

Lawrence Township Health Department 2019 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lawrence Township Health Department provides professional, competent and efficient environmental and public health services to the residents of this community. Under the mandates of the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health and the ordinances and policies of the Board of Health, the Health Department promotes and protects the public's health by the use of disease prevention activities, health promotion and education, inspections and enforcement activities.

The Health Department responds quickly and effectively to the ever-changing priorities of the public health field in order to meet the needs of the community.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The health department's primary responsibility is to protect the health of the residents and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health, N.J.A.C. 8:52, designates activities to be conducted by Local Boards of Health. The three core public health functions include the following shared services:

- Assess and monitor the health of the community and at-risk populations to identify health problems and priorities.
- Formulate public policies with community and government leaders to address local and national public health problems and priorities.
- Provide populations with access to appropriate and cost-effective care including health promotion, disease prevention and follow-up evaluation.

The required activities are conducted by the health department staff which consists of five full-time staff, one part-time nurse, one per diem nurse, and a part-time animal control officer. Private contractors are hired for pediatric services, veterinarian services, animal services and deer recovery services.

FULL-TIME STAFF

Carol Chamberlain, B.S., M.Ed.Director
Licensed Health Officer A-100515
Licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist B-100515
Certified Health Education Specialist CHES No. 29454

Kathryn Korwin, B.S.N.Public Health Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Lead Inspector / Risk Assessor – Permit Number 024726

Aimee Landau, B.S.Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Licensed R.E.H.S., Reg #B-2176
Lead Inspector / Risk Assessor – Permit Number 022657
Certified Pool / Spa Operator – Reg. No. 19-293722
Commercial Pesticide Applicator License #28855B
Retail Food Specialist certified by NJDOH Food Inspection Standardization Program

Carmela Warne, B.A., M.P.H.Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Licensed R.E.H.S. – Reg. No. B-2349
Certified Pool / Spa Operator – Reg. No. 08-268801

Christine BuckAnimal Control Officer
Certified Animal Control Officer No. 516
Certified Animal Cruelty Investigator No. 010

Linda CiosekRegistrar of Vital Statistics
Certified Municipal Registrar CMR #1216

Rabiah Asif B.S., M.P.H. Health Educator/ Clerk

PER DIEM STAFF

Carol NicholasPublic Health Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse

Carolyn MurphyAssistant Animal Control Officer
Certified Animal Control Officer No. 3049

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Social Media

Social media health promotion messages increased on the Lawrence Township Facebook and Twitter sites in 2019. There were over 140 health-related posts on Facebook and Twitter. Topics range from upcoming health department events to health promotion messages as well as up to date guidelines for current public health issues. Through social media posts the health department has been able to increase its reach in the community.

New Jersey Department of Health Audit

In March 2019, an audit of the health department was conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Local Health. The purpose of the site visit was to assess the administrative infrastructure of the health department to determine its capacity to satisfy Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey.

In August, the health department received the results of the site visit. A corrective action plan was requested for two standards, Continuous Quality Improvement and for written job descriptions. The corrective action plans were submitted for these two areas as requested September 26, 2019.

Emergency Management Plan Update

Throughout the early months of 2019 the health department staff updated and revised the annexes of the Emergency Management Plan. Currently, the health department staff is responsible for the Public Health Annex, the Shelter, Reception and Care Annex and the Social Services Annex. Within the Public Health Annex is the Pandemic Influenza Supplement as well as an emergency animal shelter plan. Both procedural revisions were made and contacts and resources were updated.

Influenza Honor Roll

In May 2019, the Health Department was honored with the New Jersey Department of Health Influenza Honor Roll Award. Lawrence was one of the nine community-based health departments in New Jersey to receive the award for activities completed in 2018-2019. The award is issued to organizations which are promoting influenza awareness and prevention within their communities. The public health nurses worked throughout the flu season to educate residents, promote flu shots and share information on disease prevention to individuals as well as a variety of groups in Lawrence Township.

SHARED SERVICES

Below is a list of shared services in which the health department currently participates.

