

**HOUSATONIC VALLEY
HEALTH DISTRICT**

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 17 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2022



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UPDATE FROM LISA MORRISSEY, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Dear Community,

As we closed out summer and started a new school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the summer months.

Our Community Health team was busy getting ready for back-to-school by introducing a new service – Sports Physicals. Additionally, our Community Health team prepared and distributed information about our upcoming flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics in all 5 towns. We are excited to provide the opportunity for community members to stay safe.

Our environmental health team conducted weekly public beach water testing, in addition to their regular inspections.

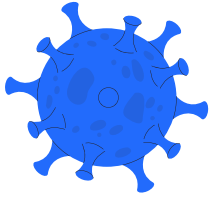
Our administration division was busy hiring and onboarding several new employees in order to ensure the quality of our services is excellent.

September is Healthy Aging Month, National Recovery Month, National Food Safety and Education Month, and National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

The following pages contain reports from each team, which include ongoing activities.



LISA MICHELLE MORRISSEY, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



COVID-19 UPDATE

During this reporting period (August 17 – September 13, 2022):

- On August 31, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized Moderna and Pfizer–BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines for use as a booster dose. Moderna is authorized for ages 18+ while Pfizer is authorized for ages 12+.
- The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on September 1, 2022 and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, M.D., MPH, endorsed the recommendations for use of the updated COVID-19 boosters from Pfizer for people 12+ and from Moderna for people ages 18+. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- HVHD began administering the updated COVID-19 booster vaccine on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.



NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS



It is my pleasure to introduce some new staff members! Join me in welcoming:

Sophie Khieu as our **Vaccine Immunizer**. Sophie Khieu has been a Registered Nurse for over 10 years. She graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in 2011. Sophie has held numerous healthcare positions in various settings, including, hospitals, schools, homecare, medical offices, and most recently, public health. She enjoys singing, working in her garden, and traveling. She lives in New Milford with her husband, three children, and dog.

Barbara Marano as one of our **Public Health Client Specialists**. She has been serving the community with over 20 years of customer service and office management experience. Barbara has been working as a bookkeeper and managing the office of several businesses providing efficient and prompt service to my community.

Lisha Rana as one of our **Public Health Client Specialists**. She is majoring in Health Promotion and Exercise Science, with a concentration on Community Health, at Western Connecticut State University. Lisha is passionate about assisting people in the community to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Kariny Silva as one of our **Public Health Client Specialists**. Kariny Silva earned a BS in Health Promotion Studies from Western Connecticut State University. She also earned a Master's in Public Health, concentrating in Global Health from the University of Bridgeport. Kariny has worked closely with her community during the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting contact tracing, educating the community on how to take proper precautions during the pandemic, and coordinating numerous COVID-19 vaccine clinics throughout the state of CT. She enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, and trying new restaurants in her free time.



CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

During this reporting period (August 17 – September 13, 2022):

- The Community Health Nursing Supervisor led a Clinical Volunteer training on September 8th and September 9th to prepare volunteers for the upcoming vaccination clinics.



COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT

The Community Health Division is continually building relationships with community members to serve as an educational resource for residents, businesses, schools, and other stakeholders.

During this reporting period, the Community Health Division completed the following:

- Started availability of Sports Physicals every Saturday with the APRN
- Completed flu clinic schedule and started community members started scheduling appointments
- Planned and implemented the Clinical Volunteer Orientation for the upcoming flu vaccination clinic season
- Completed the NACCHO end of grant interview



Heidi Bettcher, RN, BSN
Community Health Nursing Supervisor



COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT

COVID-19 CLINICS

HVHD held weekly COVID-19 clinics at our New Milford and Southbury locations.

30

Total Number of COVID-19 Vaccine Administered

from 8/17 - 9/13

10

Total Number of COVID-19 Tests Administered

from 8/17 - 9/13

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

HVHD conducted blood pressure clinics throughout all 5 towns.

10

Total Number of Blood Pressure Clinics

from 8/17 - 9/13

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

HVHD conducted community health programs at senior centers and virtually.

5

Total Number of Community Health Programs

from 8/17 - 9/13



Public Health Preparedness and Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Report:

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Division aims to build community relationships and prepare our communities to deal with emergency situations. The Division serves as an educational resource for personal and community preparedness through community building and volunteer recruitment.

During this reporting period, the PHEP/MRC Division:

- Planned and implemented the Clinical Volunteer Orientations alongside the Community Health Team
- Coordinated with CERT to have traffic control available at the drive-thru flu clinics



Megan McClintock, MS
PHEP/MRC Coordinator



Environmental Health Report:

The Environmental Health Division provides a multitude of services, which include but are not limited to, land use plan review and inspection, food service establishment plan review and inspection, septic plan review and related inspections and daycare inspections.

