

Colts Neck
Health
Department
Annual
Report

2010

This document is a summary of the activities conducted by the Colts Neck Health Department during calendar year 2010. It was introduced at the Colts Neck Board of Health meeting on March 1, 2011.

Colts Neck Township Health Department
Summary 2010

Food Safety

Number of Retail Food Inspections Performed: **63**

Septic Systems

Number of Septic Inspections: **207**

Number of Soil Logs Performed: **108**

Number of Septic System Permits Issued: **70**

Water Wells

Number of Water Well Permits Issued: **61**

Rabies Control

Number of Dog Licenses Issued: **477**

Number of Animal Bites Investigated: **11**

Number of Specimens Set to Lab of Rabies Testing: **6**

Number of Rabies Vaccination Clinics Held: **1**

Public Pools

Number of Inspections Performed: **4** (two pools)

Flu Clinics

Number of H1N1 Clinics Performed: **3**

Number of Seasonal Flu Clinics Performed: **2**

Child Immunization Record Audits

Number of Audits Performed: **5**

Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance

Number of Communicable Disease Reports Investigated: **79**

Vital Statistics

Number of Marriage/Domestic Union Licenses Issued: **39**

Number of Deaths: **29**

Number of Births: **0**

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Food Safety

A total of 63 retail food inspections were conducted by the health department in 2010. Twenty three of them were permanent commercial businesses with the additional 37 approved temporary vendors providing food at various special events throughout the year. Of these, one conditionally satisfactory was issued. Since the revision a few years ago to the NJ State Food Code (Chapter 12), the health department has been educating food establishment owners of the changes. Most notably are the lowering of chilled food temperatures from 45 degrees F. to 41 degrees F. and food safety certification training for establishments meeting certain risk factors. Notices of these changes were sent to each permanent retail commercial food business, as well as where they could obtain access to the new code, known as Chapter 24.

The Health Officer also attended an all day seminar sponsored by the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) entitled "Conducting Risk Based Retail Food Inspections." The seminar was designed to assist inspectors in evaluating food establishments as to where actual risks to food safety exist utilizing the new code.

New retail food inspection forms were developed and utilized in 2010. The new format helps the retailer understand what items are of a more critical nature than others. It also assists by ensuring the inspector evaluates all critical categories during the inspection.

Additionally, the health department developed and distributed to each temporary food vendor (before each event) a brochure entitled "Food Safety Guidelines for Temporary Food Vendors."

Septic Systems

In 2010, a total of 207 septic inspections were conducted. 189 of those inspections were for either a new residential system or for an alteration due to a failing system of an existing home. An additional 15 inspections were for repairs such as a replacement of a connecting line or septic tank baffle. Each septic inspection requires at least one inspection but typically two or three, depending on the work being performed by the contractor.

In order to ensure the exact location of important components of each septic system the health department developed guidelines as to what must be provided on each septic system as-built. These guidelines were provided to all septic contractors with the understanding that final approval of a job would not be issued by the health department without successful completion information.

The health department also developed and began distributing a septic system maintenance brochure to homeowners that either had a new installation or had undergone an alteration and/or repair. This information is also available on the Colts Neck Health Department web site.

In addition, a total of 108 soil logs were conducted with engineers to determine the feasibility of installing an individual subsurface sewage disposal system. In order to obtain approval to install a residential septic system the engineer would then need to submit a septic system design plan for health department review and approval. A total of 70 such permits were granted in 2010.

Water Wells

In 2010, 61 local water well permits were issued. This was an unusual year due to the number of residential water wells negatively impacted by the decrease of ground water levels in both the Mt. Laurel and Englishtown Sands aquifers. As the health department learned of this concern in early August a variety of communication techniques were used to educate residents of the situation and request voluntary conservation of water. Press releases were sent to the Asbury Park Press, The Journal and Calendar. A "reverse 991" phone message was developed and forwarded to residents of Colts Neck, as well as providing updated information on our web site. A flyer was also developed and posted in numerous locations of the Colts Neck business district. After numerous conversations with the NJDEP a Drought Watch was finally issued for our area in September, as well as other areas of the state.

In an attempt to track the impact of the water well situation within our township a map was developed by the health department. It was used to pinpoint the location of wells requiring replacement, as well as locations where homeowners had to lower pumps in the well casing to obtain an adequate water supply. Of reports issued to the health department a total of 68 private water wells were impacted by this event.

