



Wallingford Health Department



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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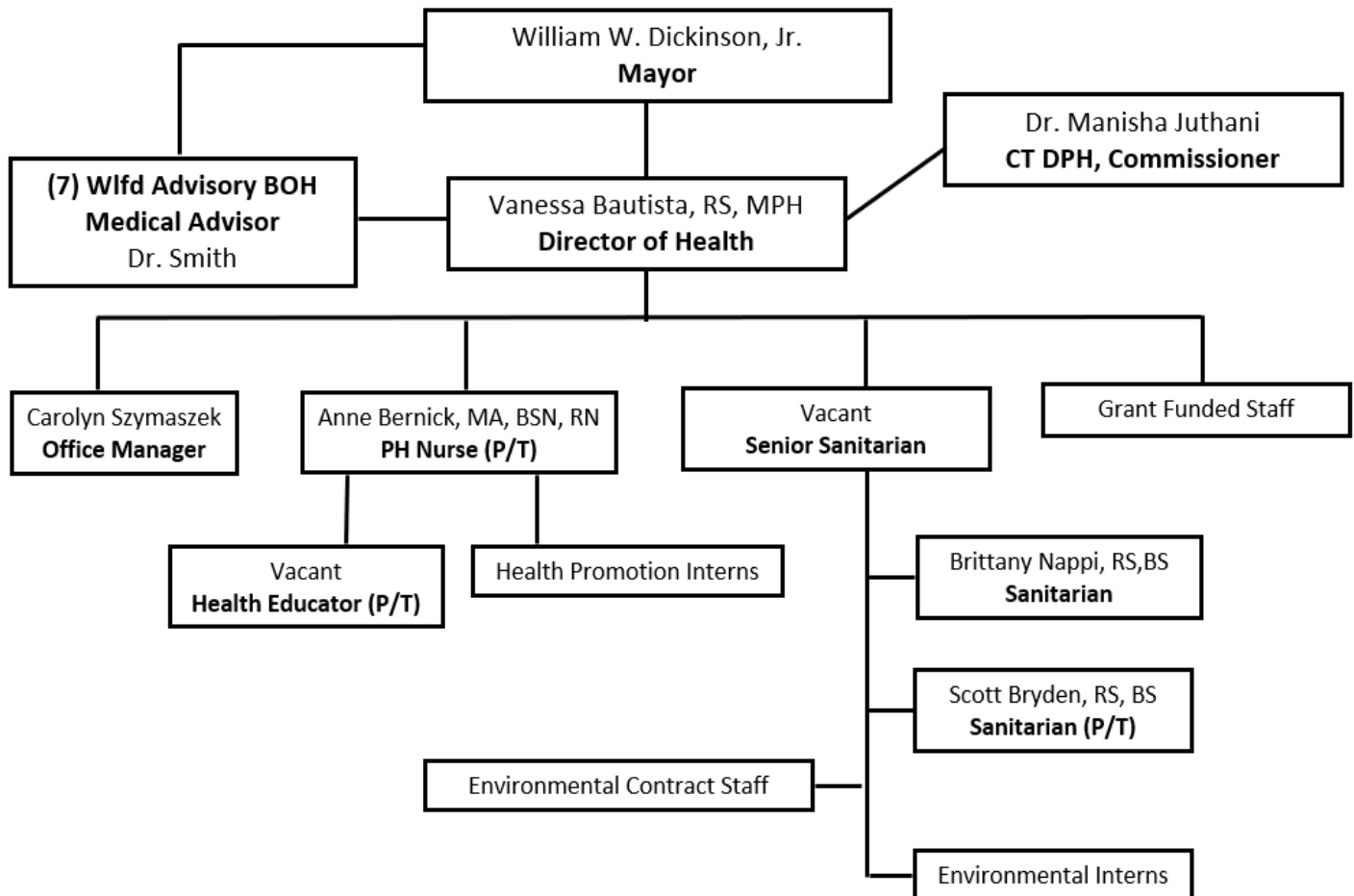
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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Town of Wallingford Health Department
 Organizational Chart (Revised 11/20/22)



2022

Mission

The mission of the Wallingford Health Department is to work in partnership with the community to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Wallingford while utilizing a dynamic and responsive systematic process respecting the diversity of the community and challenging us to provide for present and future generations.

