

WALLINGFORD BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 - TOWN HALL, ROOM: 205



AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2026
3. School Health
4. Director’s Report - Vanessa Bautista
   a. Infectious Diseases (Anne Bernick)
5. Next Meeting –December 2, 2026
6. Adjournment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 4, 2026

Wallingford Board of Health
45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 315
Minutes of March 4, 2026

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 8:43 a.m. by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

Present:
Mayor Cervoni, Dr. Smith, Medical Advisor, Kathy Neelon, Isaac Cardona, Tracey Weeks, Katie Nemeth, Jeffrey Necio

Present Virtually: Len Guercia

Excused: Adriana Rodriguez

Guest: Anne Bernick, Public Health Nurse

Approval of Minutes: DRAFT Minutes, December 3, 2025, were approved as distributed.

Agenda Items

School Health
The Assistant Superintendent for Special Education was unable to attend the meeting.

Director's Report
(Overview of the 2025 Wallingford Health Department Annual Report. See attached Annual Report and Director's Report for additional details.)

Infectious Diseases: Public Health Nurse Anne Bernick provided an overview of current communicable disease trends and surveillance activities. Respiratory illness activity was reviewed, including COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV.
Reported cases included:

- **COVID-19:** December - 90, January -70, February - 56
- **Influenza:** November - 23, December - 283, January - 82, February - 49
- **RSV:** December - 14, January - 24, February - 29

These numbers reflect the typical seasonal respiratory illness trends seen during the winter months. Continued monitoring of communicable diseases is ongoing, including surveillance of tuberculosis cases.

Environmental Health: An overview of Environmental Health activities included inspections of food establishments, cosmetology establishments, daycare facilities, pools, septic systems, wells, soil testing, and nuisance complaints. In 2025, the department conducted 421 inspections and investigated 98 nuisance complaints. Environmental Health continues to represent one of the department's largest operational areas

Emergency Preparedness: Preparedness activities included continued participation in Region 2 PHEP and ESF-8 coordination and collaboration with the Healthcare Coalition. Additional support was provided during a condominium structure fire, where coordination occurred with the American Red Cross to assist displaced residents. Planning is ongoing for the July 2026 Full-Scale Exercise.

DRAFT 3/4/2026

Community Outreach: Community outreach activities conducted throughout 2025 included vaccination clinics at Town Hall, the Wallingford Public Library, and the Senior Center. Additional outreach included community health education programs, CPR and first aid trainings, overdose prevention education, falls prevention programming, and participation in community events and health fairs. The department also launched CredibleMind, an online mental health and wellness platform available to residents.

Community Partnerships: Partnership efforts included collaboration with Program Planning on active transportation initiatives and the installation of AEDs on every floor of Town Hall through a donation from the In A Heartbeat Foundation. An update was also provided on the National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court Project. The final bid package for the concrete pad will be submitted to Purchasing and has been reviewed by both the Engineering and Law Departments. A presentation will be made to the Planning and Zoning Commission to satisfy the State 8-24 review requirement for the proposed location along the Community Lake Trail. If the project continues to progress as planned, the Fitness Court is anticipated to launch July 18, 2026. An Eagle Scout project is also planned to install Stop the Bleed kits in Town buildings and assemble individual first aid kits to support emergency preparedness and public safety.

Public Health Policies: An update was provided on the draft Massage Therapy Establishment Ordinance, which has been developed by the Law Department. The ordinance requires designation of a Public Hearing Officer in the event of an appeal involving suspension, denial, or revocation of a massage therapy establishment license. Board members were informed that this would be a volunteer role.

Workforce Development: Staff continued participating in professional development opportunities including emergency preparedness training, environmental health certifications, lead prevention education, and Mental Health First Aid training. Internship opportunities continue to support workforce development efforts.

Administrative: The department continues managing the Public Health Workforce Development Grant and is actively monitoring additional grant opportunities to support workforce development and departmental initiatives. Training for the digital inspection platform will begin this week. Sanitarians have been issued tablets and data plans that will allow inspections to be completed electronically in the field.

Adjournment:
A motion to adjourn was made by Isacc Cardona and seconded by Mayor Cervoni. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Next Meeting:
June 3, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH
Director of Health

SCHOOL HEALTH

Wallingford Public Schools



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Town of Wallingford, Connecticut
Health Department

Vanessa Bautista, M.P.H., R.S.
Director of Health
(203) 294-2065
45 South Main Street Room 215
Wallingford, CT 06492

WHD
Protect. Promote. Improve.

