

relief from the Housing Code. The Board approved the operation of a Mobile Poultry Processing unit at Verrill Farm. This program was originally developed as a pilot project by the Department of Public Health and the New England Small Farm Institute.

The Board also successfully brought forth Articles 66 and 67 at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, to revise existing by laws to restrict the sale of tobacco to minors and initiate a smoke free workplace.

HEALTH DIVISION

Stanley Sosnicki, CEHT, Acting Public Health Director
Gabrielle White, Public Health Inspector
Karen Byrne, Administrative Assistant

The Health Division enforces State statutes and regulations relative to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions, and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution. Environmental and sanitary codes enforced by the Health Division include: onsite wastewater (septic) systems, food establishments, swimming pools, bathing beaches, summer camps, indoor ice skating rinks, housing, and lead paint. Administrative staff assists with annual flu clinics and the rabies control program, administers the Septic Betterment Loan Program and the issuance of approximately 457 annual licenses/permits.

Regional Public Health Services

Under a regional service contract, the Health Division staff provided a total of 524 hours of staff support to the towns of Lincoln and Carlisle in 2010 resulting in \$29,337 in revenue for the Town of Concord.

Emergency Preparedness

The Health Division worked closely with the Concord Emergency Management Agency to further develop local public health emergency response capacity. This included the continued development of the Concord Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) supply and equipment inventory for items purchased over the last 3 years.

Permits & Licenses

The Health Division issued the following licenses and collected \$116,590 in permit fees: 125 Food Service/Retail Food; 22 Tobacco Sales; 64 Permits to Keep Farm Animals; 3 Bathing Beaches; 21 Swimming Pools; 48

Hazardous Material Storage/Usage; 13 Recreational Camp Sites; 19 Day Camp Programs; 2 Tanning Facilities; 103 Disposal Works Installers; 18 Septic Haulers; 13 Rubbish Haulers; 4 Funeral Directors; 128 On-Site Sewage Disposal Permits; 151 Building Permit Reviews; and 14 Well Permits.

Public Health Nursing/Communicable Disease Control
Under a contract with the Health Division, Emerson Hospital Home Care provided nursing services to staff and coordinate annual influenza vaccination clinics, telephone and home visits to patients, and investigation of reported cases of communicable diseases. The cases of communicable diseases are reported to the Health Division for inclusion in statistical reports prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for epidemiological purposes. This confidential information is maintained by the Health Division Administrative Assistant and conveyed to the public health nurses and MDPH for appropriate follow-up action. **See table on the following page.**

Influenza Vaccine Distribution & Clinics

The Health Division sponsored an annual seasonal influenza clinic at the Harvey Wheeler Center. Approximately 238 vaccines were administered to Concord Seniors, which is a lower turnout than in years past. This year, early availability of influenza vaccine from manufacturers to primary care physicians and other venues such as CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid was certain to have had an affect in the totals

The Health Department, was pleased to sponsor a Seasonal Influenza Clinic for Town Employees. Emerson Hospital Home Care administered nearly 100 vaccines to Town Employees during this clinic.

Food Inspections & Temporary Food Events

The Public Health Inspector conducted over 200 inspections of the 125 food establishments in Concord. Inspections were based on a newly implemented risk-based inspection program. The program focuses on education and active managerial control, providing facilities managers with a systematic approach to food safety. This innovative program has been well received with positive results. New Food Allergen Awareness regulations were passed which require food service operators to be trained to inform consumers about food allergens. There were 7 new food establishments reviewed.

Temporary Food Event applications are reviewed by staff to identify and address any potential food safety risk factors that could impact the public health. 63 Temporary Food Events were permitted, including Patriots Day Festivities, the Memorial Day and Fourth of July Parades, and the Fall Agricultural Fair.

Camp Program

The Health Division licensed 19 “camps” which served 4,955 campers in Concord. 4 new camp programs were licensed: Nike Tennis Camp at the Middlesex School, Prime Time Lacrosse at the new playing fields on Walden Street, ICAMP at Kerem Shalom and Target Soccer Academy at Concord Carlisle High School. There are 13 sites which host camp programs.

Bathing Beach Program

The Public Health Inspector collected 51 water samples from 3 beaches. The samples were sent to the lab for analysis. There were no beach closures for the season. New beach regulations were promulgated requiring additional posting requirements.

Ice Rink Air Quality

As part of an indoor air quality control program, the Health Division is responsible for reviewing air quality for indoor ice rinks that utilize resurfacing equipment powered by combustible fuels that produce carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. The Town of Concord has two indoor ice rinks (Valley Sports Arena and the Middlesex School) – only the Middlesex School uses this type of resurfacing equipment. Facilities are required to test and maintain indoor air quality to protect the health, safety, and well being of the public – these rinks are inspected on annual basis by the Public Health Inspector. All test results were within normal limits for the test period.

Swimming Pools

There are 13 public/semi-public pool facilities in Concord. There are currently 4 general purpose pools, 13 lap pools, 6 children’s pools, 3 special purpose pools and 1 diving well. The Public Health Inspector inspects these facilities for compliance with water quality standards, safety equipment requirements and pool operators’ certification for each site.

