



Protect. Promote. Improve.



Wallingford Board of Health Meeting

**September 3, 2025 – Town Hall,
Room: 205**

WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL



Agenda

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2025
- 3. School Health
- 4. Director's Report – Vanessa Bautista
 - a. Health Statistics/Infectious Diseases (Anne Bernick)
- 5. Next Meeting – December 3, 2025
- 6. Adjournment

Wallingford Board of Health
45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 315
Minutes of June 11, 2025

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

Present:

Mayor Cervoni, Dr. Delbert Smith (Medical Advisor), Kathy Needon, Adriana Rodriguez, Len Guerra, Isaac Cardona

Excused:

Tracy Weeks, Jeffrey Neri, Kate Nemeth

Guests:

Lisa Taylor, RN
Anne Bernick, Public Health Nurse

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2025 meeting was made by Isaac Cardona and seconded by Kathy Needon. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Items**School Health**

Aimee Turner was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict; however, Director Bautista shared information relevant to school health from the recent statewide Director of Health call. A new tool, EPIHeizer, has been developed to estimate potential measles outbreaks in schools across Connecticut. The tool may assist school nurses and administrators in assessing risk and implementing timely mitigation strategies.

See attached Director's Report and PowerPoint presentation for more details.

1. Infectious Diseases

Anne Bernick discussed tuberculosis (TB) cases and the monitoring protocol being followed.

2. Environmental Health

The Health Department completed 179 inspections between March and May 2025, including food service, pool, cosmetology, daycare, and B100s inspections. Thirty-three (33) nuisance complaints were logged, and 25 were resolved. A table summarizing these activities was included in the PowerPoint presentation.

3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

Updates included participation in TTX exercises, CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed trainings, MRC activities, and the Hanover Pond Dam Failure Preparedness Exercise.

4. Community Outreach

The department conducted a Narcan training for the public and continued outreach through text safety messaging, attendance at community events like SCOW's celebration, and planning for the July 19th Community Wellness Fair.

5. Community Partnerships

The Health Department is partnering with YSS and YMCA to coordinate an EKG screening with In A Heartbeat Foundation. Meetings have also begun with CHC to finalize the schedule and location for the use of their Mobile Health Unit (MHU) at Town Hall. The department is also collaborating with YSS to offer CPR (suicide prevention) training for the public.

6. Public Health Policies

Updates were shared on Public Act 22-49 related to lead, and progress on local lead ordinance.

7. Workforce Development

Three staff members completed DPH's lead refresher training. Anne Bernick was recognized as the 2025 Public Health Nurse of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Public Health Nurses. Additional trainings included CPR/AED instructor certification, Narcan, Stop the Bleed, Matter of Balance, and participation in state and national preparedness events.

8. Administrative

Ongoing use of Opioxd Settlement funding continues to support the CredibleMind mental health platform. ELC 2 and Public Health Workforce Development grants are also active and supporting department initiatives.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Isaac Cardona and seconded by Kathy Needon. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Next Meeting:

September 3, 2025

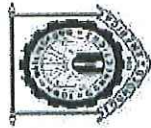
Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH

Director of Health

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut
Health Department

Vanessa Bautista, MPH, R.S.
Director of Health
(203) 264-2045
vba@wallingford.gov
45 South Main Street Room 214
Wallingford, CT 06492



Wallingford Board of Health

Director's Report for September 3, 2025

1. Infectious Diseases (Anne Bernick)

- Respiratory Diseases
- TB

2. Environmental:

- Reviewed environmental health data (January–August 2025) see summary table in PowerPoint presentation

3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):

- PHEP and ESF 8 meetings
- Wallingford FSX Meetings: 2 attended (planning for June 2026 Full-Scale Exercise)
- Plan Updates: Revising ESF-8 Plan and RSS Site Plan
- AEDs: Donated from In A Heartbeat Foundation to be installed in Town Hall
- CPR Training: June 16 (YMCA), June 26 (Parks & Rec), July 24 (Public), Aug 27 (Controlled Fluids), Aug 28 (Public), Sept 25 (Public), Oct 23 (Public)
- Tabletop Exercises: Participated in preparedness TTX, upcoming –Sept (bombing response), 2025 EPPI Exercise, Dec. (POD & MCAI response)
- Exploring generator options to support emergency preparedness
- HeartSafe Community signs being installed in 10 locations across town