The situation finally began to subside in early October. The NJDEP also rescinded its Drought Watch for Monmouth County later that month. The Health Department will continue to keep a close eye on the situation.

Ambient Surface Water Quality Project

Although still in its infancy, the health department began taking stream samples in key locations of town. The objective is to develop a data base of information that will further define the quality of our local watersheds. The information will not only be utilized to verify the expected quality of our streams, but also to identify potential pollution sources such as a failing septic system or storm run-off issues. The initial testing sites included Mine Brook, Yellow Brook; Big Brook and Willow Brook.

Rabies Control

477 dog licenses were issued in 2010. A total of 11 animal bites (dogs and cats) were investigated requiring confinement and observation of the animal for 10 days before being evaluated and released by the health department. Each person bitten and/or scratched was notified of the owner's obligation to confine/observe the animal. They were each contacted again following the 10 day period, providing them with the status of the animal.

Six animals were also submitted to the state laboratory for rabies testing due to potential human exposure to the virus. All six specimens were found negative for the virus.

The Colts Neck annual rabies vaccination clinic was held in January 2010 at Bucks Mill Recreation Center on Buck Mill Road in Colts Neck. A total of 51 dogs and 13 cats were vaccinated.

Public Pools (Recreational Bathing)

At this time Colts Neck has two public pools that require inspection under Chapter IX- Public Recreational Bathing. They are located at The Grande and Trump National Golf Course. Both facilities were inspected twice during the regular season. Both were found to be in satisfactory compliance.

Water sample results for each pool were submitted weekly by an approved laboratory to the health department for review to ensure the safety of the pool water. There were a few occasions where follow-up was necessary by the Health Officer, but no pool closures were required.

Influenza Control

Three H1N1 clinics were provided in 2010. The first two were school based clinics conducted at the Colts Neck High School on January 10, 2010 and Colts Neck Primary School on February 4, 2010. The third was a public clinic open to all NJ residents and was conducted at the Colts Neck Fire House #2 on March 11, 2010. The Visiting Nurse Service of Central Jersey administered the vaccine. The clinics were held with the assistance of many township emergency personnel including members of the Colts Neck Police Department; Colts Neck First Aid Squad; Colts Neck Fire Departments; Monmouth County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC); Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and health department personnel from other surrounding municipalities. Members of the Colts Neck Board of Health, as well as, other township residents also volunteered their time.

Two seasonal flu clinics were also held for seniors in November. The first was held at the Colts Neck Primary School October 6, 2010. The second clinic was

held on October 13, 2010 at the Colts Neck Court House. A total of 238 residents were vaccinated.

Health Education

At the request of the Health Officer our Health Educator developed and now makes available to residents a quarterly health newsletter that is posted on the health department web site. The newsletters provide timely health related topics that educate, as well as, encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The health department web site continues to be upgraded to include additional health information on such topics as Lyme disease; tick control; rabies control; septic and well information; proper disposal of syringes, etc. In addition, standard health department application forms have been placed on the site. Upgrading of the web site will be an ongoing project in 2011.

Lastly, with the assistance of our Health Educator a community educational display, with dozens of health related brochures was set up in both the Colts Neck Library and the health department office at Town Hall. Our objective - to promote timely and relevant health information for our residents.

Child Immunization Record Audits

As required by NJAC 8:57- Immunization of Pupils in School, 5 immunization audits were conducted in 2010. The locations included the Colts Neck Primary and Elementary Schools; Cedar Drive Middle School; Country Day Care and the Colts Neck Reformed Church Nursery School. All locations were found to be in substantial compliance.

The main purpose of the audits is to assist schools, with emphasis on preschool facilities, in implementing and enforcing the immunization requirements contained in Chapter 14, of the State Sanitary Code.

Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance

A total of 79 communicable disease reports were investigated between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 by the Colts Neck Health Department and the Monmouth County Public Health Consortium Epidemiologist. (126 Cases were investigated in 2009)

Lyme disease continues to be the number one disease impacting Colts Neck residents. A total of 6 confirmed cases were both recorded by our epidemiologist and the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. Another 36 were investigated but were not identified as being a confirmed case.

We also had confirmed cases of Hepatitis C- chronic; salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis.