Vision

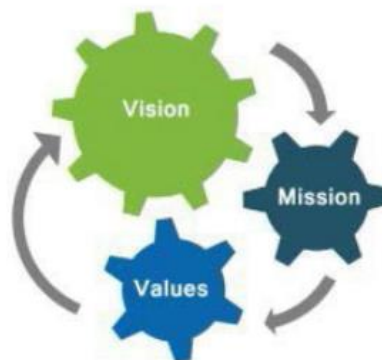
We strive for equality throughout the community, regardless of financial status, race, gender, or age. Wallingford actively advocates for public health through promotion and prevention to help lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive lifestyle. We are here for support, education, and community.

Values

Willingness and Well-being

Health and Humility

Diversity and Determination



2022 IN REVIEW

The 2022 Wallingford Health Department (WHD) annual report will provide a brief overview of the essential services. The department was able to provide the Wallingford community with the ten essential services and used all resources to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Health Department is responsible for the 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 enforcing 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.

Throughout 2022, the WHD was able to leverage the existing plans and agreements that were in place as part of our Emergency Response Plan to offer numerous opportunities for the community to receive the vaccine. While the COVID-19 response remained a key priority throughout 2022, WHD continued to provide other vital public health services to residents.

In 2022 the WHD was fortunate to have contributions from not one but three Directors of Health. Stephen Civitelli, former DOH; Eloise Hazelwood, interim DOH; and Vanessa Bautista, current DOH.

As we move to the recovery phase of the pandemic and beyond, we will see a new appreciation for the value of public health and the impact it has on every aspect of our daily lives. As a department and community, we are stronger because we have been through this challenge together.



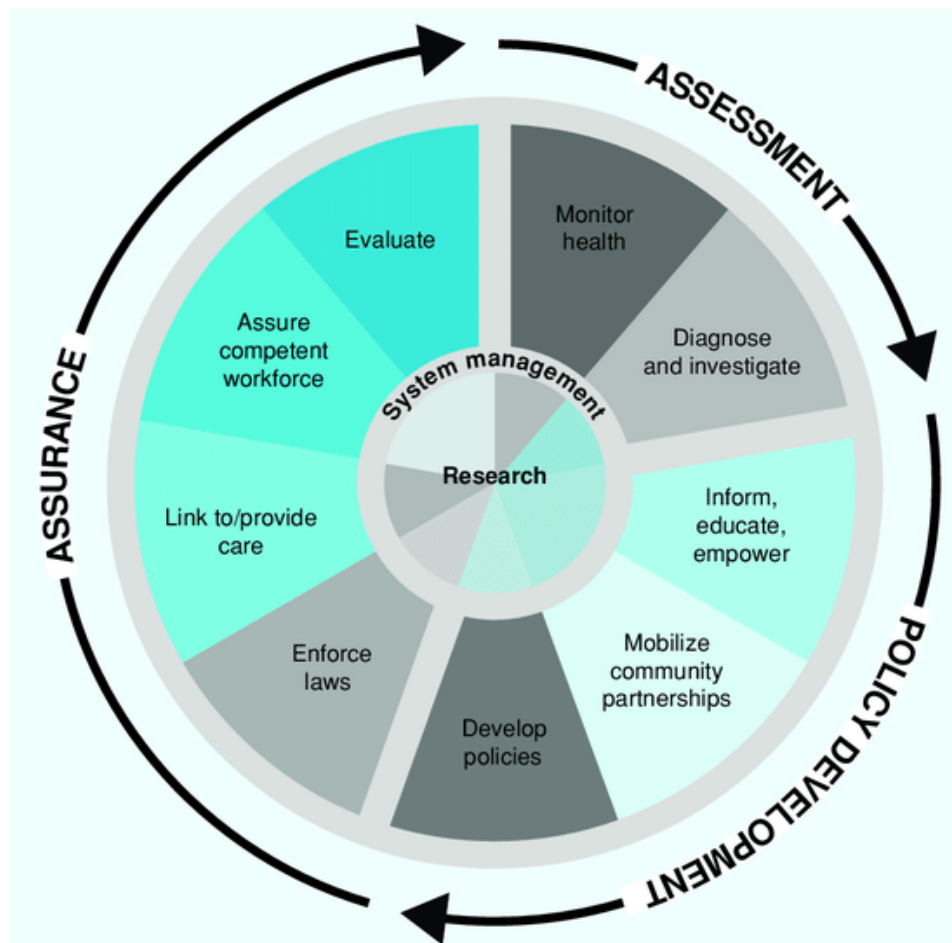
The Wallingford Health Department has a foundation of core environmental health components that impact all residents in one or more aspects. For example, Food Safety and Food Establishment Inspections, Subsurface Sewage Inspections, Private Drinking Water Wells, Public Health Nuisance Complaints, Childhood 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 the ministerial responsibility to investigate and enforce all such violations. We routinely work with Town leadership, 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.

