

## HEALTH DIVISION

Brent Reagor, RS, Public Health Director  
 Stanley Sosnicki, CEHT, Environmental Health Inspector  
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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 is responsible for flu clinics, rabies control, and maintenance of databases for the issuance of 28 different types of annual licenses/permits issued by Health Division.

### *Regional Public Health Services*

Under a regional service contract, the Health Division staff provided a total of 442 hours (or 5.3% of total staff hours) of staff support to the towns of Lincoln and Carlisle, resulting in \$25,886 in additional 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) as a unit of the Concord Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Currently over 65 citizens have volunteered to be members of the MRC, providing essential clinical and behavioral health skills to the community in times of emergency. The members of the MRC, along with Health Division staff participated in the Annual Emerson Hospital Mass Decontamination Unit Drill.

### *Permits & Licenses*

The Health Division issued the following licenses and collected \$129,019 in permit fees, a 13.3% increase from 2008: 125 Food Service/Retail Food; 22 Tobacco Sales; 51 Permits to Keep Farm Animals; 3 Bathing Beaches; 22 Swimming Pools; 48 Hazardous Material Storage/Usage; 10 Recreational Camp Sites; 16 Day Camp Programs; 2 Tanning Facilities; 109 Disposal Works

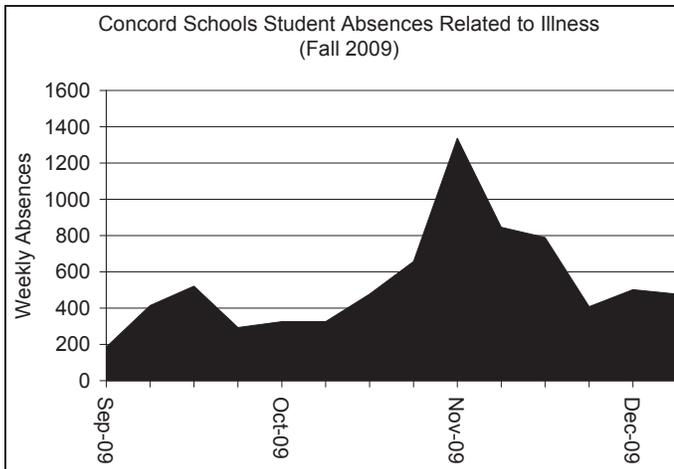
Installers; 24 Septage Haulers; 17 Rubbish Haulers; 4 Funeral Directors; 135 On-Site Sewage Disposal Permits; 129 Building Permit Reviews; and 7 Drinking/Irrigation Well Permits. Overall permitting activity increased by 2.3% in 2009.

### 2008-2009 Health Division Permitting Activity

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Food	123	125	1.6%
Tobacco	22	22	0.0%
Farm Animals	48	51	6.3%
Beaches	3	3	0.0%
Pools	22	22	0.0%
Hazmat	48	48	0.0%
Camp Programs	15	16	6.7%
Camp Sites	10	10	0.0%
Septic Installers	110	109	-0.9%
Septic Haulers	17	24	41.2%
Septic Systems	124	135	8.9%
Wells	17	7	-58.8%
Total	559	572	2.3%

### *Response to H1N1 Influenza*

Beginning in late April, the Health Division re-oriented its priorities to focus on a coordinated and multi-faceted response to the emergence of H1N1 influenza. From the first cases in Massachusetts, to confirmed cases in Concord and the education and vaccination planning efforts through the fall; the Health Division worked closely with Emerson Hospital, area healthcare providers, and, most importantly, the public and private school healthcare staffs to protect the public health from this novel influenza. Beginning with the school year in September, the Health Division collected illness-related absence information from each of the public and private schools and tracked the information on a weekly basis. Concord experienced a peak of illness in mid-November, but returned to more normal conditions by the end of the year.



*Public Health Nursing/Communicable Disease Control*

Under a contract with the Health Division, Emerson Hospital Home Care provided nursing services to staff for coordination and staffing of the 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 (MDPH) 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.

*Influenza Vaccine Distribution and Clinics*

Due to manufacturing delays, the added dimension of the H1N1 virus/vaccine and other circumstances beyond its control, MDPH distributed seasonal influenza vaccines in a staggered manner that made it a challenge for local communities to schedule their routine clinics early in the flu season. Fortunately, the Concord Health Division received more than a third of its vaccine during the first allotment which allowed it to schedule and hold its annual public seasonal influenza clinic for residents over 60 in early October. Emerson Hospital Home Care vaccinated approximately 330 Concord residents during that clinic held at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

In late November, additional seasonal influenza vaccine was released by the State that allowed the Health Division to provide additional vaccine for a second public clinic for a targeted population that included seniors, as well as people over the age of 18 at high-risk for complications from seasonal influenza and chronic medical conditions. Another 95 Concord residents were vaccinated at this clinic.