Since Lyme disease is not only a concern in Colts Neck but throughout the county, we have begun work with the Monmouth County Governmental Public Health Partnership (GPHP)* team to develop a survey which will be used to interview individuals recently confirmed with Lyme disease. The surveys will be developed and conducted by a student intern. The objective of the interviews is to identify specific behavioral attributes and/or environmental settings which may have provided the opportunity for disease transmission. Armed with this information we plan to develop new and innovative educational materials for use in our communities.

***GPHP = Governmental Public Health Partnership - is a Monmouth County working group that meets monthly to discuss and solve common health related issues and who's members consist of a representative from each health department.**

NJ Collaborative for Excellence in Public Health Grant Program (Quality Improvement)

The Monmouth County Governmental Public Health Partnership (GPHP) jointly participated in a grant funded project sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This 14 month project was entitled "The New Jersey Collaborative for Excellence in Public Health" and had two primary objectives.

The first was to assess immunization coverage for children at 24 months of age in Monmouth County. To do this we performed retrospective immunization audits in numerous local public and private preschools, with a sample size of 618 children. Although over 90% of the children were found to be appropriately immunized by school age, many were not age-appropriately immunized. (ie: almost two-thirds of the children had not received their MMR vaccine in an age-appropriate manner)

Due to the nature of the audit, we were unable to determine the specific reason(s) why some children in the study group had not been age appropriately immunized. We suspect, however, that some families may be unaware of the serious nature of these diseases.

Therefore in November of 2010, a summary of our findings were forwarded to pediatricians and other related practitioners throughout Monmouth County. This correspondence also requested their support in educating parents about the importance of timely vaccination. Educational brochures directed toward parents were provided to the physicians, as well.

The second part of the project was to develop and utilize an instrument that could measure the public's level of satisfaction regarding services offered by health departments.

A generic survey was developed and pilot tested at numerous Monmouth County flu clinics during the 2009-2010 season. The survey was administered either through a face-to face or self completion approach utilizing convenience sampling. A total of 457 surveys were completed and analyzed. From this pilot

study adjustments were made to the instrument and can now be utilized by our GPHP team for most health service provided by health departments. A review of this project was presented by the Colts Neck Health Officer during a two day NJ Collaborative Kick-Off meeting in January 2010.

Emergency Preparedness

A Regional Mock H1N1 Flu Clinic was organized and conducted by the health department late 2009 at the Bucks Mill Recreation Area. This was excellent opportunity to test our readiness regarding this type of public health emergency. Members from various township departments (Health, Police, Fire, First Aid) and volunteers from many sources such as MRC and CERT made this a very positive learning experience.

Coming off this activity, our township emergency management plans were reviewed and modified, as needed.

As mentioned earlier, three H1N1 flu clinics were conducted in 2010 with the aid of many of the same personnel that participated in the regional flu clinic. Written and verbal instructions were given to teams working the clinic to ensure they understood their responsibilities. Flow charts were developed for each clinic site to assist staff to better understand clinic flow and assignment location. When areas for improvement were discovered adjustments were made to enhance the effectiveness of future clinics.

Vital Statistics

A total of 39 marriage/ domestic union licenses were issued in 2010. There were also 29 reported deaths and no reported births in Colts Neck.

Colts Neck Township Health Department

Developments - 2010

- 1) Initiated re-development of health dept web site
- 2) Developed and distributed septic system maintenance guidelines for residents
- 3) Provided health education brochure displays in the Colts Neck Library and the health department office.
- 4) Initiated quarterly Colts Neck Health Newsletters which are posted on the Health department web site
- 5) Provided Colts Neck Board of Education with communicable disease template letters to utilize during public health situations
- 6) Developed and distributed written requirements for septic contractors regarding as-built information
- 7) Approved as a provider for health education programs thru the NJDHSS for Monmouth County health officials.
- 8) Developed and distributed "Temporary Food Vendor- Food Safety Guidelines" to food vendors at special events
- 9) Initiated an ambient surface water quality testing program of major streams
- 10) Upgraded application for local water well permit for use by well drillers
- 11) Active participate in NJ Collaborative for Excellence in Public Health Grant Project with GPHP:
 - o Developed questionnaire to evaluate customer satisfaction (CS) at health related activities
 - o Presented results of CS project in January 2010
 - o Provided input on status of vaccine coverage for children twenty-four (24) months of age in Monmouth County
- 12) Established an active program to harass Canadian geese off public property with the use of lasers.