4. Community Outreach:

- Hosted WHD's Community Wellness Fair on July 19
- Presented to Rotary Club in July on Health Department services
- Preparing to launch Bingoize fall prevention program at the senior center in September
- Participated in community tabling events including Masonicare Family Fest, SCOW Kickoff to Summer, Garden Market, -Coalition's Community Family Day, and SCOW's Back-to-School event
- Attended multiple regional and local coalition meetings to strengthen partnerships and coordination

5. Community Partnerships:

- Partnering with In A Heartbeat, Parks & Rec, and town departments to host a Cardiac Screening Event on November 18, 2025
- Collaborating with Program Planning Department on SCRCOG grant application for bike/pedestrian safety programming
- Collaborating with Youth & Social Services and the Mayor's Council for Substance Use on opioid settlement fund initiatives.

- Providing input to the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) to incorporate public health considerations.

6. Public Health Policies:

- Collaborating with Law Department, Police, and Planning & Zoning on drafting a local spa/massage parlor ordinance

7. Maintain a competent public health workforce:

- Staff completed certifications and trainings including ICS OPTICS, QPR TOT, WEB EOC, Falls Risk Screening, FDA Food Code, and CPR Instructor re-certification
- Upcoming conferences include the Immunization Coalition, New England TB Clinicians, and the Yankee Environmental Health Conference
- Supporting workforce development through ongoing training, webinars, and internship placements

8. Administrative:

- Managing multiple grant and funding streams, including opioid settlement funds, Public Health Workforce Development grant, and SCRCOG grant application
- Supporting staff professional development through continuing education and conference funding provided by the Public Health Workforce Development grant

Next Meeting: December 3, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH
Director of Health

SCHOOL HEALTH

- Update from AIMEE TURNER, ASST. SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

1. Infectious Diseases

- Update from Anne Bernick on TB and respiratory illnesses.

2. Environmental Health

Environmental Inspections		1/1/2025 – 08/22/2025
Food (293 Establishments, 20 Temp Events)		197
Cosmetology (113 Establishments)		28
Day Care (31 Establishments)		8
Pool (20 Public Pools)		23
On-Site Lead Inspections		2
Soil Testing		6
Septic		18
Well		3
B-100A Change of Use		13
Complaints		1/1/2025 – 8/22/2025
Total Public Health Nuisance Complaints Received		69
Total Complaints Resolved		65



Vincent Santora, M.P.H., P.E.
Director of Health
(203) 394-2003
43 South Main Street Room 215
Wallingford, CT 06492



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut
Health Department



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: August 4, 2025

West Nile Virus Detected in Mosquitoes Collected in Wallingford

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in a pool of mosquitoes collected from South Elm Street in Wallingford on July 16, 2025. No human cases have been reported at this time.

The Wallingford Health Department is working closely with state and regional partners to monitor mosquito activity and raise public awareness about mosquito-borne illnesses.

Residents are urged to take the following precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito bites:

- Apply insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk.
- Remove standing water from yards, gutters, and containers.
- Keep windows and doors closed or ensure screens are intact.

West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes and can cause flu-like symptoms and, in rare cases, severe neurological illness. Anyone experiencing symptoms should contact their healthcare provider.

For more information about West Nile Virus and ways to protect yourself:

- Visit the Connecticut Department of Public Health's West Nile Virus page: <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/epidemiology-and-emerging-infections/west-nile-virus>
- Learn more from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile>

Mosquito Control

What You Can Do

Mosquitoes need water to breed. This is why it is important to prevent breeding by removing any stagnant water around your home.

Dispose of water that collects on swimming pool covers

Empty standing water from unused buckets, tires, wading pools...

