

Colts Neck Township Community Health Status 2018 Annual Report



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Board of Health Mission Statement

"The mission of the Colts Neck Board of Health is to be an advocate for the health of the community. This is accomplished through the provision of appropriate services and the enforcement of applicable codes in an effort to maintain the health, safety and comfort of all residents."

Health Officer Opening Statement

The Colts Neck Health Department protects and improves the health and well-being of our community, as well as the environmental resources upon which we all depend. We continue to promote health and wellness by protecting you from health threats, educating you and your neighbors about health issues and providing healthy solutions.

2018 was a busy year that included numerous public health activities, many of which are required in accordance with NJ Public Health Practice Standards. Colts Neck Township, with its approximately 10,000 residents, rely essentially on individual subsurface sewage disposal systems and water wells. It is therefore critical to both public health and the environment that adequate controls are in place to ensure we are protecting our residents as well as neighboring communities. Many of the enforcement efforts currently employed by the health dept. are designed to do just that.

We are always looking to develop new policies and standards to address existing and emerging challenges, as well as making the department more efficient. Even with limited staff and resources we have been able to promote and improve many of our programs.

2018 Summary by the Numbers

Health Department Staffing

Full Time Health Officer /Register Environmental Specialist/Health Educator-**1**(Tom Frank)
Part Time Registered Environmental Health Specialist- **2**
Part Time Administration Support- **2** (includes Certified Municipal Registrar)
Part Time Health Educator-**1**
Animal Control Officer-**1**

Food Safety Program

Number of Retail Food Inspections Performed:

- Brick and Mortar Establishment: **30**
- Mobile Temporary Food Vendors: **16**

Septic Systems

Number of Septic Inspections: **125**

Number Site Evaluations w/ Engineers Performed: **75**

Number of Septic System Permits Issued: **78**

Water Wells

Number of Water Well Permits Issued: **29**

Number of Water Well Inspections: **38**

Rabies Control

Number of Dog Licenses Issued: **360**

Number of Animal Bites Investigated: **18**

Number of Specimens Sent to Lab for Rabies Testing: **3**

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

Number of Domestic Animals Vaccinated at Clinic: **47**

Public Recreational Bathing Facilities

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

Flu Vaccination Clinics

Number of Seasonal Flu Clinics Performed: **3** (2 senior/employee;1 volunteer)

Child Immunization Record Audits

Number of Audits Performed: **6**

Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance

Number of Communicable Disease Reports Investigated: **134**

Vital Statistics

Number of Marriage/Domestic Union Licenses Issued: **40**

Number of Reported Deaths: **0**

Number of Births: **0**

Food Safety Program

Retail food inspections are one of many core responsibilities within a local health dept. These inspections play an important function by evaluating that adequate internal food safety programs are in place to protect food from possible contamination.

Some examples that food inspectors look for include that employees are regularly washing their hands in a sink equipped with soap, hot water and paper towels; that utensils and surfaces that contact raw meat are not used to prepare ready to eat foods; and that rodents or other pests are not present.

In 2018, 30 retail “brick and mortar” food establishments were inspected along with 16 temporary retail food vendors during special events at township parks. Of these, all were found to be in satisfactory compliance except for two establishments that required re-inspection due to unsanitary conditions.

Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems

The Colts Neck Health Dept. conducts education, permitting, and inspection of low-volume residential and commercial onsite wastewater treatment systems (e.g., septic systems) to ensure that systems are designed, constructed, and maintained properly, thus improving New Jersey’s water quality and protecting human health and the environment.

125 septic system inspections were conducted throughout the 2018 calendar year. In addition, 78 septic system permits were issued for either a repair or alteration, or the installation of new septic systems. The Health Dept. ensures that the septic system components are installed according to the engineering plans approved by the Dept. All systems must be designed to meet the current State code entitled: N.J.A.C. 7:9A - Standards for Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems.

Water Wells

The Health Department ensures that any new or replacement well is installed to protect the integrity of our local aquifers. The Health Department educates private well owners on how to preserve the safety of their water supply and how to comply with Safe Drinking Water Standards in New Jersey. We also assist property owners in addressing problems with their water and educate them on the required water testing necessary for the sale/rental/lease of a home or business.

In 2018, over 30 inspections were conducted for the installation of either a new or replacement water well.

