

## **2011 HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF CLARK**

A copy of this report is on file in the Clark Health Department, 430 Westfield Ave., Room 18, Clark, NJ 07066; the Township Clerk's Office and is also posted on the Clark website at [www.ourclark.com](http://www.ourclark.com).

### **SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

In accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 8, Chapter 52 entitled "Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health." the Clark Township Health Department must present a health status report to the residents of Clark Township on an annual basis.

The purpose of the report is keep the residents informed of what functions the health department conducts, any problems, special accolades and accomplishments.

This report is based on 2011 data

### **WHO I AM**

To begin with, my name is Nancy Raymond and I am the Health Officer for the Township of Clark. I was hired on October 14, 1997. Prior to coming to Clark, I was the Senior Inspector with the Township of Irvington from 1985-1997

I possess a BA degree in Psychology from Kean University and a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Medicine and Dentistry-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

In addition, I hold the following licenses and certifications:

- Licensed Health Officer
- Registered Environmental Health Specialist
- Certified Animal Control Officer
- Certified Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor
- Certified Pesticide Applicator
- Certified Pool Operator
- Certified Municipal Registrar
- Registered Public Purchasing Official
- Qualified Purchasing Agent

## **WHAT I DO**

### **General Administration**

Review pending legislation, statutes, guidance documents, professional recommendations etc. governing and relating to aspects of public health and make appropriate departmental changes, recommend resolutions, and amend ordinances to reflect same.

Oversee and operate the daily function of the Clark Health Department. Attend current meetings and seminars to acquire relevant information applicable to the Clark Health Department. Assume the functions of an active officer (Union County Health Officer's Association- past secretary, Union County GPHP member and Chairperson since 2010 and Clark representative of the Union County Weapons of Mass Destruction Advisory Board.

### **Recreational Bathing**

Conduct pre-operational and routine sanitation and safety inspections of public recreational bathing facilities, whirlpools and spas.

Investigate all deaths and/or serious injuries occurring at a public recreational bathing facility within 24 hours.

### **Youth Camps**

Conduct annual inspections of all youth camps and submit copies of all reports to the NJDHSS.

### **Food Surveillance**

Conduct inspections of all retail food establishments, day care centers, schools, mobile vendors, food and beverage vending machines and temporary retail food establishments at least annually or as often as deemed necessary to determine compliance with local ordinances, state guidelines and statutes.

Secure food and/or water samples for bacteriological analysis as necessary.

Embargo adulterated, misbranded and/or unwholesome food.

Condemn and witness the destruction of food which is deemed to be adulterated, misbranded or unwholesome.

Investigate all reports of food borne illness.

Collect and secure evidence for legal action.

Advise, ensure and refer all Retail Food Establishment (RFE)'s management and staff to appropriate food handler training courses.

Electronically input data with regards to RFE's including but not limited to: street address, current license #, owner's name, address and telephone number, facility #'s, month/day/year/number of violations/rating, exterminator, waste hauler, sanitization process.

Provide copies of the guidance manual for RFE's on how to address fires, electrical outages, water emergencies and sanitation strikes.

Develop and provide annual RFE license application forms

Record electronically all retail food establishment licenses.

Provide food service facility applications to all new, remodeled or extensively renovated retail food establishments.

Review food service facility applications and make appropriate recommendations/corrective action.

Collect and document all money received for licenses and submit for deposit into the current fund.

### **Occupational Health**

Maintain a profile of all employers designated by a sic code within the jurisdiction to include the company name, sic code, company address, # of employees, main product or service, RTK data, complaints, emergency occurrences and environmental reports.

Make appropriate referrals in response to request for information (OSHA, PEOSHA).

Conduct initial and follow up interviews and preliminary surveys of reported occupational diseases (asbestosis, mesothelioma)

Schedule biennial Right To Know (RTK) refresher classes for any employee exposed to or potentially exposed to hazardous chemicals in the work place.

