Stetho-Scoop Office Hours - an opportunity to cover a hot topic of school-aged health and continued conversations. Because most of our nurses are the only nurse in their district, offering these opportunities to connect and build relationships with each other is a valuable connecting role our Department plays in the community.



Summer Camps

Summer camp season can often bring with it a significant increase in workload for the Essex County Health Department. We collaborate with our District Office of Environmental Health in Saranac Lake to ensure campers and staff remain healthy and safe throughout the season. A 2025 Camp Incidents Summary is attached to this report.

ECHD Program Data – AUGUST (unless otherwise noted)

Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning

- CHA/ARHN/Data Meetings – 0
- CHA/CHIP Partner Meetings – 1
- CHA Training/Webinars – 0
- NYSACHO CHA/CHIP Workgroup - 1
- CHA/CHIP Progress Updates & Special Reports – Work continues to review and compile data and begin drafting the narrative portions for the Community Health Assessment. Together with our hospital partner UVMHN-ECH, the **Community Health Coalition of Essex County** will convene on September 8 to conduct community health improvement planning activities.

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations

- Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - 6
- GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - 4
- STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations – 4 STI; 4 HEP
- Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations – 58
- Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – 0
- Other investigations – 1 (Strep Group B, invasive)

Community Outreach:

- 15 Tick Kits to Children’s Services for Farmer’s Market
- 50+ Tick Kits to Essex County Fair

TB Program

No update.

Immunization Program

Clinics in the community – 0

Individuals immunized – 4

Healthcare provider engagement – 0

*Highlights, campaigns, activities -

- School Nurse In-Service (covered on Page 1)
- Essex County Fair – Immunization education and outreach

Screening Services

HCV Screenings - 0

HIV Screenings - 0

TB Screening - 1

STI Screening Services –referrals and/or services rendered – 0 August; 1 from July not previously reported

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – 1 (Lake Placid)

Pets Vaccinated – 50

Rabies investigations - 55

Specimens submitted for testing – 23 (3 positive: 1 skunk in Elizabethtown; 1 skunk in Willsboro; 1 bat in Westport)

YTD Positive Specimens: 5

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – 44

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises – See summer camp report

Training/Continuing Education – 1

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings – 0

Volunteer Coordination – 1 Training Opportunity – Chronic Disease Self-Management Trainers Needed

Plan Updates/Revisions – PHEPR (Public Health Emergency and Response) plan and Essex County EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) are both under revisions/updates.

Chronic Disease

Public Health Detailing - 0

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings & Highlights

Nutrition (Well Fed); - 1

Presented at the School Nurse In-Service about school wellness policy and healthy snacks.

Tobacco – TURN – 2

Presented at the School Nurse In-Service about student nicotine use and starting a Reality Check Chapter in Essex County.

Chronic Disease & Older New Yorkers - 0

Campaigns/Events - 3

- Get Fit Essex County Challenge – Walk or run a marathon in the month of August. Walk or run 1 mile every day except Sundays in August and you will complete a marathon (26.2 miles)!
- Hunger Action Month Planning – September is Hunger Action Month and the Well Fed Essex County Collaborative has partnered with the Regional Food Bank for related activities.

The Essex County Health Department coordinates the Well Fed Essex County Collaborative. Planned activities include:

1. Submitting a Resolution to the Essex County Board of Supervisors recognizing September as Hunger Action Month. The Resolution will be displayed at the Albany County Distribution Center of the Regional Food Bank.



2. Promote “Go Orange!” This is an initiative to have employees wear orange on September 9, Hunger Action Day.
3. Well Fed Essex County partners, Adirondack Community Action Programs (ACAP), in coordination with the Adirondack Harvest Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Essex County, is hosting a food drive at the Adirondack Harvest Festival on September 20th from Noon – 5:00 PM. The Essex County Health Department will assist with food drive promotion.

Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (COOP)

Narcan Kits Distributed – **38**
 Groups Trained - **0**
 SUDOR Submissions/ODs – **2**
 2 Nurses trained in Opioid Overdose Prevention: Train-the-Trainer capacity

Environmental Health

Air, Water and Food Health & Safety

Air Safety/Quality/Excessive Heat Alerts - **1**
 Public Water Notices
 Boil Water Orders – **0**
 Blue-Green Algae Notices – **0**

Climate and Health

Initiatives –

- Sunscreen was provided free of charge to attendees at the Essex County Fair, and provided the opportunity for discussion and education about skin cancer.
- A reminder about Essex County Cooling Centers was posted to social media on August 12, 2025.
- Attended an ACORN sponsored conference at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake entitled “Fire in the Adirondacks: It has happened before – Can it happen again?”



Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – **22** (5 pending)
 Families enrolled in the program – **1**
 Families that sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program - **16**
 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 - **13**

Pending confirmatory testing - **6**

Released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated - **0**

Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics - **5**

Car seats checked - **5**

Car seats issued as new & installed – **5**

School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting – N/A (Summer Break)

Sexual/Reproductive/Relationship Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – **0***

Classes/Students – **0***

CAP Pack Distribution – **48**

*Summer Break

Children's Services

Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **5**

Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **29**

Children awaiting evaluation - **4**

Speech Therapy - **14** receiving; **10** waiting

Occupational Therapy - **3** receiving; **0** waiting

Physical Therapy - **4** receiving; **1** waiting

Special Instructional Services - **10** receiving; **1** waiting

Preschool Program

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

Children enrolled - **46**

Children waiting for services

Counseling - **2**

Occupational Therapy - **6**

Physical Therapy - **1**

Speech Therapy - **7**

Special Education/Itinerant Teacher - **6**

Children Attending Center Based Classrooms

In County - **8**

Out of County - **6**

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHN)

Children enrolled – **40**

In August we had two schools approved to operate special class programs to serve preschool students with disabilities, pursuant to Education Law §4410. Schroon Lake was approved to provide a special classroom with 8 special needs kids in their building. Bouquet Valley was approved for an integrated classroom supporting 8 children with special needs and 10 community children attending either the Head Start Early Bridges Program or Universal PreK. We now have three schools in Essex County who provide special programs for our 3-5 year olds, supporting up to potentially 30 students in county.



We had an intern spend July and August with us in Children's Services. Myleigh Drinkwine is interested in being a speech language pathologist. She helped move the lending library onto a new online lending library system, libbib. She also attended therapeutic playgroups with Dr. Maria Rheume who has recently lost her funding to provide these experiences to neuro divergent children and their families. Unable to provide paid staff, Myleigh was an integral part of these groups by helping provide play experiences and support. She was able to attend some Early Intervention and CPSE meetings and input data and helped in WIC, among other things.

WIC

Target Enrollment – 600

Enrolled - 505

Women enrolled - 105

Infants (0-1) enrolled - 106

Children (1-5) enrolled - 294

High Risk Families - 35

Nutrition Education sessions – 235

 In person - 68

 Remote - 167

Referrals made to other programs/services - 111

Breastfeeding Initiation Rate – 86%

WIC celebrated World Breastfeeding Week at WIC-N-Pick with our second annual breastfeeding photoshoot. Twelve families were able to come with their families and have a photographer take some stunning photos at Creative Kitchen Garden.



The WIC Coordinator was asked to speak at the NYS WIC Manager's Workshop in November about WIC-N-Pick and how the new Charlie Cart is used at the sessions to promote healthy nutrition in a rural area.

Home Health Care

New Patients Admitted into ECHD Home Care – 39

Patients Safely Discharged from Program – 44

Home Visits Made – 701

Miles Driven by Staff – 5,160

Patient Admissions

Patients were admitted to our services for a variety of complex medical conditions including:

Neurological Conditions: stroke, Parkinson's Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), malignant neoplasm of brain

Cardiovascular Conditions: atrial fibrillation and heart disease, heart failure, embolism, venous hypertension, aftercare for surgery on the circulatory system

Integumentary Conditions: aftercare following surgery for neoplasm, cellulitis

Respiratory Conditions: respiratory failure, pneumonia, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), pneumothorax

Digestive and Genitourinary Conditions: surgical aftercare, cancer of the stomach

Renal and Metabolic Conditions: kidney disease, diabetes

Musculoskeletal and Injury-Related Conditions: fractures, pressure ulcers and wounds, orthopedic and joint replacement surgery recovery, cancer of the bone, rhabdomyolysis

Infectious and Immune-Related Conditions: infection

Mental Health: bipolar disorder

Resolution for a rate increase- Nature of Request: Resolution adopting and approving the revised Home Health Nursing Rate to increase from \$343 to \$350, Therapy from \$200 to 250, and raising the Home Health Aide Rate from \$97 to \$98 per visit.

