

Wallingford Health Department



45 South Main Street
Room 215
(203) 294-2065
health@wallingfordct.gov

2020 Annual Report

Stephen Civitelli, RS, MPH
Director of Health
health@wallingfordct.gov

Vanessa Bautista, RS, BSc
Chief Sanitarian
sanitarian@wallingfordct.gov

Sandy Coker
Office Manager

Brittany Nappi, BSc
Sanitarian
Brittany.nappi@wallingfordct.gov

Alyssa Pannone BSc
Health Educator
healthed@wallingfordct.gov

Scott Bryden, RS, MBA
Sanitarian

Anne Bernick, MA, BSN
Public Health Nurse
Anne.bernick@wallingfordct.gov

Staff



The Health Department has the responsibility of overall protection of the public health of all residents. The CT General Statutes, Title 19, Chapter 368a Section 19a-2a provide the scope and authority for the enforcement of public health statutes and the regulations of the CT Public Health Code (CT PHC). Departmental data is reported quarterly to the Board of Health, and minutes for public access are posted on the Town website, as required. Required services are detailed in CGS§ 19a-207 and reflect the “10 Essential Public Health Services”, with a strong emphasis on community education and active engagement in policy development.

Our department has skilled professional staff who collectively strive to provide all the 10 Essential Public Health Services to Wallingford residents. The public health staff provides required components, including educational outreach, monitoring of communicable disease, statistical reporting, and community health improvement. With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic early in 2020, it drastically shifted the focus of the department. The Health Department was tasked with implementing the CT Reopen Sector guidance, enforce and interpret Governor’s Executive Orders, contact trace in the community (utilizing Microsoft ContaCT), provide isolation and quarantine guidance, establish municipal Covid-19 response plans/strategies and begin vaccination efforts as the department held the Town’s 1st clinic on December 30th, 2020 utilizing the FDA Emergency Authorized Moderna vaccine. All these various aspects of the response to the pandemic were completed within the department of health. To administer the Moderna vaccine, the department was required to meet specific clinical and administrative standards and was approved as a CoVP provider from the CT Immunization Program on November 23th, 2020.

The Health Department also worked closely with the Wallingford Public School system in navigating the multitude of items that needed to be addressed in operating the schools during the Covid-19 pandemic. Providing support to the school administration and nurses has proven to be a vital aspect of our community's pandemic response. The Health Department also has assisted local licensed facilities in navigating and operating under the CT Reopen Guidance documents that were implemented beginning on May 20th during phase 1 reopening.

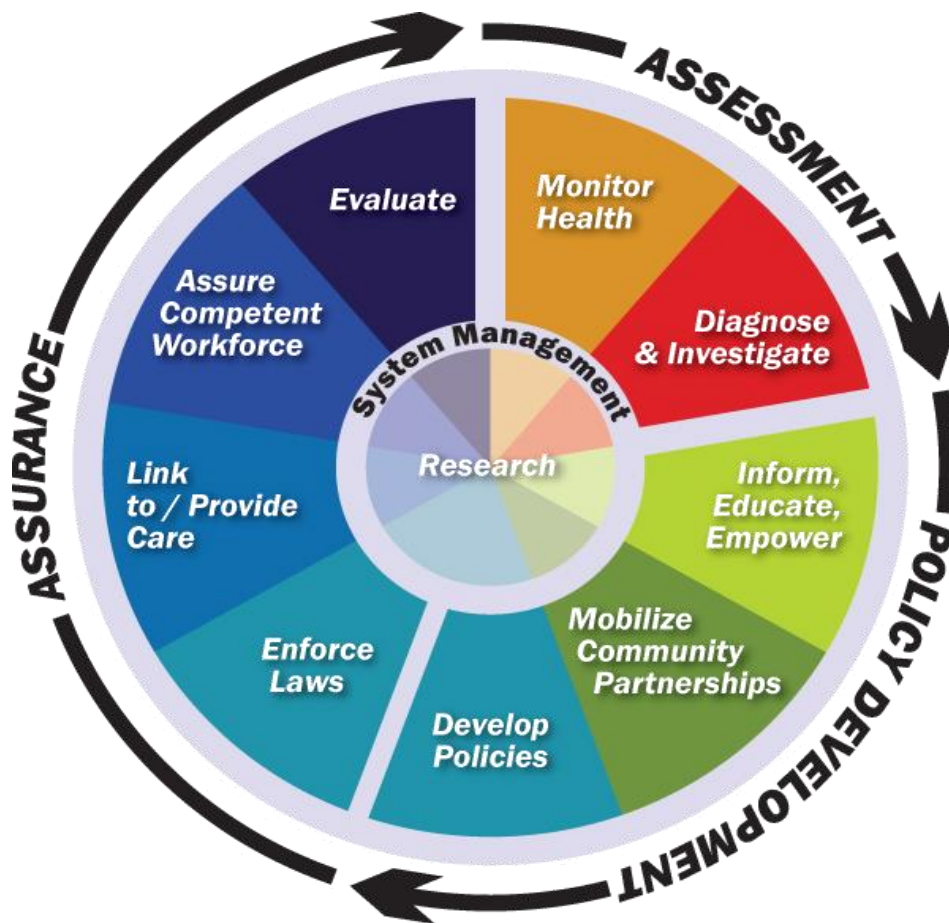
The Wallingford Health Department has a foundation of core environmental health components which impact all residents in one or more aspects (Food Safety and Food Establishment Inspections, Subsurface Sewage Inspections, Private Drinking Water Wells, Public Health Nuisance Complaints, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, sanitary aspects of Nail Salons, Beauty/Barber Salons and Tattoo Establishments; Public Swimming Pool Inspections and Daycare Center Inspections).