Conduct each facilities RTK survey and submit to state using appropriate program forms

Keep copies of hazardous substance fact sheets (paper/CD)

Schedule annual blood borne pathogens training for any employee exposed to or potentially exposed to blood and/or other bodily fluids.

Develop, write and review the township's employer guide and model exposure control plan

Develop, write and review the department of public works' written hazard communication program, lock out tag out program and emergency action and fire plan.

Develop, write and review the township's alcohol and drug policy.

Schedule quarterly Random Drug Screens/ Evidential Breath Testing for DPW employees

Schedule biennial Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) physicals for DPW employees (fit for duty, pre-employment physicals)

Purchase and ensure the administration of the Hepatitis B vaccine for employees needing same. Secure reimbursement for same when available.

### **Public Health Nuisances**

Document, investigate, follow-up , ensure proper abatement and secure legal evidence of all public health nuisances including but not limited to noxious weeds (poison ivy), solid waste (garbage), residential heating (October-May), insects (mosquitoes) , rodents, rodent baiting of township sewers, noise (referred to county), air pollution (referred to county).

### **Childhood/Pre-school Immunizations**

Refer all inquiries for childhood immunizations to the Union County Immunization Clinic, 342 Westminster Ave., Elizabeth, NJ (908-965-2700 ext. 3857) attn: - Kay Young.

Contract with the visiting nurse service system d/b/a/ Holy Redeemer to conduct annual audits of all day care centers and schools every 3 years.

Record and report all cases of vaccine preventable diseases (i.e. Pertussis, Varricela), conduct patient interviews, follow up investigations and forward all reports to the NJDHSS.

### **Childhood Lead Poisoning**

Prevent and control lead poisoning in young children through case identification, medical management, environmental surveillance and education

Conduct case findings among children one through 5 years of age by annual blood testing in such setting as child health conferences, private physicians, WIC clinics etc. with priority given to children at high risk including, but not limited to: those children one through 3 years of age; those children residing in or frequenting housing units or other sites where lead based paint may be present; those children whose parents or other household members may be occupationally exposed to lead sources; those children at increased risk of exposure to lead sources for whatever reason; those children with a history of pica; and those children who are siblings of a child with increased risk absorption;

Assure that confirmed positive test results based on current risk classification standards is immediately referred to medical supervision and that the child so referred received on-going medical management.

Conduct environmental surveillance among patient cases utilizing capable staff.

Assure medical attention, environmental investigation to identify probable sources of lead exposure and ensure safe removal of all lead hazards.

Assure that the property owner, parent(s), guardian(s) and other tenants where the child resides are notified in writing as to the findings of the environmental investigation and subsequent surveillance.

Assure that during periods of lead abatement, the affected child (ren) is/are remove from the premises.

Educate parents, the general public, physicians and other health personnel regarding lead intoxication, sources of environmental lead and control measures.

Provide appropriate counseling to parents of lead burdened children.

Assure the provision of training and continuing education of program personnel.

### **Rabies and Zoonosis**

Develop and mail annual dog and/or cat licenses applications to animal owners

Maintain and update the MACS system.

Collect and document all money collected for animal licensing.

Provide daily animal license reports.

Provide monthly animal reporting as required by township auditors and the NJDHSS.

Issue licenses for all dogs and cats within the municipality.

Conduct an annual animal canvass.

Issue summonses for delinquent animal owners.

Provide annual rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats including scheduling the date, time, location and securing a licensed veterinarian.

Inspect kennels, pet shops and shelters to ensure compliance with state laws and local ordinances.

Document, record and investigate all reports of dog and/or cats bites. Issue quarantine notices.

Observe and release dogs and/or cats from quarantine.

Investigate all complaints regarding animals including but not limited to barking, running at large, defecating, destroying property, and vicious dog ordinance.

Ensure heads of animals suspected of having rabies or having died within the 10 day quarantine period are sent to the NJDHSS public health lab for testing.