Health Service

Partner

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Child Health Services – Provider | Hopewell Township Shared Service Agreement |
| • Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic-Receiver | Hamilton Township Shared Service Agreement |
| • Nurse Case Manager for Childhood Lead-Poisoning-Receiver | City of Trenton Memorandum of Understanding |
| • Emergency Public Health Shared Services | Mercer County Shared Agreement |
| • Drug and Alcohol Prevention Services | Mercer County Shared Service Agreement |
| • Deer Carcass Removal | Mercer County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement |
| • Disposal of Animals | Hopewell Township Shared Service |
| • Tuberculosis Services – Receiver | Trenton Health Team-Grant from Mercer County |

PARTNERSHIPS

The role of the local board of health includes assuring access to prevention services. The health department works in conjunction with healthcare providers and community agencies to assure residents have access to health education and health promotion programs as well as to health screenings. The health department works cooperatively with the following agencies:

- St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center
- Capital Health System – Hopewell Campus
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton
- Penn Med Princeton Health
- Mercer Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Mercer County Prevention Coalition
- Lawrence Township Board of Education
- The College of New Jersey School of Nursing
- Homefront
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (N.J.D.E.P.)
- Hunterdon/Mercer County Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- Mercer County Nutrition Program
- Rider University
- Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership
- Lawrence Senior Center
- Lawrence Township Recreation Department
- Rutgers University School of Public Health
- Meals on Wheels

SERVICES PROVIDED

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Regulate and Inspect Retail Food Establishments (inspections and plan reviews)
- Regulate and Inspect Public Bathing Places
- Regulate and Inspect Tanning Facilities
- Regulate and Inspect Body Art Facilities
- Regulate and Inspect Massage Therapy Establishments
- Regulate and Inspect Youth Camps
- Vermin Control Investigations
- Weeds and Obnoxious Growth Investigations
- Non-Residential Property Maintenance Complaint Investigations
- Public Health Nuisance Complaint Investigations
- Litter and Debris Investigations
- Tobacco Age of Sale Enforcement and Inspections
- Foodborne Illness Investigations
- Child Care Center Inspections
- Enforcement of State and Local Regulations

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Public Health Emergency Response
- Public Health Emergency Planning and Exercise

HEALTH EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND ADVOCACY

- Community Health Assessment
- Community Health Partnership Development
- Community Health Planning
- Smoking Prevention Education
- Nutrition and Exercise Education
- Counseling and Referral Services
- Emergency Preparedness Promotion and Education
- Community Health Fairs
- Management of Lawrence Alcohol and Drug Alliance Grant
- Senior Center Health Education Programs and Health Screenings
- Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

ADULT HEALTH PROMOTION

- Cancer Screening and Counseling
- Diabetes Screening and Counseling
- Cardiovascular Screening and Counseling (blood pressure screening)
- Vision and Hearing Screening

AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION CONTROL

- Air Pollution and Odor Complaint Investigations
- Noise Complaint Investigations
- Enforce Smoking Regulations
- Radon Testing and Education

SERVICES PROVIDED

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

- Infectious Disease Reporting and Investigation
- Investigate Disease Outbreaks
- Immunization Services for Uninsured Infants and Children
- School and Day Care Immunization Audits
- Tuberculosis Screening and Treatment Monitoring
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing, Counseling and Treatment
- Influenza Vaccinations

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROMOTION

- Nutrition Counseling Services
- Child Health Conferences
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Risk Assessments
- Blood Lead Screening for Children
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Investigations and Abatement Enforcement
- Vision and Hearing Screenings
- NJ Family Care Information and Referral

RABIES AND ANIMAL CONTROL

- Animal Bite Investigations and Quarantine Enforcement
- Control of Stray Animals
- Assistance with Wildlife Conflicts
- Rabies Vaccination Clinics
- Coordination of Deer Recovery
- Pet Shop and Kennel Inspections

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

- Well Installation and Well Sealing Inspections
- Septic System Regulation and Inspections
- Private Well Testing Act Notification
- Soil Testing and Site Evaluation for Septic Systems

VITAL STATISTICS

- Marriage Licenses, Domestic Partnership and Civil Union Licenses
- Certified Copies of Marriage, Birth and Death Certificates

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Issuance of Permits and Licenses
- Review of Zoning Board and Planning Board Applications
- Coordination of Partnerships and Shared Services
- Coordination of Financial Activities Including Revenue Collection

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar of Vital Statistics maintains all records of the marriages, domestic partnerships, civil unions, births and deaths, which occur in Lawrence Township. The services provided include handling burial permits, issuing marriage licenses and certified copies of vital records.

- **In 2019, 155 marriage licenses were issued and a total of 277 certified copies of vital records were issued. There were no civil union licenses issued and no domestic partnership registrations issued in 2019.**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER HEALTH SERVICES

The environmental and consumer health inspections are conducted by the Registered Environmental Health Specialists (inspectors). Inspections, education and enforcement activities are conducted to ensure businesses are in compliance with public health regulations. Residential and commercial properties are inspected to assure they are maintained in compliance with local ordinances.

RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Routine inspections of all retail food establishments located within the township are conducted annually. Based on the risk level of the establishment, which is determined by the extent of food preparation performed, inspections may be conducted more frequently than once per year. Inspections are conducted to ensure establishments are clean, safe and are operated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:24 "Sanitation in Retail Food Establishments". The inspectors also respond to complaints and monitor recalled food products to ensure the food sold and served is safe for consumption by the public.

- **In 2019, there were 349 establishments licensed in Lawrence Township.**
- **There were 412 routine inspections conducted and 63 re-inspections were conducted.**
- **Plan reviews were conducted for 10 new or renovated food establishments.**
- **There were 21 pre-operational inspections of food establishments conducted in 2019.**
- **In addition, there were a total of 66 non-routine emergency and/or complaint-related investigations completed.**

PUBLIC BATHING PLACES

The inspectors monitor and inspect public bathing places throughout the municipality. This includes pools at schools, health clubs and housing complexes. Water quality is monitored and pools are checked for the required safety equipment and personnel as required by N.J.A.C. 8:26 "Public Recreational Bathing".

- **In 2019 there were 29 licensed public bathing places.**
- **There were a total of 42 routine inspections conducted.**
- **There were a total of 29 pre-operational inspections completed.**
- **A total of 9 re-inspections of bathing places were conducted.**
- **Two facilities required temporary closure due to water quality test results in 2019.**

YOUTH CAMPS

The New Jersey Department of Health (N.J.D.O.H.) requires youth camps to be inspected by the local health department prior to opening each year and there may be follow-up inspections conducted at the request of the State Health Department. Inspections are conducted to ensure that camps are in compliance with sanitation and safety standards as required by N.J.A.C. 8:25.

- **In 2019 there were 18 youth camps licensed by the state, which were located in Lawrence Township.**
- **There were a total of 8 pre-opening inspections performed. The majority of the remaining camps were single-sport camps which are not required to have pre-opening inspections.**

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

The health department receives requests for investigations of public health nuisances concerning weeds, insects, rodents, garbage, trash, yard waste, odors and general unsanitary conditions. Inspections, owner notification, follow-up and enforcement are conducted for abatement of the violations. Local ordinances are enforced to assure the abatement of the various public health nuisances.

- **In 2019 there were 293 inspections performed and 595 re-inspections conducted.**
- **There were 29 enforcement actions taken by the inspection staff for non-compliance.**

INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLIES (WELLS)

The health department monitors the installation of wells and the sealing of abandoned wells as per N.J.D.E.P. requirements. In addition, the results of water testing conducted in accordance with the N.J.D.E.P. Private Well Testing Act are reviewed by the health department staff. Property owners are notified by the health department when testing standards are exceeded.

- **There were twelve well abandonment inspections performed in 2019.**

INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL (SEPTIC SYSTEMS)

The design, construction and operation of individual sewage disposal systems are monitored to assure the proper treatment and disposal of sewage on individual properties.

- **Plan reviews were completed for 10 septic systems. The work on these systems consists mostly of the replacement of disposal fields or significant repair to existing septic systems which have been identified as malfunctioning. Most of the malfunctioning systems have been identified during real estate transfers.**
- **Permits were issued for minor repairs to septic systems at 8 properties.**
- **There were 82 installation inspections conducted.**
- **A total of 22 soil tests and 44 soil logs were witnessed by the health department staff.**

TANNING FACILITIES

N.J.A.C. 8:28, Tanning Facilities regulations were adopted in 2009. Currently the N.J.D.O.H. does not mandate these facilities be inspected. The state collects a registration fee for tanning facilities.

- **There are currently no tanning salons registered in Lawrence Township.**

BODY ART ESTABLISHMENTS

The N.J.D.O.H. currently does not require body art establishments to be inspected according to the Public Health Practice Standards. The township does have an ordinance that requires body art establishments to be licensed.