We want to thank our incredible Health Department staff, our valued community partners, the elected and appointed officials, and the residents of Wallingford for their ongoing support and commitment to public health.



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



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.

- Staff were involved in the following areas: traveler monitoring, lead case response, case investigations, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine notifications and releases in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

Example: Public health nuisance complaint investigation program (detailed in the Environmental Services section): 154 complaints investigated in CY 2022 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.



- ~ 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) plan was updated following PHEP Operational Readiness Review Interim Guidance and FEMA guidelines. Emergency Support Functions (ESF's) six and eight were modified based on lessons learned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ~ 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, 12 cases of childhood lead exposure in 2022 resulting in in-home risk assessments and parental education; conducted community outreach on various health topics and provided printed material and consultation.

- Conducted contact tracing in the community to inform and educate residents on Covid-19.
- Several CPR/AED/First Aid certification courses were offered to the community.
- Implemented various health educational sessions throughout the community (i.e., radon info session, handwashing program, etc.)

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).

- Developed partnerships with different stakeholders (YMCA, BOE, Gaylord Hospital, Masonic Health Care Center, Wallingford Housing Authority, Wallingford Public Library, SCOW, Wallingford Senior Center, Choate Rosemary Hall) to implement various Covid-19 mobile vaccine clinics.

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).

- Member of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association
- Assessed the Wallingford Public Schools Reopening Plan
- Reviewed various Covid-19 policies developed by community organizations such as the YMCA, Wallingford Parks & Recreation, and Wallingford Human Resources.
- Revised the Salon Establishments Ordinance Chapter 592 in accordance with Public Act 19-117.



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.

- Conducted flu clinics in October.
- Conducted Covid-19 vaccination clinics at different locations (Wallingford Public Library and the Spanish Community of Wallingford).
- Homebound vaccinations in the community for those who are physically unable to visit a vaccination site.

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. Current staff members continue online training for code enforcement offered through FDA, NEHA, DEEP, and DPH.

- Three staff members were certified to teach CPR/AED.
- One staff member completed the Lead Risk Assessor & Lead Inspector Training.

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, 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.