Record and submit reports of dead birds within the municipality. Forward appropriate paperwork to the NJDHSS West Nile program and county mosquito agency.

Conduct initial investigation of animal cruelty cases.

Rescue and place abandoned or endangered animals.

Review and amend Township Ordinances regarding licensing fees etc.

Negotiate and review the annual animal control contract with the City of Linden.

Review and ensure payment of monthly invoices for animal control services.

Work with the Linden Health Officer and Linden Animal Control officer to address difficult or unusual animal cases.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Review cases of reportable communicable diseases entered into the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) system.

Secure additional information as required from patient and/or physician

Conduct in person and/or telephone interviews.

Provide guidance and education on referenced disease.

Disseminate and exchange information with physicians, Infection Control Practitioners (ICP's), hospitals, administrators, board of education members and other public health professionals (i.e. pharmacists) as to disease outbreaks, course of treatment, patient education and follow up.

Review data collected for disease incidence, morbidity, mortality and prevalence to plan for possible future programs and evaluate the effectiveness of current programs for the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

### **Tuberculosis**

Refer all known Tb cases, contacts of Tb cases and class A, B1 and B2 immigrants to the Lattimore Tb clinic d/b/a/ New Jersey Medical School, Global Tuberculosis Institute, 225 Warren Street, Newark, NJ 07101-1709. Tele. # 973-972-3270; fax: 973-972-3268. Contact: Eileen Napolitano for testing, nurse case management, DOT, etc.

Maintain a contract with the City of Elizabeth Tuberculosis Reactor Clinic located at Elizabeth port Community Health Center, 155 First St., Elizabeth, NJ. Services include but are not limited to: testing of suspect Tb cases (mantoux), chest x-rays, hepatic laboratory panel, Acid Fast Bacillus (AFB) culture smear, partner referral, disease prevention etc.

### **Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

Make referrals and maintain a contract with the City of Elizabeth to conduct Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD testing, treatment, counseling, disease prevention, sex partner referral, follow-up testing, etc.

Make referrals to the following facilities for confidential HIV testing:

Hyacinth Foundation, 25 Craig Pl., room 302, Plainfield, NJ 07060. Tele.: 908-755-0021

Plainfield Community Health Center  
1700 Myrtle Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07063  
908-753-6401 ext. 138

Trinitas Hospital  
655 Livingston Street  
Monastery Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206

### **Maternal Child Health**

Refer any resident requiring childhood immunization to the Union County Immunization Clinic located at 342 Westminster Ave., Elizabeth, NJ 070208. Tele.: 908- 965-2700 ext 3857. Contact: Kay Young

Depending on the situation and need , residents may also be referred to the Plainfield Health Center, Union County Welfare Department-Plainfield office, New Jersey Family Care (the Clark Health Department will go on line and print the application and all supporting documentation for client), and Planned Parenthood of New Jersey.

Planned Parenthood  
123 Park Ave. # 6  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-756-3736  
[www.ppgnnj.org](http://www.ppgnnj.org)

1150 Dickinson Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-351-5384

### **Improved Pregnancy Outcome**

Review Clark births quarterly to find woman 18 years or younger or those woman at high risk in an effort to encourage post-natal care through Planned Parenthood, Union County WIC, etc

Additionally, residents may be referred to the Healthy Families-TIP (TANF Initiative for Parents) program. Healthy Families is a “free and voluntary” home visitation program that promotes healthy parent-child interaction, child development skills, health and safety practices and provides linkages to community resources. Residents can contact Arlene Slizewski, Program Supervisor at 1-908-659-4252 or visit [www.healthyfamiliesnj.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesnj.org).

## **Adult Health Services**

### **Cancer**

Provide education services yearly for five percent of women ages 15-34 and five percent of women ages 35 and older to receive instruction in the risk factors for cervical and breast cancer, the importance of the Pap Smear in the early detection of cervical cancer, the importance of comprehensive breast cancer screening which includes mammography at intervals specified by the American Cancer Society and a physical breast examination by a health care professional, breast self-examination as one component in a total health care awareness program, and dietary and lifestyle modification to reduce the risks of breast and cervical cancer.