- **Currently there is one body art establishment located in Lawrence Township. There was one inspection conducted in 2019.**

MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

In 2019, six massage establishments were licensed in Lawrence Township. The inspection of an establishment includes a review of the credentials of each therapist to ensure they are properly licensed. In addition, the establishments are inspected in order to assure they are in compliance with the local ordinance. Massage establishments are to be inspected at least once during the three-year licensing period. No establishments were inspected in 2019.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

The public health nurse is responsible for the following programs within the health department; Maternal/Child Health, Communicable Disease, Chronic Disease/Adult Health, Health Promotion, and Public Health Emergency Planning. Services are provided to residents of all ages including infants, pre-school and school age children, adults and older adults. These services are provided by one part-time public health nurse with the assistance of a per diem nurse. The health department works in conjunction with area physicians, school nurses, hospitals, long - term care facilities and state and county health department staff to assure these activities are completed in a timely and accurate manner.

CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCE(S)

The health department provides childhood immunizations and well-baby visits to children ages two months to eighteen years who reside in Lawrence who are uninsured or underinsured. The vaccine is provided to the health department by the Federal Vaccines for Children Program. The clinic is staffed by the two public health nurses and a pediatrician. Many of these families have needs beyond clinical needs for which the nurses provide information, resources and referrals to the families. The clinic also serves children from Hopewell Township through a shared service agreement.

- **There were 14 child health conferences conducted in 2019.**
- **A total of 97 children were seen at the clinics with 261 immunizations being administered.**

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

Chapter 13 of the State Sanitary Code states all children under the age of six years should have a blood test to determine their blood lead level. The parents of the children who attend the child health conference are educated on the importance of blood lead testing and children are offered the testing at the clinic. Currently, Lawrence Township has a shared service agreement with the City of Trenton for the Nurse Case Management portion of the elevated lead investigations. Through a grant the City of Trenton received, laboratory analysis of consumer products is funded. Items such as toys and household items can be tested by the City of Trenton at no cost.

- **There were 4 home visits/assessments completed for children with elevated lead levels. A total of 4 inspections of homes were conducted.**

IMMUNIZATIONS

The public health nurse conducts immunization audits at pre-schools and private and public schools in Lawrence Township. In 2019, there were 24 pre-schools and 14 schools in Lawrence Township. The audits consist of reviewing immunization records to assure children are age-appropriately vaccinated.

- **There were 24 pre-schools, 11 elementary schools and 4 high schools audited in 2019.**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

REPORTABLE DISEASES

N.J.A.C. 8:57-1 “Reportable Diseases” requires the reporting and investigation of specific diseases where the individual resides. Investigation and follow-up is completed for all reportable diseases and for outbreaks of respiratory illness or gastro-intestinal illness in any institution or long-term care facility. Institutional outbreaks require immediate attention as well as coordination and communication with the staff of the facility.

All reportable diseases are reported through the N.J.D.O.H. Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). Upon receipt of reportable diseases, the public health nurse investigates the case, inputs the details of the case into the CDRSS including laboratory test results, the case management details from the physician and the diagnosis analysis.

- **In 2019 there were 101 communicable diseases reported and investigated.**
- **Of those, 95 cases were confirmed positive while others were deemed not to be a case, based on the case definition as determined by the New Jersey Department of Health. Follow up is conducted on a case by case basis.**

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

Testing for exposure to Tuberculosis is conducted on specific high-risk individuals within the community. The individuals include teachers, pre-school staff, contacts of individuals who have tested positive for tuberculosis and health care professionals.

- **There were 21 people screened for tuberculosis exposure in 2019.**
- **The City of Trenton and the Trenton Health Team are working cooperatively to provide case management for Mercer County residents who test positive for tuberculosis.**

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

This service is provided to residents through a shared service agreement with the Hamilton Township Health Department. The agreement includes the patient assessment, diagnosis, treatment and contact follow-up.

- **There were 13 Lawrence residents who received services for sexually transmitted diseases in 2019.**

ADULT HEALTH SERVICES

The health department provides screenings and education for chronic diseases including blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. In addition, the health department works with local providers to provide cancer screenings and for referrals for health screenings.

DIABETES AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

The public health nurse offers blood sugar and blood pressure screenings monthly at the Lawrence Township Municipal Building. In addition, local providers will periodically offer screenings at the Lawrence Senior Center during the monthly health programs.

- **In 2019, the public health nurse provided 34 diabetes risk assessments and 90 blood pressure screenings to Lawrence residents.**
- **Screenings were also offered by local providers throughout the year. A total of 228 screenings were conducted by local providers.**

INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

In past years, mass immunization clinics have been offered annually by the health department. This year, the Township completed an agreement with Rite-Aid pharmacy.