Ambient Surface Water Quality Project

This is the 9th year of our stream sampling program. The samples are taken at strategic test sites throughout the township. The streams included Mine Brook, Yellow Brook, Big Brook and Hockhockson. Although this testing is a annual snapshot in time it assists in building a baseline of the general quality of these important water sheds.

Rabies Control/Animal Control

The Colts Neck Health Department investigates incidents where there is a possible human or domestic exposure to rabies, including

- Lab testing of suspected rabid animals
- Exposure evaluation for people and their pets
- Monitoring of dogs and cats that bite humans or other animals

This year, the Health Dept. submitted 3 animal specimens to the state lab for rabies testing. Thankfully, all were found to be negative for the virus.

There were 352 dog licenses issued with 13 animal bites to humans throughout the calendar year.

The Colts Neck Health Department also conducted its annual rabies clinic in January at the Colts Neck Fire House #2 located on Conover Road. A total of 43 dogs and cats were vaccinated.

A word about our Animal Control Officers: In order to protect individuals and their domestic animals, Animal Control Officers are responsible for collecting and impounding lost pets, stray domestic animals, and sick, injured, or dangerous animals. The Colts Neck Health Dept. oversees the function of our Animal Control Officers.

Public Recreational Bathing

The purpose of this program is to monitor public recreational bathing facilities by ensuring a sanitary and safe environment for their guests. The Health Dept reviews and approves any physical upgrade to these facilities as well as conducting onsite inspections to review general sanitation & maintenance; safety and condition of pool equipment; emergency equipment; supervision; disinfection levels; required documentation; emergency plans; and documented weekly water sampling results.

Colts Neck continues to operate 2 public recreational bathing facilities. Each were provided with a pre-opening inspection and an unannounced routine inspection. One of the facilities had to be closed for a length of time due to a lack of disinfection in the main pool.

Health Education:

Health education occurs while conducting most of our local health department activities. It could be a formal set down meeting, or it could be as informal as a conversation on the phone with a resident discussing a health topic. The focus is usually on providing education and/or health promotion services that help the public make informed decisions about their health. Health education helps the community achieve a healthier lifestyle and promotes healthy behavior.

The Health Dept. continues to supply educational information at our Health Information Center located in the Colts Neck Library and on our Colts Neck Health Dept. web page. The Health Officer also responds to hundreds of calls each year regarding a full range of health inquiries that include, but not limited to: septic systems; water wells; food permitting; animal control; communicable and infectious diseases, nuisance complaints, rabies etc.