Wallingford Board of Health
Director's Report for September 2, 2026

1. Infectious Diseases (Anne Bernick)
-Respiratory Diseases
- Tuberculosis (TB)

2. Environmental:
- Review Environmental Health activity data for January–July 2026 (see summary table in PowerPoint presentation)
- Environmental Health staff completed program-specific training and updates in septic, food safety/outbreak response, lead, pools, rabies, and reduced oxygen packaging

3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):
- Region 2 PHEP meetings: 6; Region 2 MRC meetings: 6; Region 2 ESF-8 meetings: 2
- Tabletop Exercise planning meetings: 11; Functional Exercise planning meetings: 8
- Hosted Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise – April 1, 2026
- Hosted Region 2 Functional POD Exercise at Sheehan High School – June 30, 2026
- Participated in regional preparedness exercises, conferences, and emergency management trainings

4. Community Outreach:
- Community outreach/tabling included Early Childhood Education Fair, SCOW International Celebration, Masonicare Family Day, and Garden Market
- Hosted Bingocize nutrition and exercise/falls prevention program at the Senior Center – April through June
- Community health education included suicide prevention, tick safety, CredibleMind, contraception, and veteran mental health
- Our Community Wellness Fair held in July
- CPR, First Aid, and Narcan trainings provided to community members, students, Town staff, CERT, YSS, SCOW, Boys & Girls Club, and Senior Center staff
- Upcoming outreach includes Garden Market, Celebrate Wallingford, public CPR classes, employee flu clinic, and YMCA Health Fair

5. Community Partnerships:
- National Fitness Campaign partnership – Fitness Court completed and ribbon cutting held July 18, 2026
- Continued participation in local and regional coalitions and collaborative groups
- Eagle Scout partnership provided 100 first aid kits for Workcamp
- Received HeartSafe Community redesignation – July 2026
- WHATT collaboration: 7 meetings; two bike racks installed at Community Lake Park

6. Public Health Policies:
- Local spa/massage establishment ordinance remains under review with the Law Department

7. Maintain a competent public health workforce:
- Staff completed multiple certifications, refresher courses, webinars, and conferences January–July 2026 (see PowerPoint training table)
- Training topics included septic systems, food safety/outbreak response, lead, rabies, CPR/BLS, de-escalation, trauma services, suicide prevention, emergency preparedness, and falls prevention
- ServSafe Instructor Certification completed
- MPH internship placement supported workforce development and departmental projects
- Upcoming professional development includes CT DPH FITO training, Steps to Safety Train-the-Trainer, Yankee Conference, and Annual Immunization & Respiratory Viral Disease Update Conference

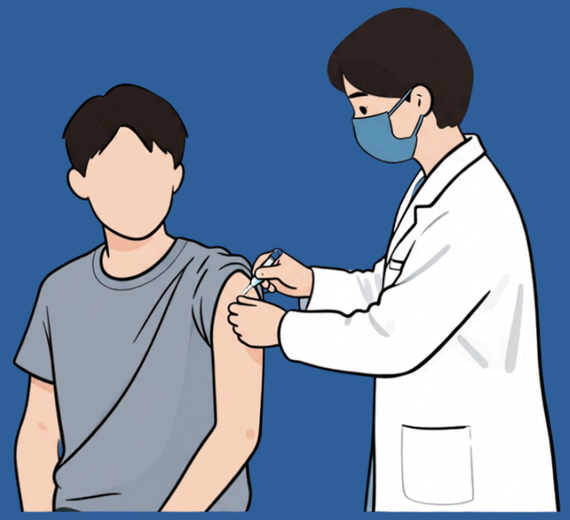
8. Administrative:
- Continued management of department grants and special initiatives
- Continued departmental administrative and grant reporting requirements

Next Meeting: December 2, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Bautista
Vanessa Bautista, MPH, REHS/RS
Director of Health



1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES



Protect



Promote



Improve

2. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Inspections	1/1/2026 – 7/31/2026
Food (302 Establishments)	228
Cosmetology (106 Establishments)	4
Day Care (30 Establishments)	15
Pool (19 Public Pools)	20
On-Site Lead Inspections	2
Soil Testing	9
Septic	17
Well	0
B-100A Change of Use	9
Total Inspections	304

Complaints	1/1/2026 – 7/31/2026
Total Public Health Nuisance Complaints Received	53
Total Complaints Resolved	51



3. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP)

Meeting / Planning Activity	#
Region 2 MRC	6
Region 2 PHEP	6
Tabletop Exercise Planning	11
Functional Exercise Planning	8
Region 2 ESF-8	2
PHEP Capability 13	2
CT Health Care Coalition	2