- **In 2019, three seasonal influenza immunization clinics were conducted with a total of 215 immunizations administered to adults and older adults.**

HEALTH PROMOTION

Throughout the year, health promotion activities are conducted by the health department staff. Some programs are health education programs for specific groups such as older adults at the senior center, while health education information is often shared during other community events, such as National Night Out and Community Day. The health department regularly works with local health providers, hospitals and area agencies to provide a variety of health promotion activities.

The health department participated in health promotion activities reaching 2,882 individuals at the various events throughout 2019.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Lawrence Township has one full-time Animal Control Officer and a part-time Assistant Animal Control Officer for emergencies. The Animal Control Officer is responsible for picking up stray and injured animals and for investigating and reporting animal bites which occur in the Township. The investigation of complaints and the enforcement of all state and local regulations pertaining to animals are performed by the Animal Control Officer. Kennels and pet shops are inspected annually by the Animal Control Officer to ensure compliance with state regulations. Rabies clinics are also coordinated by this office.

- **In 2019, 48 stray dogs and 93 stray cats were picked up by the animal control officer.**
- **There were 36 dog bite investigations completed.**
- **Fifteen pet shop and kennel inspections were conducted in 2019.**
- **There were a total of 1461 calls for service which were addressed by the animal control officers.**
- **In the Rabies Control Program, the township conducted 2 rabies vaccination clinics. A total of 194 dogs and 82 cats were vaccinated at the clinics.**
- **There were 10 specimens submitted to the NJ State Laboratory for rabies testing in 2019. One of the specimens tested positive for rabies.**
- **Deer removal is a coordinated effort with the N.J.D.O.T., Mercer County and a private contractor. The police department assists with reporting dead deer for removal after normal work hours. A total of 189 deer were removed from roadsides in 2019.**

LAWRENCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ALLIANCE

The Municipal Alliance Committee is comprised of citizens and professionals from Lawrence Township. This group works together to develop a comprehensive, coordinated plan to provide substance abuse awareness activities to the residents of Lawrence. This work is based on a community needs assessment completed every five years. The results of the needs assessment are then used to develop a strategic plan.

In 2019, a community needs assessment was conducted through key informant interviews and focus groups. The results were assessed to create a strategic plan for upcoming grant cycle which will start in July 2020. The alliance grant request will increase from \$21,708 annually to \$34,815.00.

Activities supported by the Alliance include Project Graduation at Lawrence High School, substance abuse and mental health programming on the BRONC Radio 107.7 at Rider University, Camp Fire NJ programs in the elementary schools and peer leadership activities at the Lawrence High School and Rider University. Health education programs are also conducted by the Alliance at the Lawrence Senior Center and at community events.

Funding for the Lawrence Alcohol and Drug Alliance is provided through a grant from the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In 2019, the funding amount was \$21,708.00.

2019 Lawrence Alcohol and Drug Alliance Committee

Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer

Det. Ryan Dunn Lawrence Township Police Department Chief Designee

Ann Degennaro, Superintendent of School Designee

Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation

Susan Stahley, Rider University, Community Representative

Kelly Nitti, Community Representative

Naeem Akhtar, Community Representative

Julie Stockman, Community Representative

Malissa Arnold, Community Representative

James Kownacki, Council Liaison

FUTURE INITIATIVES

Community Health Improvement Plan

In participation with the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership, an updated Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Mercer County was developed in 2019. The development of the CHIP started with review of the results of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) which was completed in 2018-2019. The priority health areas identified to address include the following:

- Underserved populations/Health Equity
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Food Security/Obesity
- Chronic Disease
- Safe Transportation/Safe Recreational Spaces
- Maternal and Child Health

The health department will be cognizant of the needs identified when planning activities and programs in the future with a goal of addressing the community needs.

Mayors Wellness Campaign

Since 2006, Lawrence Township has been designated as a town participating in the Mayors Wellness Campaign. In 2019, the health department staff, particularly the public health nurses and the health educator have worked to promote wellness throughout the community. A goal of the health department is to continue to promote healthy living and wellness in Lawrence Township. There will be an effort to enhance involvement in the Mayors Wellness Campaign by increasing participation in wellness activities at all age levels. One program the health department will continue to promote will be Conversation of Your Life. This program addresses the importance of end of life decision making and advance care planning.

HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Darlene Hanley, Chairperson

Maureen Adams

Rabiah Asif

Mary Baird

Anthony Brickman, MD

Leo Brummel

Camila Pena

Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison

Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer, Staff Liaison