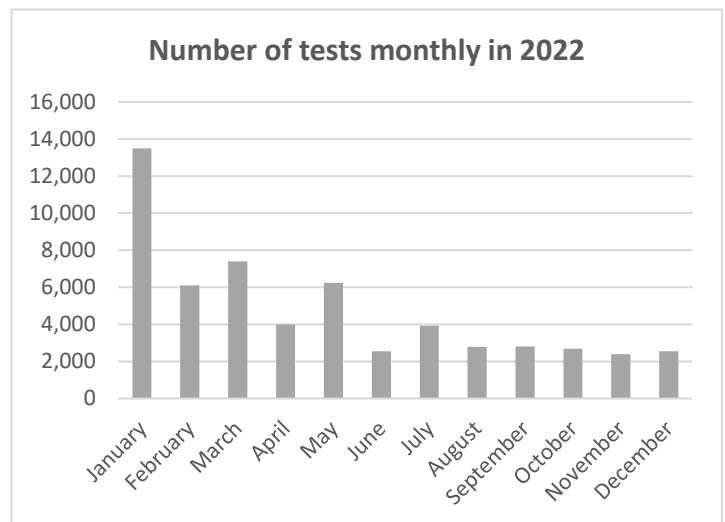
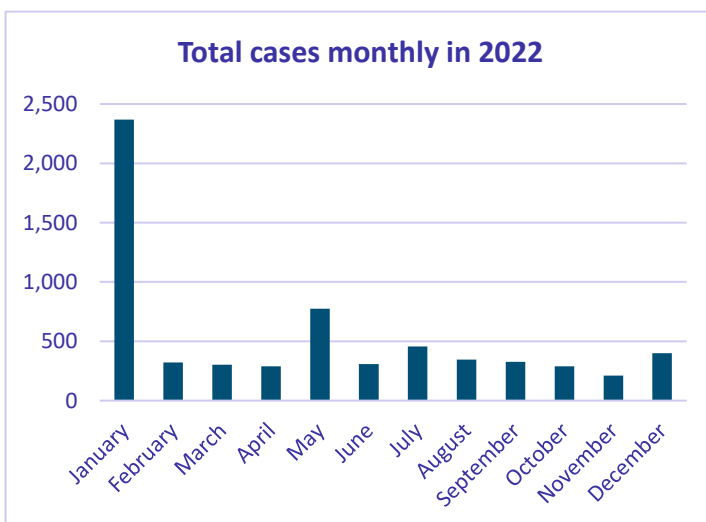


COVID-19 in 2022

During 2022, 6,395 covid-19 cases were reported, 37 deaths due to COVID-19, and 56,957 COVID-19 tests were reported in the town of Wallingford.

Months	Total cases	Total deaths	Number of tests
January	2,368	12	13,488
February	321	5	6,111
March	303	6	7,405
April	288	1	3,991
May	775	3	6,244
June	309	3	2,550
July	455	2	3,928
August	346	2	2,788
September	328	0	2,814
October	289	0	2,687
November	212	1	2,399
December	401	2	2,552

SOURCE: DATA.CT.GOV



SOURCE: DATA.CT.GOV (Data provided by Epidemiologist, Daniela Babcock)



COVID-19 Vaccination Statistics

As of December 28th, 2022, 37,026 Wallingford residents have initiated their covid-19 vaccination (83.53%), 35,146 Wallingford residents have been fully vaccinated (79.29%), and 23,016 Wallingford residents have received an additional dose (51.92%). *Percentage is based on a population of 44,326.

	Total Count	Percentage*
Initiated Vaccination	37,026	83.53%
Fully Vaccinated	35,146	79.29%
Additional Dose Received	23,016	51.92%

Total Count / Age Group	0 to 4	5 to 11	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+
Population	2,116	3,392	3,189	3,421	10,958	13,953	8,045
Initiated Vaccination	305	1,609	2,692	3,106	9,210	11,265	8,839
Fully Vaccinated	220	1,491	2,539	2,853	8,703	10,889	8,451
Additional Dose Received		282	1,219	1,531	5,022	7,977	6,985

Percentage / Age Group	0 to 4	5 to 11	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+
Population	2,116	3,392	3,189	3,421	10,958	13,953	8,045
Initiated Vaccination	14.41%	47.44%	84.42%	90.79%	84.05%	80.74%	100%
Fully Vaccinated	10.40%	43.96%	79.62%	83.40%	79.42%	78.04%	100%
Additional Dose Received		8.31%	38.23%	44.75%	45.83%	57.17%	86.82%

SOURCE: DATA.CT.GOV (Data provided by Epidemiologist, Daniela Babcock)



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Local Distribution Site (Toyota Oakdale Theater)




This is Wallingford Police Chief, John Ventura. Please standby for an everbridge message.

On Tuesday, January 4, 2022, between the hours of 4 PM and 7 PM, the Town of Wallingford Health Department will be holding a Home Covid Test Kit and N-95 Mask distribution event. The program will be held at the Oakdale Theater located at 95 South Turnpike Road. Individuals are asked to enter through the main driveway to the Oakdale Theater on South Turnpike Road and will be directed to a queue where members of the Town of Wallingford Emergency Management will further instruct individuals. Those wishing to obtain a test will be required to present identification showing proof of Wallingford Residency. There is a very limited supply of both N-95 masks and Covid testing kits and distribution will be prioritized on a first come first serve basis. We ask that individuals do not line up in advance of the times as to not interfere with normal business operations of the Oakdale Theater.