Provide yearly instruction to three percent of individuals over age 40 on the risk of colorectal cancer, the importance of compliance with guidelines on colorectal cancer and dietary and lifestyle modification to reduce the risk of colorectal cancer.

Provide annual reports to the State on demographic characteristics of populations receiving screening and/or educational services and the results of these screening programs.

Serve as a community resource to disseminate information available from the State on types of screening services available.

Provide for cancer related continuing education for nursing and other program personnel at least once every three years.

### **Diabetes**

Conduct public education related to diabetes and its risk factors such as age, obesity and family history.

Provide for diabetes -related continuing education for nursing and other program staff at least once every three years, and include current diabetes-related information in the orientation of all newly-hired staff to be involved in Diabetes Services.

### **Cardiovascular Disease**

Provide cardiovascular health education programs for the general public.

Provide cardiovascular health education programs for hypertensive individuals.

Provide for cardiovascular-related continuing education nursing and other program staff at least once every three years.

### **Adult Health Immunizations**

Provide annual influenza vaccination to Clark seniors in accordance with State and CDC guidelines and recommendations.

Provide “other” immunizations as required (i.e. H1N1)

### **Tobacco Age of Sale Enforcement**

Conduct annual tobacco age of sale compliance checks with a youth volunteer to determine if tobacco and/or tobacco products are being sold to minors.

No tobacco or tobacco products were sold to a minor during the 2010 TASE inspections.

### **Vital Statistics**

The Health Officer, as certified municipal registrar for the Township of Clark and is responsible for the following including but not limited to: taking marriage/domestic partnership/civil union applications, issuing same, providing certified copies of records upon request, issuing death certificates, making amendments to vital records, attending local registrar meeting, attending state meetings and seminars and complying with all local ordinances, State guidelines and statutes.

### **Other**

As Health Officer, I do all the preparing, typing, mailing, filing and all related paperwork from beginning to end for all Health Department functions. The Clark Health Department has never been assigned a clerical staff or an inspector and has been able to function efficiently thus far.

As RPPO/QPA for the township of Clark, I process requisitions, review and approve requisitions, process purchase orders for fulfillment and process purchase orders for payment. Dispute unfair charges and investigate discrepancies. Maintain an inventory of supplies and order as necessary. Maintain and occasionally repair fax machines, printers and copiers. Attend meetings and seminars to ensure compliance with Local Public Contracts Law and all other local ordinances, State regulations/guidelines and State Statutes.

### **Contractual Services and Community Partners**

Clark Township Mayor and Council  
All Clark Township Departments  
Clark Township CERT team  
All Clark schools and day care centers  
All Clark Township physicians and pharmacies  
City of Elizabeth- Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
City of Elizabeth-Tuberculosis Reactor Clinic (screening services)  
Dr. Barry Orange-Lexington Animal Hospital  
City of Linden- Animal Control Services  
Lattimore Clinic –Global Tuberculosis Institute  
Various Union County agencies (i.e. Sheriff's Department)  
Union County Freeholders  
Union County Local Information Network Communication System (UCLINCS)  
Union County Immunization Clinic  
Union County Governance Public Health Partnership  
Union County Health Officer's Association  
All Union County Hospital and ICP's  
New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services  
New Jersey State Registrar  
New Jersey Environmental Health Association  
Complete Care of Scotch Plains  
Medical Reserve Corp.  
Passport Health  
Planned Parenthood  
Plainfield Health Center  
Prevention Links  
Hyacinth Foundation  
Salvation Army  
American Red Cross  
American Heart Association  
American Diabetes Association