Animal Permits

The Public Health Inspector serves as the Town’s Animal

Inspector. 64 properties are inspected for sanitary conditions, health of animals and elimination of odors and pests with proper manure storage/removal. This year, the Concord Health Department spent additional time reviewing applications for and explaining the pertinent regulations to homeowners interested in raising chickens. This seems to be a trend throughout the State, not just Concord, as more homeowners show an interest in becoming “backyard” farmers.

2008-2010 Animal Census Information			
	2008	2009	2010
Chickens	923	716	1056
Horses	162	166	164
Cattle	158	217	243
Rabbits	34	70	78
Goats	19	17	10
Geese/Ducks	26	23	29
Guinea Hens	8	14	9
Sheep	11	10	15
Beehives	4	4	4
Llamas	0	0	0
Donkeys	1	2	2
Turkey	0	5	7
Pigs	4	12	10
TOTAL	1,350	1,256	1627

Rabies Control Program

The Health Division Administrative staff quarantined 24 domestic animals (dogs & cats) due to contact with potentially rabid animals. Eight were quarantined and followed by the Animal Inspector and Dog Officer because of animal bites to humans. Rabies tests were conducted on 3 potentially rabid animals (2 bats, 1 raccoon). The raccoon tested positive for the rabies virus.

Concord Animal Hospital veterinarians administered the rabies vaccine to 58 dogs and 22 cats at the Health Division’s Annual Rabies Clinic.

Wastewater Permitting Program

The Environmental Health Inspector oversees the onsite wastewater management (septic system) program in the Health Division. The Division issued 127 permits for construction and/or alteration of septic systems, reviewed 151 building permit applications for regulatory compliance, and witnessed over 160 deep test holes and 85 percolation tests. The Environmental Health Inspector conducted approximately 270 onsite inspections for compliance with Title 5.

Septic System Betterment Loan Program

The Health Division Administrative Assistant oversees the Community Septic System Betterment Loan Program that successfully disbursed \$104,076 in 2010. The program allows homeowners to borrow up to \$30,000 to offset the costs of replacing their septic system. The loans are repaid to the Town over 10 years at 2% interest as a betterment lien.

Housing Inspection Program

The Environmental Health Inspector is required to inspect dwelling units when requested by the occupant to identify substandard conditions in accordance with the State Sanitary Code. Housing inspections address health and safety issues such as lead paint, asbestos, lack of heat or insufficient water. Ten properties were inspected that required enforcement action.

EMERSON HOSPITAL HOME CARE SERVICES

Brian Hailey, MSPT, Manager

Emerson Hospital Home Care is a Medicare/Medicaid Certified, Joint Commission accredited, provider of home health services in Concord, as well as 23 surrounding towns. Home care is an active member of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts with a mission is to deliver high quality, safe, and cost effective services to all our patients. These services include skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, home health aide, and medical social work. Emerson home care continues to grow to meet the demands of skilled services in the home as hospital length-of-stays continue to decrease.

Home Care accepts referrals for services from Emerson Hospital, other local and Boston hospitals, physicians, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, and from clients with a physician's order for home care. Members of the community can contact Home Care directly for skilled services for themselves or family members. Home Care services assist community members to receive services at home after hospitalization, during a prolonged illness, or when a skilled need arises and the client is home bound. The goal of home care services is always to promote the highest state of wellness and independence, and to assist in planning

for the continuum of care. Home Care also provides community health and communicable disease follow up in accordance with our Board of Health Contract with the Town of Concord.

Although Emerson Hospital does not have a hospice program, we continue to work closely with several Hospice providers serving this area. The Home Care department has provided end of life care for those patients who have decided not to enroll in a Hospice program. Our focus has continued to be provision of care focused on symptom management and dignity for patient and family at end of life.

The Home Care Department has been an integral part of the hospital's focus on enhancing the care of the growing elderly population in the communities we serve. This includes ongoing meetings with members of the community, as well as initiatives within the care environment in the hospital. Using our "Disease Management Program", the Home Care Department continues our success in decreasing emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and lengths of stay in several diagnostic groups, including Chronic Lung Disease and Congestive Heart Failure. The department has participated in a nationwide effort by CMS to reduce unnecessary acute care re-hospitalizations from home care providers and has had success in decreasing this re-hospitalization rate. Home care participates on the hospital's Community Geriatric Committee that meets quarterly to address the needs of the geriatric population in the community.

Home Care continues to care for residents of Concord Park, Newbury Court, Newbury Commons, and the Concord Housing Authority Residences. Through Medicare and other insurers, we are able to provide "home care" services for these individuals who now call these sites their "home". This has allowed these residents to successfully age in place. Home care also coordinates closely with the Concord Council on Aging to promote health and wellness to seniors.

The contract with the Town of Concord includes communicable disease follow-up and an influenza vaccination program. The contract also allows Home Care to make home visits to ill individuals who have no source of payment to cover much needed services. As Medicare and other insurers are limiting their coverage, this