The Environmental Health Division focuses on the interrelationships between people and their environment, promotes human health and well-being, and fosters healthy and safe communities. This includes providing services such as:

- Food service establishment plan review and inspection
- Septic plan review and related inspections
- Well water testing for portability (through the CT DPH Laboratory)
- Public swimming pool code compliance and inspection



Joe Kametz
Chief Sanitarian



Environmental Health Report

August 17 – September 17, 2022

	New Milford	Oxford	Southbury	Washington	Woodbury
Potable Water:					
Private Well	0	0	0	0	0
Well Permits	0	0	3	0	0
Sewage Disposal:					
Plan Review	6	7	6	1	3
Inspections	10	6	2	3	3
Soil Testing	11	7	5	7	3
Building Additions	19	4	7	0	4
Septic Permits (to construct)	4	3	4	0	0
Septic Permits (to discharge)	0	1	1	0	0
Subdivisions	0	0	0	0	0
Lot Line Revisions	0	0	0	0	0



Environmental Health Report

August 17 – September 13, 2022

	New Milford	Oxford	Southbury	Washington	Woodbury
Food:					
Food Service Establishment Inspection	6	4	21	0	0
Itinerant Vendor Inspections	-	0	0	0	0
Complaints	0	0	0	0	0
Plan Review	2	0	1	0	0
Plan Revisions	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Permits	3	0	1	0	0
Seasonal:					
Public Pool Inspections	1	0	0	4	0
Public Beaches: # of Sample Collected	2	2	-	2	-
Other:					
File Requests	92	35	58	-	37



Administrative Division:

The Administrative Division is responsible for planning and executing a comprehensive range of administrative services which support office operations. These services encompass the areas of human resource management, financial management, systems and information management, facilities management and support services.

During this reporting period, the Office Manager and Operations Manager completed the following tasks:

- Set up interviews for new staff and onboarded new staff members
- Managed daily operations (e.g. weekly payroll, entered account receivables daily, weekly bank deposits).
- Gathering information for auditor
- Ongoing working with new retirement plan for staff
- Assisted the Community Health Team with clinics
- Assisted the Environmental health team with daily applications and plans from the community
- Ensured all food establishments, pools, salons, daycares and temporary food vendors have been licensed



Jennifer Luis
Office Manager



Grants Updates:

Grant Agency	Program Supported	Award Amount	Award Dates	Project Status
National Assoc of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)	Professional Development: MRC Unit Leader travel scholarship to Preparedness Summit	\$1,800	April 4, 2022 - April 7, 2022	Completed
Assistant Secretary of Preparedness & Response (ASPR)	Medical Reserve Corps (Respond, Innovate, Sustain & Equip 'RISE')	\$75,000	May 1, 2022 - December, 2022	Awarded; contract pending
ASPR (administered through NACCHO)	Community Health; Vaccination Clinics; MRC (Volunteer Immunization Partnership for Emergency Response 'VIPER') Initiative	\$10,000	March 1, 2022 - September, 2022	Awarded
CT Dept. of Public Health (DPH)	SFY 2022 Per Capita Funding	\$188,658.60	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022	Awarded
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & NACCHO	Global Local Health Exchange (mental health workshops) for HVHD constituents	\$20,000	February, 2021 - July, 2022	Awarded
CT DPH	Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)	\$43,472	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	Awarded
CT DPH	Housatonic Valley Medical Reserve Corps (HVMRC)	\$16,332	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	Awarded
CT DPH	Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Grant	\$286,463	March 2, 2022 - February 29, 2024	Awarded; contract pending



Communications Division:

The Communications Division handles internal and external communications. This includes communicating with stakeholders, the media, and staff. This division works closely with other departments to ensure it adequately promotes services, accomplishments, and conveys accurate information to the community. The Communications Division is responsible for enhancing, developing, and promoting the HVHD brand across multiple platforms; accomplished through web programming, multimedia development, public relations, media outreach, social media management, graphic design, and print production.

During this reporting period, the Communications Division completed:

- Updated and distributed COVID-19 Health District Recommendations to Schools, Daycares, Businesses, Municipalities, and the Community to reflect the CDC updates.
- Worked with the Community Health Team to create a 2022-2023 Flu Vaccination schedule
- Implemented the September and October social media calendars, including Flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinic advertising.
- Created an Onboarding Guide and Video Tutorials to outline how to update reports and the website.



Ruth Quattro, MPH
Public Health Communications Coordinator



Communications Statistics:



Press Releases/Advertisements

2

Press Releases were drafted and distributed to 8 media outlets

2

Advertisements were distributed to 2 media outlets
(1 print & 1 digital Hearst Media; 1 print in Spanish Tribuna)



Reports

5

COVID-19 reports were distributed to community partners and stakeholders



Social Media



Facebook Page Likes: 20



Total Instagram Followers: 68



Twitter Followers: 10



LinkedIn Followers: 129



Communications Statistics (Cont.):



Google Business Profile

21

Phone Calls

31

People Asked for Directions

44

Website Visits

322

Profile Views

182

Web Searches



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