VACCINATION CLINICS



	Date	Location	
COVID-19	1/6/22 1/13/22 1/20/22 1/27/22	Wallingford Parks and Recreation	
	2/1/22 2/15/22 7/28/22	143 Hope Hill Rd.	
	5/3/22 11/2/22 11/16/22	Wallingford Public Library	
	1/4/22 1/11/22 1/18/22 1/25/22 2/1/22 2/8/22 2/15/22 3/16/22 4/12/22 4/26/22 5/24/22 5/31/22 6/28/22 7/13/22 7/21/22 7/28/22 10/11/22 10/18/22 10/27/22 11/10/22 12/16/22	Homebound Vaccinations	
	INFLUENZA	10/22/22 10/26/22	Wallingford Public Library
		11/3/22	Town Hall



Community Outreach ~ Health Education

Event	Date	Activity	Event	Date	Activity
Radon Info. Session	1/19/22	Discussion on Radon at the Wlfd. Public Library	Red Ribbon Week	10/26/22	The WHD presented information on substance abuse prevention
Hands-Only CPR	2/17/22 8/9/22 11/1/22	High school students learned an effective and conventional Hands-Only CPR at the Wlfd. Parks and Recs.	Professional Development Day	10/20/22	Shared information on the services we offer
CPR/AED/First Aid	3/23/22 4/12/22 6/11/22 6/17/22 6/29/22 7/20/22 9/6/22 10/13/22 11/12/22 11/14/22 12/8/22	CPR/AED/First Aid training was offered to the community. The training was provided to the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW), Parks and Recs, CERT team, Youth and Social Services (YSS), Wlfd Senior Center, Board of Ed., parents, churches, etc.	Masonic Health Fair	6/11/22	Distributed COVID-19 test kits and first aid kits. Increased awareness about nutrition and healthy lifestyles.
Celebrate Wallingford	10/1/22	Sanitarians inspected food booths. WHD distributed COVID-19 test kits and COVID-19 information, conducted health trivia for children and recruited MRC members.	Handwashing Program for children	11/15/22	Educated children about the importance of handwashing.
Holiday Stroll	12/2/22	Sanitarians inspected food booths.	Fire/Fall Prevention program	12/15/22	WHD conducted a fire and fall prevention info session in collaboration with WFD at Ashlar Village
Wallingford Coalition - Tree Festival	12/2/22	WHD donated a Christmas tree representing the dept.	Covid-19 Bilingual Info Session Q&A	2/15/22 5/2/22	Covid-19 informational sessions presented for SCOW members. Presented in Spanish & English
Radio to North Pole	12/10/22	Assisted with participant roster	Environmental Health Program	4/20/22	Delivered a presentation on CT PHC regulations specific to nuisance complaints to SCSU students. WHD gave a presentation about COVID-19 and lead safety to SCOW members.
Project Graduation	6/15/22	Sanitarians inspected food booths.	SCOW Family Literacy/Parent Education Program	3/18/22	



Health Promotion

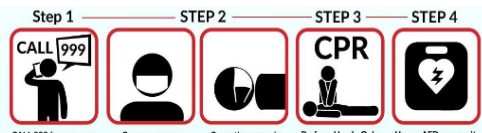


Stayin' alive with Hands-Only CPR


Come join the Wallingford Health Department to get certified in Hands-Only™ CPR/AED/First Aid!

Where: 143 Hope Hill Rd, Wallingford CT 06492
When: Saturday November 12, 2022 8:30AM

If someone is unconscious, not breathing correctly and you suspect they may have COVID-19, you can still help by performing Hands-Only CPR™!



Let's Get Vaccinated!





COVID-19 Moderna Bivalent Booster Clinic


****Walk-in basis. No appointment needed. – Boosters only. Ages 18+.**

Where: Wallingford Public Library
200 North Main Street Wallingford, CT

When: November 2, 2022 11AM-2PM
November 16, 2022 11AM-2PM


The Dangers of: RADON



The second leading cause of lung cancer.