Reason for Request: Update Skilled Nursing, Therapy and Home Health Aide Rates to cover agency cost per visit.

Rates were recommended by Venesky and Company to reach the regional ceilings for pediatric patients and managed care patients. The increase will benefit the county and may assist in contract negotiation.

Camp Incidents Summary



RABIES INVESTIGATIONS

ILLNESS OUTBREAKS



Essex County Health Department

Camp Baco

Camp Che Nah Wah

Camp Dudley

Camp Southwoods

Camp Treetops

Camp Am Hockey

Meadowmount School of Music

North Country Camps

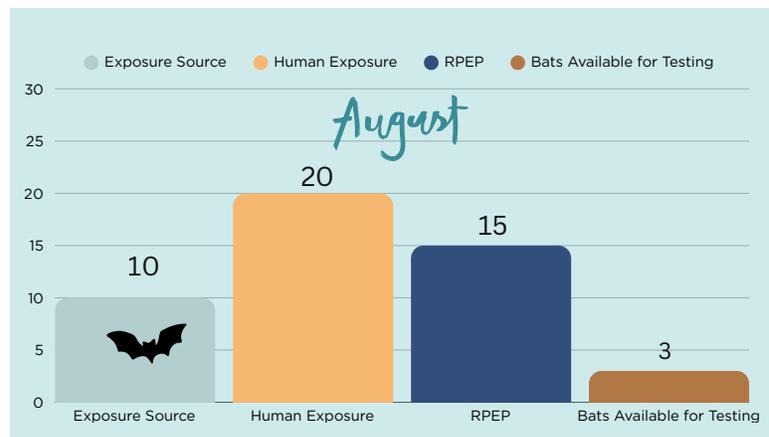
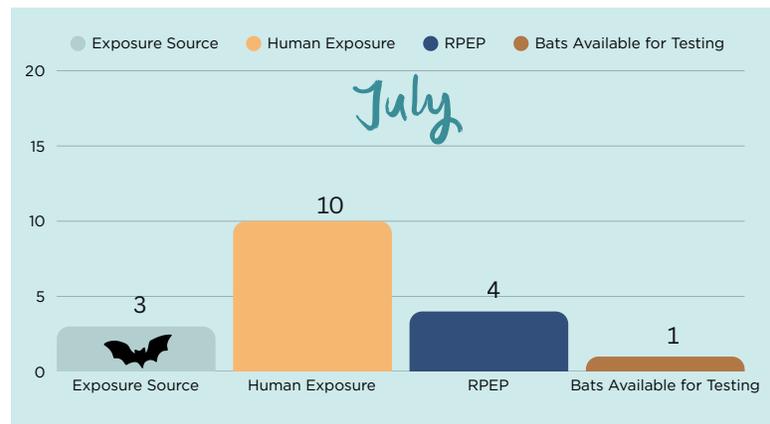
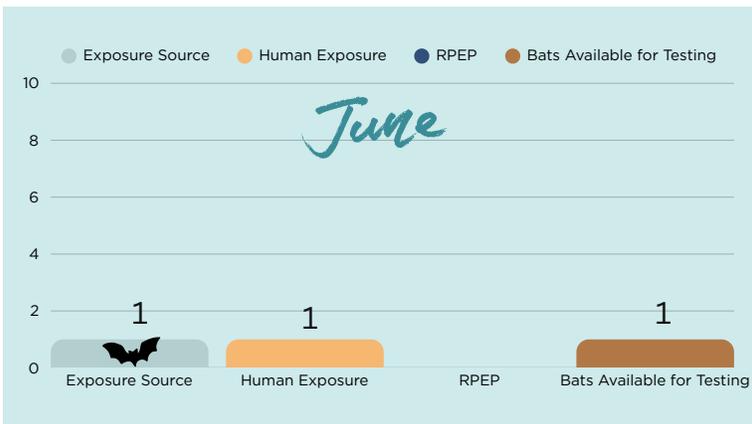
USA Hockey