4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Month	Training / Audience
Jan	CERT; YSS babysitters; public CPR
Feb	Public CPR
Mar	Public CPR; Lyman Hall medical class First Aid
Apr	Public CPR; CERT CPR/Narcan; Water Dept.; Boys & Girls Club
May	Public CPR; Boys & Girls Club
Jun	Sheehan CNA students First Aid
Jul	Senior Center staff; SCOW First Aid/CPR; YSS babysitters
Aug	CPR for Senior Center; CPR for the Public



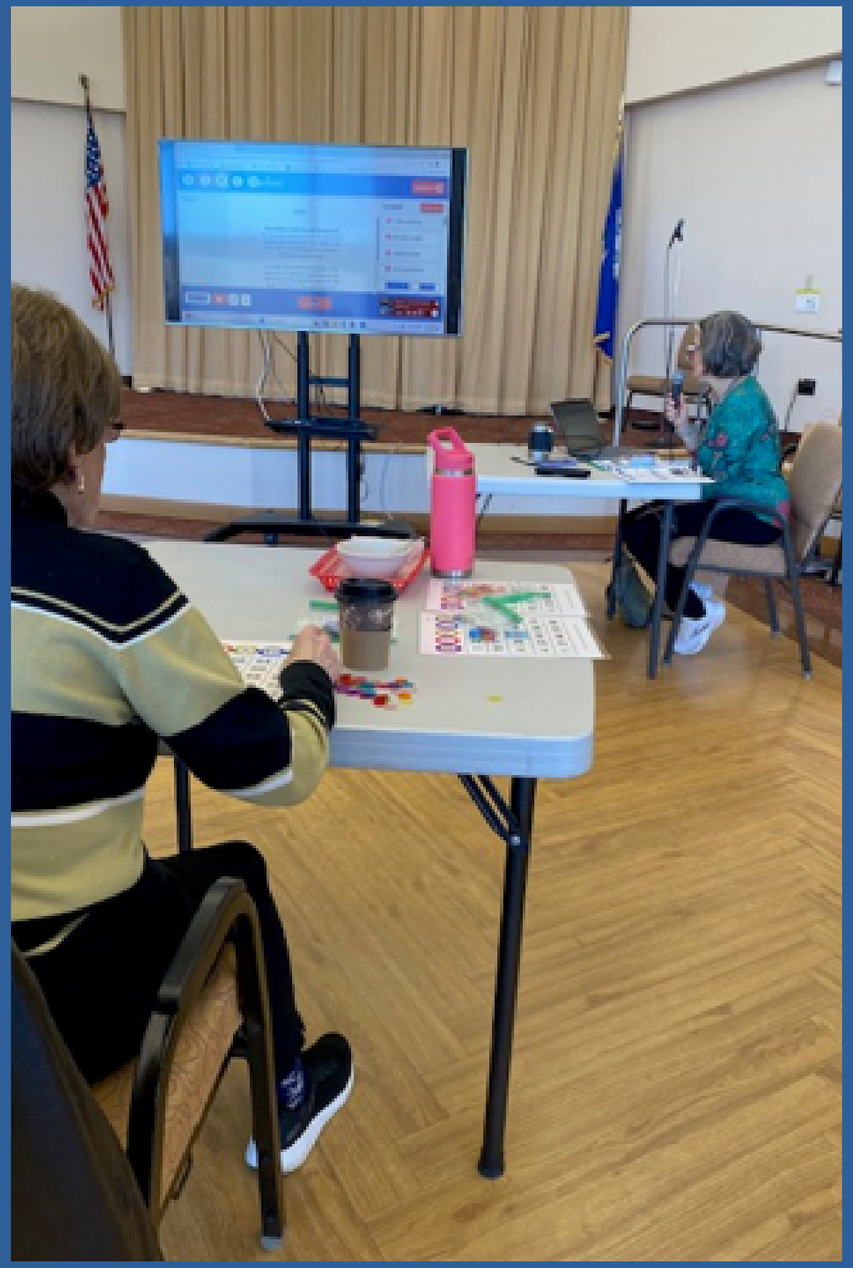












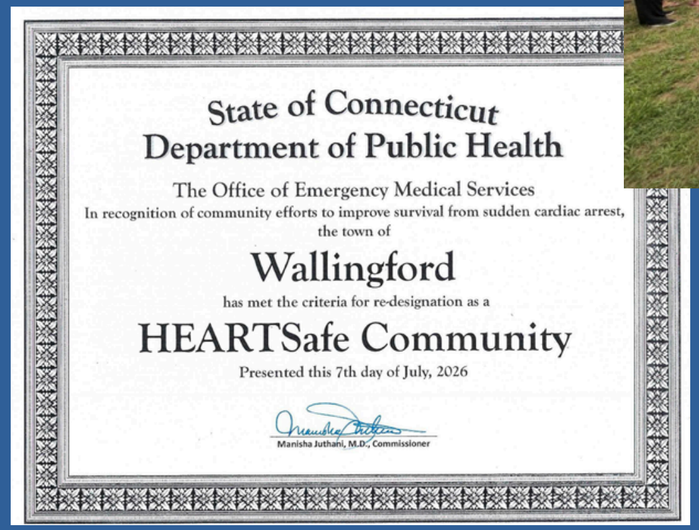
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Activity
Jan 15	CALM Training
Jan 22 / Feb 26 / Mar 26	CPR at MRC
Mar 31	Suicide Prevention presentation at Library
Mar 31	First Aid at Lyman Hall
Apr 20–Jun 22	Bingocize at Senior Center
May 28–29	Guest speaker – Sheehan health classes
Jun 4	CT VA presentation: Mental Healthcare for Veterans
Jul 16	Matter of Balance Master Trainer Update
Jul 22	CPR for Senior Center fitness instructors/drivers

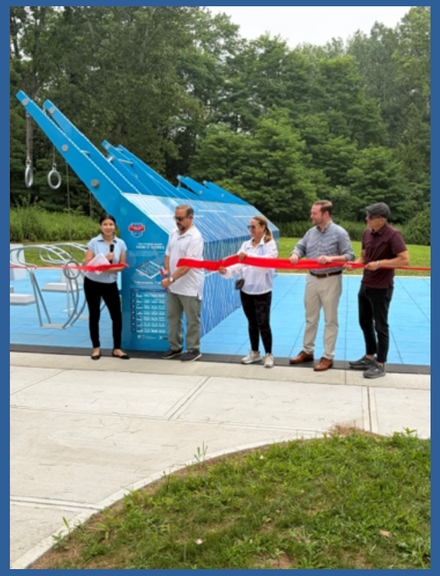
5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

January–July Meeting Activity ***(Number of Meetings Attended)***

Collaborative Group	# of Meetings
CredibleMind	4
Regional Suicide Advisory Board	3
Wallingford Resource Alliance	3
Community Led Suicide Prevention	3