The nature of nuisance complaint code violations and the process to achieve compliance continues to grow more complex. The Director of Health has ministerial responsibility to investigate and enforce all such violations. We routinely work with the State’s Attorney Office, Housing Prosecutor and are actively engaged in dialogue focused on an integrated response to issues that overlap the spectrum of public health and into areas of social services, rental housing, fire marshal, emergency services, and population health with the intent to prevent the escalation of violations and reduce the need for criminal prosecution. Code enforcement is a valuable component for maintaining a healthy community and provides a mechanism to distribute our residents' educational resources.

The following are the CGS stipulated “10 Essential Public Health Services” and examples of the associated services we provide:



Putting the 10 Essential Services in Daily Context



Putting the 10 Essential Public Health Services in Daily Context:

1. Monitor health status to identify and understand community health issues

Example: Conduct regular review of Wallingford health data through the use of the CT DPH electronic disease system known as MAVEN; conduct outreach and education to medical providers and residents concerning communicable disease, chronic disease, vaccine-preventable disease; currently engaged with community partners for the continued review and updating of Wallingford Health Improvement Plan based on both the State and National outline.

2. Identify (diagnose) and investigate health problems and health hazards

Example: Public health nuisance complaint investigation program (detailed in the Environmental Services section): 325 complaints investigated in CY 2020 (21% increase over CY 2019) as per CT PHC definition of “nuisance complaint” including corrective and the issuance of Legal Order to Comply, enforcement through arrest process and Housing Court or contract abatement action and priority lien assessed. 52% of those complaints were Covid-19 related.

- Utilize the CT DPH laboratory services for analysis of environmental samples (lead, soil, water) and CT Agricultural Experiment Station for insect/pest/plant samples (ticks, bedbugs, spiders, and poison oak/ivy/sumac) and educate/assist the resident based on results. The mosquito trapping station in town was monitored and provided updates to town leadership/residents regarding EEE and WNV.

- Local Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) such as coordinating with the Town Emergency Management for Local Emergency Response Plan based on the FEMA guidelines and Emergency Support Functions (ESF's); developing response plans (Covid-19, Anthrax, Pandemic Influenza, Emerging Infectious Diseases)

- Partnered with the CT DPH Radon Program to promote radon testing and mitigation by distributing free test kits to the local community.

- Provide consult and support to BOE concerning communicable illness throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. (examples Covid-19, Pertussis, measles, emergency response planning, Tools-for-Schools, and Indoor Air Quality, Food Allergy Committee, Health, and Wellness Committee, and School Security Committee).

3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues in order to make healthy choices

Example: Childhood Lead Poisoning Protection Education, 19 cases of childhood lead exposure in 2020 resulting in in-home risk assessments and parental education; conducted community outreach on various health topics and provide printed material and consultation

- Conducted contact tracing in the community to inform and educate residents on Covid-19.
- Local food service employees completed in-house Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certification.
- Assisted local licensed facilities with Covid-19 Reopen Guidance/Governor's Executive Orders.

4. Mobilize/Engage the community partnerships to identify and solve health problems

Examples: Active participant and leadership role with multiple community partners and stakeholders to assess needs and develop policy changes to improve overall health (Wallingford Community health Alliance, Coalition for a Better Wallingford, Wallingford Committee on Aging, YMCA, and Healthy Living Initiatives, BOE, site host for undergraduate and graduate students).

5. Develop public health policies and plans that support community health efforts

Examples: Review and recommend new or revisions as needed to ordinances (Food, Septic, and Nail Salons/Tattoo Establishments).

- Public Health Advocacy to state, town leadership, general public
- Current President of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH)
- Appointed to Governor Lamont's Vaccine Advisory Group
- Member of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association



6. Enforce public health laws and regulations that protect health and safety

Examples: Review total enforcement actions by function in attached Environmental Activities.

- Coordinate with Planning and Zoning, Building, Fire Marshal, and Water/Sewer Division to review proposed land use developments.
- Conducted multiple meetings with the Wallingford Police Department, Wallingford Fire Department, Emergency Management, and the Board of Education to review Covid-19 guidelines.
- Sanitarians performed regular licensed facility inspections and verified Covid-19 guidelines were followed.

7. Link people to needed health services

Examples: Promote community-based health services on a departmental developed centralized document for underinsured/low-income residents; provide nursing services at Senior Center.