Camp Pok-O MacCready

Camp Breakaway

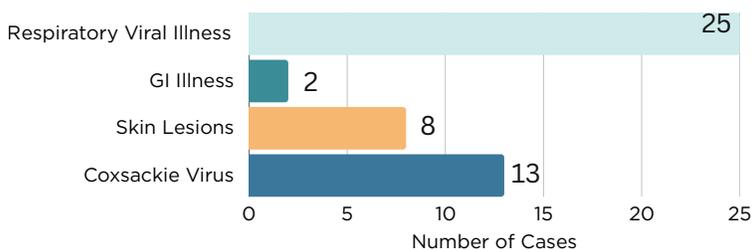
Word of Life Island

Rabies Incidents



Communicable Disease Incidents

Campers



Investigations included 5 of the 13 camps





Essex County Committee Form Miscellaneous Resolution Request

Department:

Committee:

Date:

Submitted By:

Nature of and Reason for Request:

To accept funds from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of to \$4,700 for a Car Seat Grant allowing the continuing education required of Car Seat Technicians, a permanent fitting station, education to the public and the distribution of car seats to income eligible families.

Revenue	A4195.443895 Child Passenger Safety	\$4,700
Expenses	A4195.549916 Car Seats	\$3,500
	A4195.Misc Exp	\$1,200

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:

Date:

Signature:

Linda L Beers



**Essex County Committee Form
Miscellaneous Resolution Request**

Department: Public Health

Committee: Human Service

Date: July 29, 2025

Submitted By: Linda L. Beers

Signature: Linda L Beers

Nature of Request: Resolution adopting and approving the revised Home Health Nursing Rate to increase from \$343 to \$350, Therapy from \$200 to 250, and raising the Home Health Aide Rate from \$97 to \$98 per visit.

Reason for Request: Update Skilled Nursing, Therapy and Home Health Aide Rates to cover agency cost per visit. Rates were recommended by Venesky and Company to reach the regional ceilings for pediatric patients and managed care patients. The increase will benefit the county and may assist in contract negotiation.

Attach Text of any special provision to be included in finale resolution

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: _____

(To be completed by the County Manager when required)

County Manager Action:

County Manager Approval: **Yes** **No** Signature: _____

Budget Amendment Request

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(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: _____



**Essex County Committee Form
Miscellaneous Resolution Request**

Department: Health

Committee: Human Services

Date: 9/2/2025

Submitted By: Linda L. Beers

Signature: Linda L. Beers

Nature Of Request:

On behalf of the Well Fed Essex County Collaborative submits this resolution

Identifying September as Hunger Action Month, as recognized nationally and by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

WHEREAS, Hunger Action Month aims to raise awareness of food insecurity and community efforts to combat hunger, and is an opportunity to stimulate discussion about the 22.3% of the Essex County population who reported food insecurity (New York State IFA Report #2023-12); and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is characterized by the Centers for Disease Control as being unable to access or afford enough food or enough nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, Hunger Action Month also acknowledges that all Essex County residents deserve respectful and dignified access to healthy, affordable, and nutritious food;

WHEREAS, the goals of Hunger Action Month are to:

- Raise food donations for local food pantries
- Increase awareness of hunger and food insecurity in our communities
- Promote local resources working to end food insecurity
- Encourage volunteering at food pantries in Essex County
- Foster discussion about hunger in Essex County, and the importance that access to nutritious food has on individual health and community wellness

WHEREAS, Hunger Action Month is an opportunity to increase action to decrease food insecurity;

WHEREAS, It is essential that there be greater awareness of hunger and food insecurity as a public health issue that affects Essex County families

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors acknowledges September as Hunger Action Month.

On September 20, 2025, Well Fed Essex County Collaborative members Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc (ACAP), in partnership with the Adirondack Harvest Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Essex County, will host a community food drive during the 2025 Adirondack Harvest Festival at the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport, NY; and

On September 9, 2025, in recognition of Go Orange! Day, the Essex County Health Department as part of the Well Fed Essex County Collaborative will encourage wearing orange to raise awareness of food insecurity as part of Hunger Action Month.

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: _____

(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:

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