Meriden–Wallingford Collaboration	2
Falls Free CT	3
Adult Education Advisory Council	1
MTEAM	1
Steps to Safety	1


State of Connecticut
Department of Public Health
The Office of Emergency Medical Services
In recognition of community efforts to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest, the town of
Wallingford
has met the criteria for re-designation as a
HEARTSafe Community
Presented this 7th day of July, 2026
Manisha Juthani, M.D., Commissioner





Strengthening coordination, referrals, prevention efforts, and community partnerships.



6. PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES

- Local spa/massage establishment ordinance remains under review with the Law Department

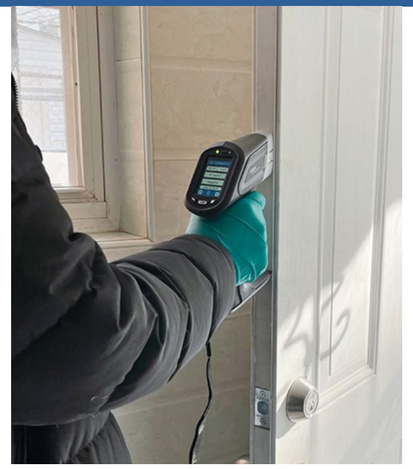
- Policy work continues through coordination with Town departments and legal review

7. MAINTAIN A COMPETENT PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

Month	Training / Conference
Jan	CALM; CPR instructor training
Feb	NEHA Bed Bug; BLS/CPR recertification
Mar	Region 1 POD TTX; NACCHO Preparedness Summit
Apr	Elder Abuse & Hoarding; Preparedness Summit; Emergency Mgmt Symposium; Annual Conference
May	Suicide Prevention Conference; MRC Leadership Workshop
Jun	Trauma Services; Region 5 Full-Scale POD Exercise