## Statistics

#	Category
1	Hotel/motel license
84	Retail Food Licenses
84	Retail Food Inspections
19	Retail Food reinspections
17	Retail food complaints
\$31,130.00	Revenue collected by the BOH
49	Public health nuisance complaints
6	Pre-op recreational pool inspections
6	Routine recreational pool inspections
0	Reports of elevated blood lead poisoning
7	Animal complaints
9	Animal bites/quarantines
826	Dog licenses issued
170	Cat licenses issued
\$14,174.50	Total money collected for dog and cat licensed (minus disbursements)
33	Dogs vaccinated against rabies
9	Cats vaccinated against rabies
102*	Residents vaccinated against influenza
13	School and day care immunization audits
24	Health education programs (does not include Nov. and Dec. 2011)
639	Health education participant
5*	Children seen at free immunization clinic
0	Births to women less than 18 years of age
1	Sexually transmitted disease case
0	Tuberculosis reactor
12	Tobacco Age of Sale Enforcement (TASE) Inspections
0	TASE violations
25	Communicable disease investigations
57 boys/59 girls	Births
73	Marriage licenses issued
\$219.00	Revenue from marriage licenses
154	Resident deaths
165	Certified copies issued (not incl: deaths)
\$2,475.00	Revenue collected from certified copies of Marriage licenses, births and amendments
1776	Certified death certificates issued
\$26,640.00	Revenue collected from death certificates
61 or 40%	Deaths from cardiac/cerebrovascular causes

## **Highlights**

In February 2009, the Clark Health Department in collaboration with all Union County Health Officers and the Union County Governance Public Health Partnership (GPHP) submitted its Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priorities. The CHIP is required by the New Jersey State Health Department regulations as outlined in "Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health." A copy of the CHIP is on file in the Clark Health Department.

The current CHIP priorities include in ranking order:

1. Health services access and affordability
2. Senior services
3. Heart disease and cancer

In light of the national recession, the State of New Jersey's precarious fiscal condition and its effect on county residents and local government, the Union County GPHP realizes our priorities require re-assessment. We feel this would best be achieved by collaborating with other health service organizations and community partners.

In addition, The Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act (ACA), Title IX, section 9007 requires hospitals to:

- 1 Conduct a community health needs assessment;
2. Adopt an implementation strategy to meet the needs identified and justify priorities identified and not addressed by the strategy;
3. Take into account input from persons who represent the broad interest of the community served by the hospital, including those with expertise and knowledge of public health;
4. Compliance will be monitored by the IRS with penalties imposed including possible loss of tax exempt status.
5. Community assessments and implementation plans will be required every three years

As GPHP Chairperson I am aggressively pursuing partnerships with hospitals such as Atlantic Health Care Systems, Trinitas Hospital and the United Way of Greater Union County to assist with their needs assessments and our CHIP.

In January 2012, I was invited to join the Atlantic Health Systems Community Health Committee which meets 4 times a year. The committee is comprised of physicians, business leaders, directors of area organizations, schools and public health nurses.

## **Continuing Goals**

In January 2011 and January 2012, I was re-appointed GPHP Chairperson.

In 2011 two major grants were made available. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-New Jersey Health Initiatives: Collaborating for Community Needs Assessment Grant was applied for through Atlantic Health Systems which encompasses Overlook Hospital, Newton Medical Center and Morristown Medical Center. The grant had the full support of the Union County GPHP and the Union County Health Officer's Association. The grant was not awarded to Atlantic Health Systems. As a result Atlantic Health Systems went out to bid on a consultant to further assist in their needs assessment. In January 2012, a contract was signed with Holleran Consultants.

The recipients of the RWJ grant were: Hunterdon Healthcare System (Hunterdon), Palisades Medical Center (Bergen and Hudson), Saint Peter's Foundation( Middlesex and Somerset), South Jersey Hospitals Inc. (Cumberland and Salem), St, Francis Medical Center (Mercer) and the United Way of Greater Mercer County(Mercer).

The second grant was the CDC Public Health Prevention Health Fund: Community Transformation Grant and was applied for through Prevention Links. This grant was not awarded to Prevention Links. In New Jersey, \$500,000 was awarded to the New Jersey Prevention Network.