Join the Wallingford Health Department for a discussion on Radon testing! Material to be covered:

- The easy steps of testing for Radon.
- Why radon will effect you and your family.
- How Radon Mitigation systems work.



Free radon test kit if you attend this session!

Call to sign-up:
(203) 294-2065

January 19, 2022
1pm—2pm
Wallingford Public Library
200 N Main St,
Wallingford CT 06492

45 South Main St. Rm. 215 • Phone: (203) 294-2065 • Fax: (203) 294-2064

Did you wash your hands?



Come join the Wallingford Health Department to learn about the importance of handwashing and germ awareness!

WHERE: Children's Program Room
DATE: November 15, 2022 5-5:30PM

Includes an experiment with **Glo Germ™**, the original visual tool for teaching proper handwashing!






Community Outreach



Community Health



Emergency Preparedness

Event	Date	Discussion
MRC Meetings	1/10/22 2/17/22 3/14/22 4/18/22 5/12/22 5/13/22 5/20/22 7/14/22 8/11/22 8/12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activation and deployment of MRC volunteers to assist with the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included assistance with mass vaccination clinics, COVID-19 testing centers and PPE distribution. • The implementation of a new background check process for all MRC members. • Federal updates • HCC proposals
ERC Meetings	2/10/22 6/9/22 7/14/22 8/11/22 12/14/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of an After-Action AAR (Regional After Action Report) regarding the Region's preparation for mass vaccination plans and execution. The purpose of the report is to evaluate areas of improvement and areas of strengths when planning for future vaccine clinics. • Community Recovery (capability 2) • Monkey Pox Preparedness Plans
ESF-8 Meetings	2/16/22 3/16/22 4/20/22 7/7/22 9/21/22 10/19/22 11/16/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region Two: Public Health Emergency Response – Emergency Support Function 8 Plan. • COVID-19 Response • CT DEMHS Updates



Environmental Health

Food Service Sanitation Program

Licenses and inspects food establishments, including temporary food vendors. Educates the public about safe food handling, preparation and storage.

Potable Water & Sewage Disposal

Ensures proper installation and repair of privately owned wells and sewage disposal systems. Prevents the transmission of disease caused by exposure to sewage and contaminated drinking water.

Environmental Inspections	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Food (303 Establishments, 14 Temp Events)	900	882	686	1012	928
Salon (105 establishments)	90	78	99	120	129
Day Care (29 establishments)	14	15	16	23	17
Pool (22 Public Pools)	27	38	20	44	45
Soil Testing	10	21	15	13	5
Septic	23	16	37	34	25
Well	1	6	9	3	10
B-100A	35	12	26	16	11
Total Inspections	1,100	1068	908	1265	1170



Health Protection

Environmental Health Complaints

Public health nuisances are environmental situations that have the potential to cause the spread of disease. To prevent this, the health department investigates and can issue orders when nuisance conditions are found. Public health nuisance abatement aims to eliminate unsanitary conditions in the community that pose potential hazards to the public's health. Public health nuisance conditions often result from the improper storage or disposal of solid waste or accumulation of solid waste on a property. These conditions can attract unwanted animals and insects and provide an unwanted breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests. Unsanitary properties pose a threat to public health, cause blight, and in the most severe cases, can negatively affect neighboring properties.

Nuisance Complaints	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Garbage/Bulky Waste	34	29	42	54	56
Food Service	44	17	23	47	31
Barbershop/Hair/Nail	2	3	3	2	6
Lead	1	1	1	19	19
Odor	13	6	11	15	8
Dog Feces	2	2	1	3	3
Bed Bugs/Mold	5	1	3	7	6
Sewage	3	4	7	11	8
Stagnant Water	3	3	6	6	6
Pool	1	0	0	1	3
Rodents	21	12	12	16	11
Other	25	25	32	49	42
Tick Submissions	28	35	15	27	24
Covid-19	0	30	169		
Totals	182	168	325	257	223
Health Orders Issued	4	7	12	27	23