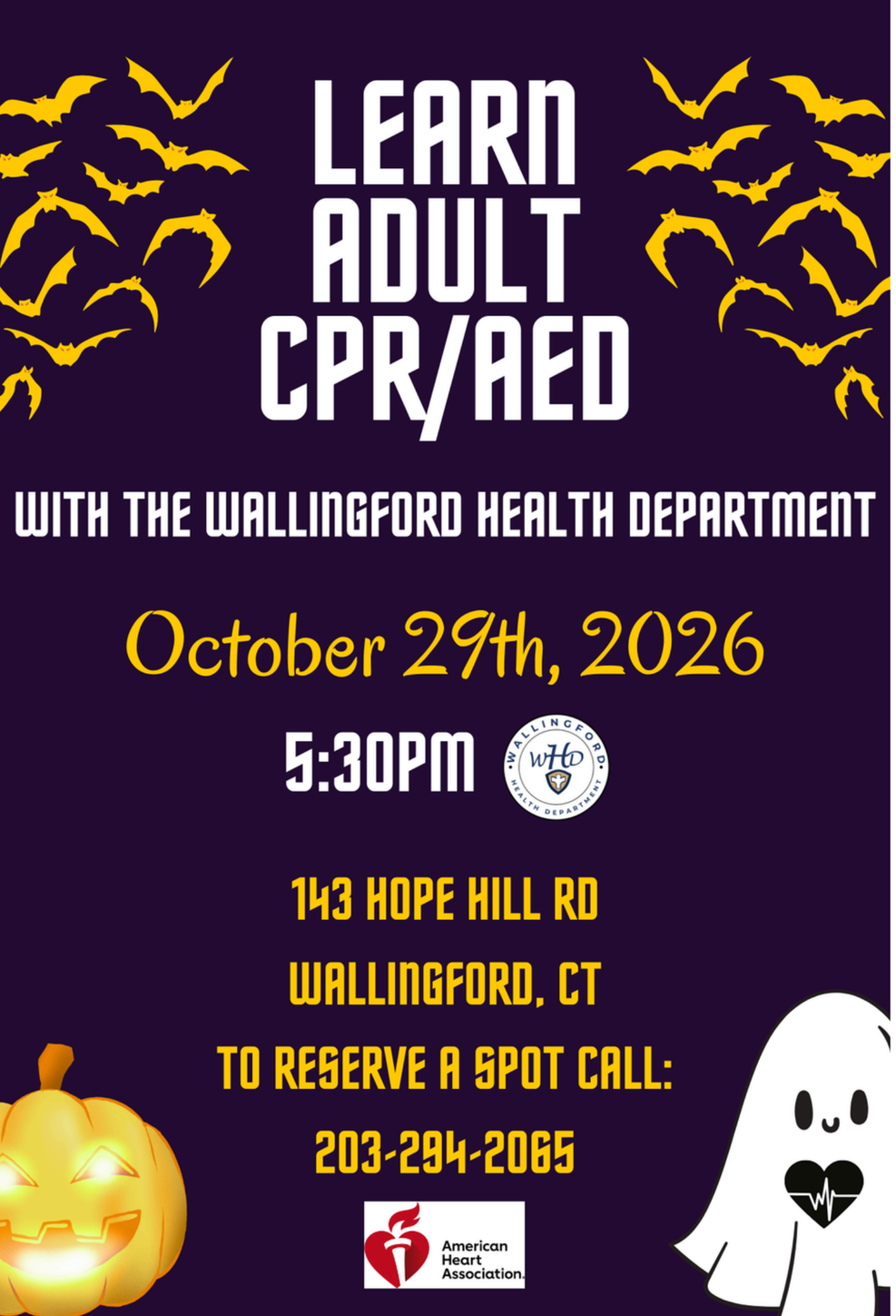


Month	Environmental Health Training / Update
January	CT DPH Septic Refresher
February	NEHA Bed Bug Training
March	ServeSafe Instructor Certification; NEHA PH Impact of Flies and Roaches; FDA Outbreak Response Training
April	2026 Lead Refresher; CDC COCA Rabies Webinar
May	Prepare for Pool Season – CEHA
July	Reduced Oxygen Packaging Webinar; 2026 Lead Code Enforcement Seminar; Annual CEHA Summer Meeting; CEHA Food Safety Webinar









UPCOMING TRAINING & OUTREACH

Month	Upcoming Activity
September	CT DPH FITO Training (tentative); Train the Trainer – Steps to Safety Course; Yankee Conference; Annual Immunization & Respiratory Viral Disease Update Conference; Tabling at Garden Market
October	Celebrate Wallingford; Employee Flu Clinic (Oct. 15); CPR for the Public (Oct. 29); Tabling at Celebrate Wallingford
November	YMCA Health Fair; Additional public CPR training

8. ADMINISTRATIVE

- Continued management and coordination of department grants and special initiatives

Questions / Discussion

THANK YOU