Following these grant announcements, a survey was sent to local health departments asking for input on how to bring hospitals and local health together to work on this collaboration. Through the New Jersey Hospital Association, a series of webinars and seminars were sponsored. Each webinar cost approximately \$75.00. Unfortunately I was unable to attend any of the meetings or webinars.

In May, I attended and participated in the Union County Office of Health Management in conjunction with UASI (Urban Areas Security Initiative) demonstration of the Western Shelter modular tent system. This drill was open to all local, county and state Police, Fire, Emergency Management and Health personnel.

The system comprised of several conjoined tents included a 25 bed modular medical care unit. The purpose of the Western tent system is to increase Public Health capacity to respond and recover from a natural or manmade event involving the release of a disease.

Units will be able to enhance capacity to provide facilities to isolate or quarantine patients and protect the public from the spread of disease; shelter special needs groups, general sheltering and the operation of points of medical distributions. This asset will support emergency operations within Union County for the first 72 hours of an event

until additional outside resources from the State of New Jersey or Federal assistance can be deployed.

On June 11, 2011, the Clark Health Department in conjunction with the Union County Office of Health Management co-sponsored its annual test of the public health annex during the New Jersey Central East Regional Point of Distribution (POD) Exercise.

Because of the large volume of personnel involved in this public health annex drill, the drill took place at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains. The drill was open to all State, County and local Police, Fire, Emergency Management and Health personnel.

The central East POD Exercise was a full scale public health exercise designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to a Point of Distribution (POD) in response to a Public Health and Bio-Terrorist Emergency.

Exercise objectives included the operation of a POD site to distribute preventative antibiotic medications, operation of a POD site to administer vaccine, operating a POD site utilizing Central East regional staffing resources and operating a mobile distribution team to serve at risk, non-ambulatory patients.

As Health Officer my role was two-fold as both a controller and an evaluator. Due to the voluminous nature of the exercise, the handbook and my after action report are on file in the Clark Health Department for review.

### Hurricane Irene

In August, the State of New Jersey experienced Hurricane Irene. I am including Hurricane Irene as a second public health drill.

Although I was not notified or invited to any Emergency Management meetings before or during Hurricane Irene, I was able to monitor public health occurrences (i.e. boil water advisories, loss of electricity to the Township's Retail Food Establishments, raw sewage, mold etc.) and any public health /disease trends from my home via cell phone and lap top computer. I participated in daily, often more, teleconferences with the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services and the Union County Office of Emergency Management.

I do not view the lack of notification and involvement by the Township during Hurricane Irene in a negative light. Instead, I view the actions as impetus for increased and continued Federal and State funding for additional resources and personnel for all departments on the local level.

## Future of Free Rabies Clinic

Shortly after my November rabies clinic, a survey was emailed to local health departments asking for input as to the future of municipal rabies clinics should the State decide to stop providing the rabies vaccine and syringes free of charge to local municipalities.

I responded to the State that Clark Township would continue to offer free rabies vaccine to the resident's animals as one case of rabies, a fatal disease, in either a human or another animal is unacceptable and irresponsible public health. I also added that any money collected from animal licensing that is currently forwarded to the State on a monthly basis (range is from \$1.20 to \$4.20) should remain with the Township to assist in low cost spay/neuter projects and future rabies clinics.

As Certified Municipal Registrar, I attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities convention in November.

The following topics as it relates to vital statistics were discussed:

1. Revising the registrar training into individual modules (births, marriages, deaths) whereby a municipality could choose which modules to attend.
2. Revising the written registrar manual. I volunteered to join this committee as this is one of my major critique
3. The possibility of allowing municipal clerks and county freeholders the right to solemnize marriages
4. Possible increases in marriage license fees.
5. Marriage by proxy for military personnel.
6. Waiving the 72 hour waiting period to obtain and solemnize a marriage.

Any questions regarding this report may be addressed to Nancy Raymond, Health Officer at 732-428-8405.