Revenue

Account	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Food	\$20,320	\$20,115	\$18,995	\$22,363.50	\$22,480
Salon	\$6,450	\$6,700	\$7,125	\$7,050	\$6,850
Perc Test	\$0	\$50.00	\$200	\$100	\$100
Septic	\$1,050	\$1,850	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$1,000
Well	\$200	\$550	\$350	\$150	\$475
Misc.	\$339.50	\$51.50	\$123	\$128	\$131.50
Total	\$28,359.50	\$29,316.50	\$28,403	\$31,441.50	\$31,036.50



Accomplishments of 2022



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

On behalf of the State of Connecticut,
I, Ned Lamont, Governor, take great
pleasure in honoring and recognizing
Wallingford Health Department
in celebration of
National Public Health Workers Day
on
November 21, 2022

The Monday before Thanksgiving each year is observed by the *American Public Health Association* and *ResearchAmerica* as **National Public Health Workers Day** – to highlight and celebrate the profound contributions and sacrifices made by the public health workforce throughout the United States. This year, the State of Connecticut joins these and other distinguished public health organizations in paying tribute to the countless brave individuals in the public health sector who have worked with steadfast determination to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our shared community.

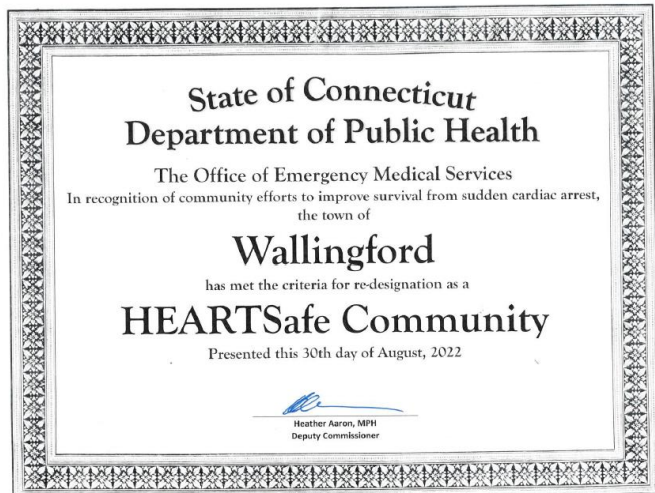
This year, I would like to convey sincere appreciation to the many residents who are employed by or volunteered for one of our public health districts, departments, or Tribal health offices throughout Connecticut – who valiantly rose to the occasion during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in doing so prevented the worst of possible health outcomes during a moment of unprecedented crisis. By coordinating public health services for the wellbeing of all community members – in particular our most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, homebound, low-income, and uninsured – local health organizations provided testing services, epidemiological investigations, medical material distribution, disease monitoring, and more. The courageous efforts made by your respective organizations over the past several years are deserving of the highest of praise. Each and every one of you is a testament to the power of the indomitable human spirit, and the successes that are accomplished when we work together united toward a common goal. The State of Connecticut owes you a debt of gratitude for the heroic deeds you have made, and continue to make, throughout the pandemic, as we thoughtfully put the knowledge we have gained into practice. The results you have achieved to make Connecticut once again, a safe and healthy place for all, are deserving of the highest of praise.

Therefore, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut,
on this day of Monday, November 21, 2022, do hereby
officially convey honor and recognition upon

Wallingford Health Department
in the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont
GOVERNOR



Looking Forward to 2023

Our overall goal is to maintain the quality and efficient delivery of all public health essential services. More specifically, we will continue to collaborate with community partners to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and create an innovative system that enables the community to continue to live healthy, fulfilling, and productive lives while protecting their health. In order to accomplish this goal, we plan to implement the following:

- ~ Restore the Wallingford MRC (Recruit volunteers for the local MRC for public health emergency response)
- ~ Reinvigorate community health education programs focusing on mental health, physical, emotional, and environmental wellness.
- ~ Conduct a community health assessment.
- ~ Initiate discussions to identify possible solutions to address unmet needs.
- ~ Develop a comprehensive, written action plan to address these needs.

Local Public Health System