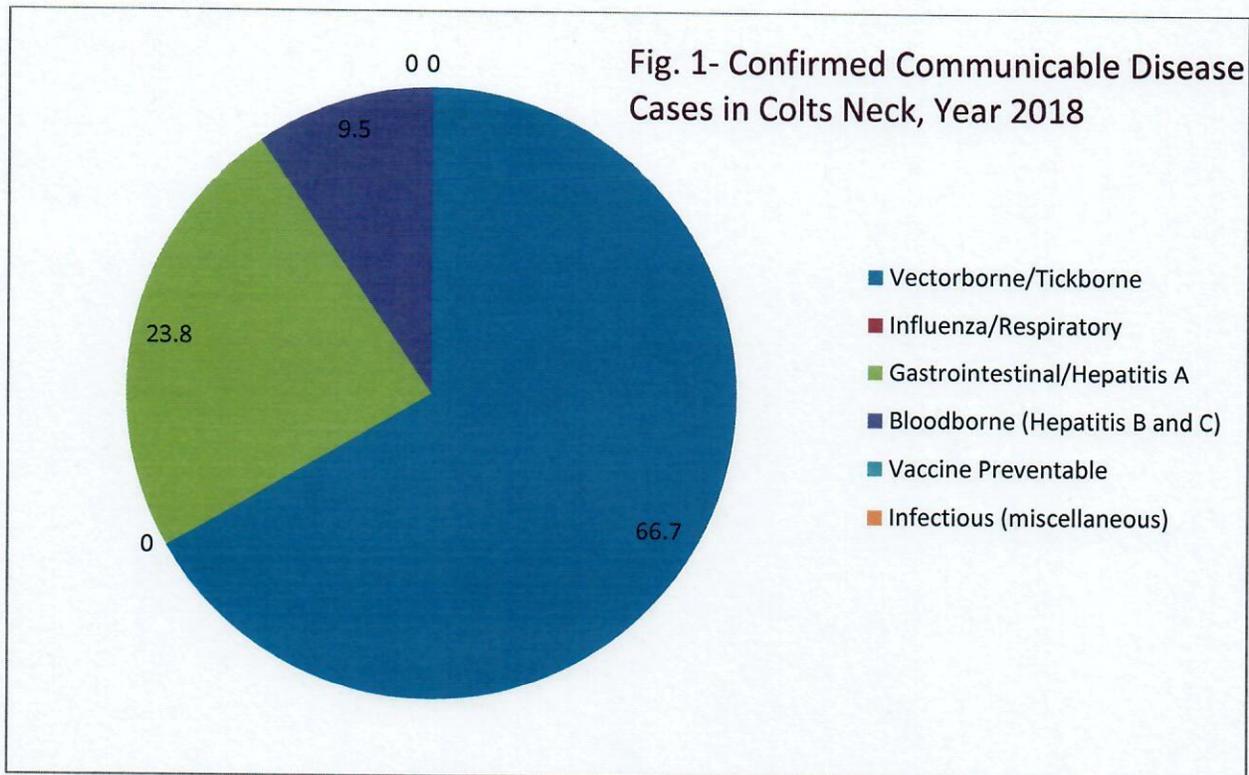
Child Immunization Records Audit

A total of 5 child immunization audits were performed in 2018. All were found to be in substantial compliance.

Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance

(CONFIRMED CASES ONLY)

<u>Type of Communicable/Infectious Disease</u>	<u>% of Cases</u>	<u>Number of Confirmed Cases</u>
Vectorborne/Tickborne	66.7	14
Influenza/Respiratory	0	0
Gastrointestinal/Hepatitis A	23.8	5
Bloodborne (Hepatitis B and C)	9.5	less than 5
Vaccine Preventable	0	0
Infectious (miscellaneous)	0	0



Lyme disease continues to be the most common reportable disease in New Jersey according to data from the NJ Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). Colts Neck had 26 reported Lyme disease cases entered into the CDRSS system in 2018.

What are some of the reasons that may be driving this trend?

- With better understanding of Lyme disease, more doctors are testing sooner in patients who report joint pain (and get a correct diagnosis sooner- that's the good news)
- Warmer temperatures make Lyme disease "season" longer, and more ticks survive the winter
- Wetter weather also contributes the growth of ticks, and supports the vector animals that ticks live on
- Hiking and playing outdoors is good for overall health, but precautions against bites are needed.

That's why it is important to wear insect repellent and cover arms and legs when playing outdoors. Keep grass cut short, and take time to do a tick check when returning inside.

Emergency Management, Response and Preparedness

The Colts Neck Health Department monitors the community for infectious or communicable disease outbreaks and provides public health education/risk communication, when requested. We work in partnership with traditional and non-traditional emergency responders and the

community at large; and develop plans to address and mitigate environmental impacts of natural or man-made disasters if they were to occur.

Some of these partners include, but not limited to: Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management; Colts Neck OEM; Monmouth County Health Department; Monmouth County Regional Health Commission#1, and the Governmental Public Health Partnership of Monmouth County.

The health department has also been reviewing and updating its emergency management plans to include, but not limited:

- Public Health Annex Plan
- Mass Prophylaxis/Immunization POD Plan
- Pandemic Influenza Plan
- Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP)
- Risk Communication Plan
- Isolation and Quarantine Plan
- All Hazards Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan
- Indoor Air Quality Plan

Vital Statistics

In 2018, 40 marriage/domestic union licenses were issued.

Goals, Projects Completed 2018

- Developed and implemented educational tools residents can utilize to understand how a septic system functions and its proper care and maintenance.
- Developed and implemented an ongoing preventative maintenance plan for our public buildings with specific focus on activities that may create a public health condition if not properly maintained/serviced.
- Develop a computer generated data base with key septic and water well information currently only available in our "hard files." This information will provide easy and quick access as to whether there are any records requested by a resident.
- Developed and implemented a communication strategy to educate the public regarding what is required (upfront) in order to reduce health department approval time for applicants.

Goals, Projected Projects 2019

- Develop an updated food vendor application that will enable the health department better assurance that food safety and sanitation standards will be met during these activities.
- Develop a health services reference guide that will be utilized by the Health Officer to quickly respond to requests for health services in the area.
- Begin to update the health department web page with more current and timely educational information.
- Develop and implement a Septic System Deed Notice that will ensure that perspective buyers of a home will be notified and understand their legal obligation of owning a home with an alternative/advanced septic system.