Drill holes in the bottom of containers to drain water

Protect from bites by:
Avoiding being outdoors during peak biting hours
(Dusk to Dawn)

Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants
Use EPA registered insect repellent

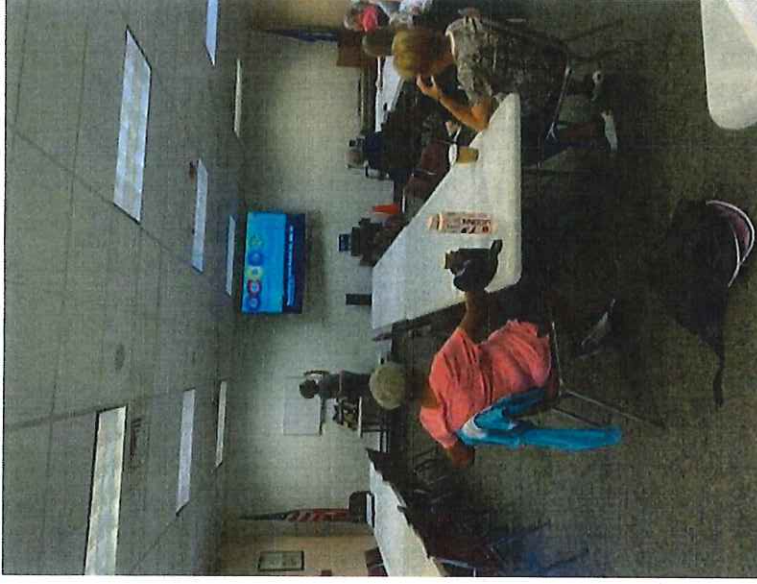


2. Environmental Health: West Nile Virus Surveillance



3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

4. Community Outreach



Wallingford Health Department

Get Involved, Stay Healthy: Upcoming Events!

Emergency Response Volunteer Opportunities

For more information, contact the Wallingford Health Department at 860.273.2200 or visit www.wallingfordhealth.com

Join Wallingford's Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps is a national network of volunteer organizations that provide support to local emergency response and recovery organizations.

WHAT IS CERT?

CERT is a program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that provides training to community members to help them respond to disasters.

LEARN CPR

THURSDAY JULY 24TH 5:30 PM

Wallingford Health Department

Wallingford Health and Wellness Fair

JULY 13 | 2023

10AM - 2PM

At Community Center

Mosquito Control - What You Can Do

This is an important step in preventing mosquito-borne diseases by eliminating the mosquito's breeding grounds.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF SHARPS NEEDLES AT HOME

1. Do not throw away sharps in the trash, down the drain, or in a body of water.

2. Label the container "Sharps" and "Do Not Recycle".

3. Seal the container with tape.

4. Place the container in a secure location until it can be picked up by a sharps disposal service.

Wallingford Health Department

Get Involved, Stay Healthy: Upcoming Events!

REDUCE EXPOSURE TO TICKS AND TICK BORNE DISEASES

Areas to check for ticks:

- Grass, brush, and wooded areas
- Leaves and shrubs
- Grass and brush
- Grass and brush

Check for ticks on your body and pets.

Have Our Home Give Blood

Wallingford Emergency Management

Help us prepare for emergencies by donating blood.

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Wallingford Community Center

CredibleMind

The One Stop Shop for Mental Wellbeing Resources

Take A Free Assessment

wallingfordhealth.crediblemind.com

Wallingford Health Department

Get Involved, Stay Healthy: Upcoming Events!

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

Your child needs vaccines as they grow!

Check the immunization schedule for your child.