- Obtained designation as a CoVP vaccine provider
- Conducted flu clinics in October.
- Conducted 1st clinic for Covid-19 vaccination on December 30th, 2020.

8. Maintain a competent public health workforce

Examples: Ensure all professional staff maintains current certifications and required continuing education, training, and professional development; participate in DEMHS Region 2 exercises/drills. One staff member obtained her Registered Sanitarian license. Current staff members continue online training for code enforcement offered through FDA, NEHA, DEEP, and DPH.

9. Evaluate the effectiveness and quality of programs and interventions

Examples: Conduct monthly quality assurance inspections and standardization with staff (implemented 2014); review written reports for compliance with policy and enforcement of regulations; evaluate protocols integrated with grant-funded programs/initiatives. Internal quality assurance program for environmental department functions promotes efficiency and thoroughness of work. Standard 4 of FDA Food code Program Standards are the foundation for this quality assurance program.

10. Research and apply new and innovative solutions to address public health problems

Examples: Support Public Health Research and development of evidence-based best practices as site preceptor for undergraduate/graduate students; Report/Present on experiences and practices at professional forums/events such as CCM and CADH.

- Conduct health education programs based on improved outcome (Childhood Lead Prevention and Risk Assessments, Parkinson’s Support Group, Matter of Balance program, employee health and safety presentations)
- Work with the State’s Attorney Office, Housing Prosecutor, for an integrated response to hoarding.
- Continue Wallingford Community Health Assessments to better respond to the needs of the community.



Our overall goal is to continue maintaining the quality and efficient delivery of all the required services as listed. More specifically, we will continue in our efforts to collaborate with community partners in Covid-19 vaccinations within the community. Establishing mobile clinics to focus on vulnerable populations and vaccinating individuals determined by the State of Connecticut within the phase groups will be a main priority of the Health Department in 2021.



Environmental

Environmental Inspections	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Food (280 Establishments, 4 Temp Events)	686	1012	928	1041	796
Salon	99	120	129	130	135
Day Care	16	23	17	21	24
Pool	20	44	45	36	30
Soil Testing	15	13	5	19	23
Septic	37	34	25	27	20
Well	9	3	10	11	14
B-100A	26	16	11	21	15
Total Inspections	908	1265	1170	1306	1057

Nuisance Complaints	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Garbage/Bulky Waste	42	54	56	61	67
Food Service	23	47	31	27	32
Barbershop/Hair/Nail	3	2	6	4	3
Lead	1	19	19	1	5
Odor	11	15	8	6	9
Dog Feces	1	3	3	3	4
Bed Bugs/Mold	3	7	6	6	4
Sewage	7	11	8	7	3
Stagnant Water	6	6	6	3	6
Pool	0	1	3	2	2
Rodents	12	16	11	29	35
Other	32	49	42	39	28
COVID-19	169				
Tick Submissions	15	27	24	16	18
Totals	325	257	223	204	216
Health Orders Issued	12	24	23	43	46



Revenue









Account	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Food	\$18,955	\$22,363.50	\$22,480	\$20,730	\$21,335
Salon	\$7,125	\$7,050	\$6,850	\$6,950	\$6,550
Perc Test	\$200	\$100	\$100	\$200	\$150
Septic	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,150
Well	\$350	\$150	\$475	\$600	\$650
Misc.	\$123	\$128	\$131.50	\$185	\$95.30
Total	\$28,403	\$31,441.50	\$31,036.50	\$29,915	\$29,930.30



VISITOR ALERT

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ENTERING THIS BUILDING IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS

COVID-19 PRIMARY SYMPTOMS

 FEVER OF 100°F OR HIGHER	 DRY COUGH	 SHORTNESS OF BREATH	 SORE THROAT
 HEADACHE	 BODY ACHES	 CHILLS AND/OR REPEATED SHAKING WITH CHILLS	 NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL

NOTICE

FACE MASKS REQUIRED



ALL VISITORS AND EMPLOYEES MUST WEAR A FACE MASK OR PROTECTIVE FACE COVERING PRIOR TO ENTERING THIS BUILDING

ALERTA DE VISITANTE

POR FAVOR NO ENTRAR A ESTE EDIFICIO SI TIENE LOS SIGUIENTES SINTOMAS

SINTOMAS DEL COVID-19

 FIEBRE DE 100°F O MÁS	 TOS	 DIFICULTAD PARA RESPIRAR	 DOLOR DE GARGANTA
 DOLOR DE CABEZA	 DOLOR EN EL CUERPO	 TEMBLORES REPETIDOS CON ESCALOFRIOS	 PÉRDIDA DE SABOR O OLFATO

AVISO

MASCARILLA REQUERIDA



TODOS LOS VISITANTES Y EMPLEADOS DEBEN USAR MASCARILLA O UN PROTECTOR QUE CUBRA LA BOCA Y NARIZ ANTES DE ENTRAR A ESTE EDIFICIO



Flyers & Educational Material



