



**HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**  
Public Health Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Essex County Health Department tackles skin cancer with free sunscreen*

**Elizabethtown, N.Y.-** Essex County Health Department announces the continuation of a project to fight skin cancer by making sunscreen more accessible. The initiative that began in 2021 has expanded to include distribution of an additional five free sunscreen dispensers to public beaches and parks during the summer season.

"As summer weather continues, it is critical people take the necessary steps to protect themselves from potentially harmful ultraviolet rays when spending time outdoors," said ECHD Director of Public Health Linda Beers. "Essex County's melanoma cancer mortality rate is higher than the North Country Region, and over double the New York State rate at 3.4, 2.5 and 1.5 deaths per 100,000 population respectively," noted Beers.

"Skin cancer is one of the most common types of cancer, but there are steps we can take to reduce our risk of experiencing the skin changes that can lead to cancer," said Jessica Darney Buehler, Director of Health Planning and Promotion for ECHD. "Increasing the availability and accessibility of sun safety protection in a variety of recreational settings can help reinforce the message that sunscreen is an important tool to reduce that risk."

Locations were identified by ECHD through results of a community poll which indicated residents preferred the dispensers be stationed at popular public parks and beaches. The pole-mounted automatic, touchless, and FREE SPF 30 dispensers are now located at:

Town of Chesterfield - Jaycee Park

Town of Keene - Keene Town Beach

Town of Minerva - Minerva Town Beach

Town of Schroon - Schroon Lake Town Beach

Town of Wilmington - Wilmington Town Beach

The Essex County Health Department extends a note of thanks to New York State Association of Health Officials (NYSACHO) for providing Community Health Award funding to support this initiative.



Photo of dispenser located at Schroon Lake Beach

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