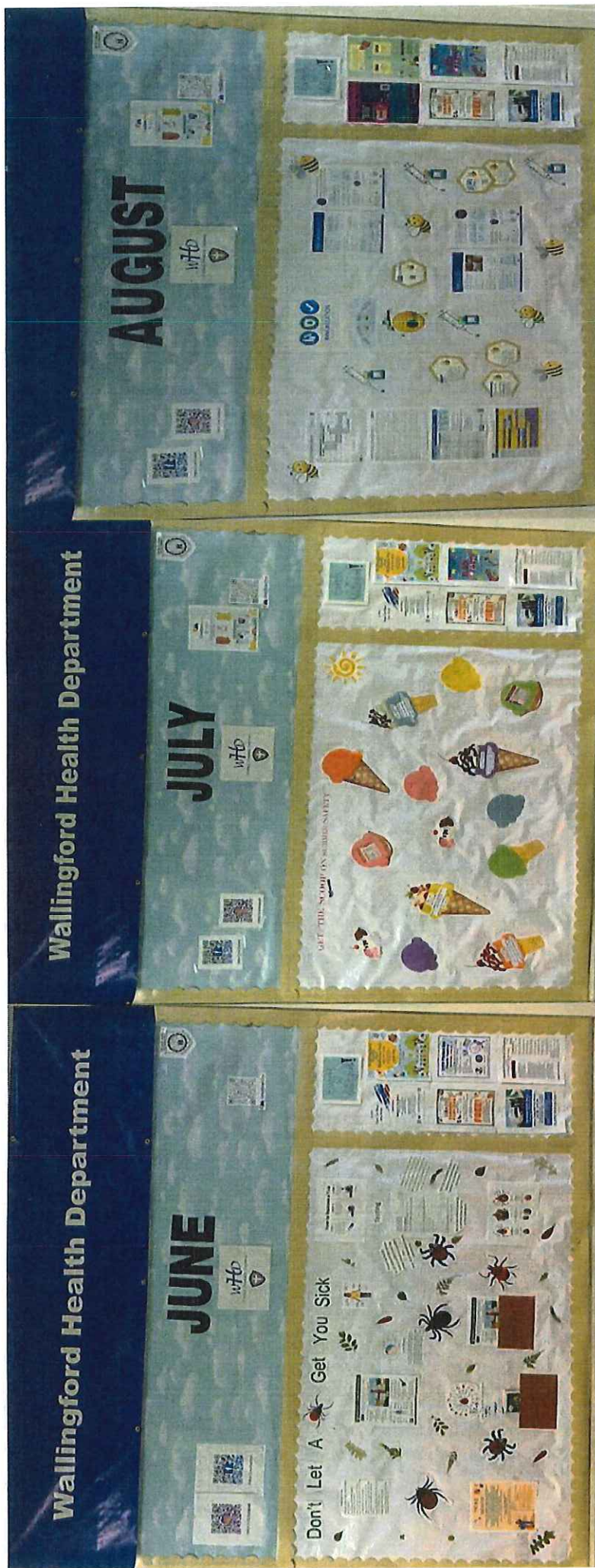
Older children and teens need vaccines too!

Check the immunization schedule for older children and teens.

LEARN CPR WITH THE WALLINGFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Learn CPR and first aid skills from our experts.

Community Outreach: Public Health Messaging through Hearst Media



Health Bulletin Boards

5. Community Partnerships

Cardiac Screening Program

CLEARED BY PPE



Waseeq
1994 - 2009
Hennepin County
Community Center
Cardiovascular
Screening

Dominic
1994 - 2009
Hennepin County
Community Center
Cardiovascular
Screening

Jenny
1994 - 2009
Hennepin County
Community Center
Cardiovascular
Screening

Cody
1994 - 2009
Hennepin County
Community Center
Cardiovascular
Screening

**Standard Sports Physicals Don't Protect
Young Hearts**



Parent Heart Watch
Prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in Your Child

In A Heartbeat provides FREE ECGs to children, teens, and young adults. We host various heart screenings throughout the year.

Wallingford
Plan of Conservation and Development
2016-2026



Adopted Plan
Effective June 13, 2016

6. Public Health Policies



WALLINGFORD
CONNECTICUT



Code



New Laws

Food Code

U.S. Public Health Service



TRAINING

State of Connecticut WebEOC System

WARNING!
Authorized Use Only

7. Workforce Development



"We are a tight knit and diverse family-oriented community who take pride in where we live. This program means that many who are quietly struggling will be able to access safe, stigma-free mental health support without asking out loud," Bautista said.
Town of Wallingford



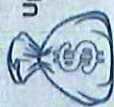
Active Transportation Microgrant

2025 Round 3 Applications Open Now
Due to SCR COG by September 17th, 2025

Who Can Apply?

- Municipalities
- Schools
- School Districts
- Health Districts
- Nonprofits

Up to \$5,000 per grant no matching funds required



All Eligible Items that are "Non-Infrastructure"

- Bicycle Helmets
- Bicycle Locks
- Bicycle Lights
- Rental of Bicycle Fleets
- Pedestrian Safety Vests
- Scooters
- Bicycle Maintenance
- Bicycle Safety Events
- Pedestrian Safety Events
- Bicycle or Scooter racks
- Bike repair kits
- Reflective Stickers



Questions?

Contact Kate Kingston
Transportation Planner with SCR COG
kristonk@scr-cog.org
(203) 468-8825

8. Administrative

Adjournment