TOWN OF CONCORD COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	'05-'09 Median
Amebiasis	0	0	0	0	2	0
Babesiosis	0	0	0	1	1	0
Campylobacter	8	5	4	3	4	4
Cryptococcus	0	0	0	1	2	0
Cryptosporidia	0	1	0	0	0	0
E. Coli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis	2	2	0	0	3	2
Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Entamoeba	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterovirus	0	0	0	0	1	0
Giardia	4	1	1	4	3	3
Hepatitis A	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	4	1	3	0	1	1
Hepatitis C*	3	1	6	19	68	6
H1N1 Influenza	0	0	0	0	2	0
HGA	0	0	0	0	5	0
Legionnaire's Disease	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lyme Disease	35	53	29	84	48	48
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	0	0	2	0	0	0
Pertussis	0	1	3	0	0	0
Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	0	0	0	1	0	0
Salmonella	2	3	3	5	4	3
Shigella	1	0	1	3	1	1
Streptococcal Pneumonia	1	3	2	2	2	2
Type B Streptococcus	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tuberculosis	1	3	1	1	2	1
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	13	0	5	1	0	1
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	1	0	0

\*All but 3 cases of Hepatitis C are associated with MCI-Concord

### *Food Inspections & Temporary Food Events*

The Public Health Inspector conducted over 225 inspections of the 125 food establishments in Concord in 2009. On average, each inspection resulted in one re-inspection to ensure that the facility is in full compliance with food safety regulations. The Health Division began the implementation of a risk-based inspection system where each facility is rated on its risk for transmission of foodborne illness and the susceptibility of the population served by the establishment. The facilities are rated as “High,” “Moderate,” or “Low” risk; with the inspection frequency determined by the level of risk – the higher the risk, the more frequent the inspections.

Temporary Food Event applications are reviewed by staff to identify and remove any potential food safety risk factors that could impact the public health. 61 Temporary Food Events were permitted, including Patriots Day festivities, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and the fall Agricultural Fair.

### *Day Camps for Children*

During the summer months, Concord was home to sixteen (16) “camps” serving nearly 5,000 children. “Camps” are defined by the State as programs that operate for more than 2 hours per day, at least 5 days over a two week period, or any program which calls itself a “camp”. The Public Health Inspector conducted site inspections at all of these facilities for compliance with State and local regulations, including background checks on staff, health records, verification of personnel training, medical/emergency protocols, and safety checks for high risk activities.

### *Swimming Pools*

All public and semi-public pools are required to be compliant with the new Federal Regulations that require retrofitting of all drains and grate covers to eliminate the potential for suction entrapment. All 22 swimming and specialty pools in Concord are in full compliance with this requirement. The Public Health Inspector also reviewed these facilities for adherence to water quality standards, safety equipment requirements and having trained personnel for each site.

### *Bathing Beach Water Quality*

Water quality testing is conducted from Memorial Day to Labor Day at the 3 semi-public beaches in Town. During that time, the Public Health Inspector collected 48

samples that were submitted for analysis. There were no beach closures during the 2009 bathing beach season.

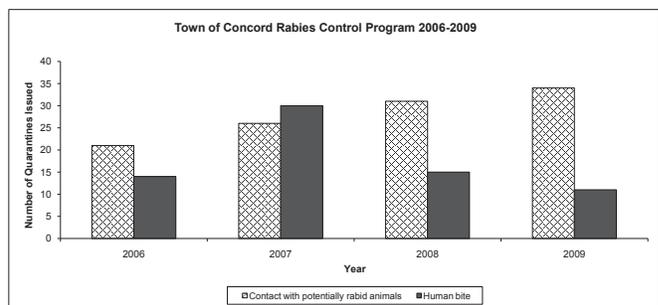
### *Indoor Ice Skating Rinks*

As part of the 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, which 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 an annual basis by the Public Health Inspector.

### *Rabies Control Program*

The Health Division Administrative staff quarantined 34 domestic animals (dogs & cats) due to contact with potentially rabid animals. 11 domestic animals were quarantined and followed by the Animal Inspector and Dog Officer because of animal bites to humans. Rabies tests were conducted on 7 potentially rabid animals (3 bats, 3 dogs, 1 raccoon). The raccoon tested positive for the rabies virus. This case was followed very closely by the Health Department, Concord Animal Hospital and the Department of Public Health because the raccoon had come into direct contact with 4 domestic dogs and a human being

At the Health Division’s Annual Rabies Clinic in March, Concord Animal Hospital veterinarians administered the rabies vaccine to 15 dogs and 46 cats.



### *Animal Inspections*

Appointed by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the Public Health Inspector carries out the duties of the Animal Inspector for the Town of Concord. This includes inspecting barns and other fa-

cilities licensed to keep farm animals for proper sanitary conditions, animal health and management of proper manure storage and/or removal. There are 51 sites in Concord licensed to keep farm animals. The total population of farm animals was 1,256; 57% of which were chickens. The 2009 animal census is as follows:

2007-2009 Animal Census Information			
	2007	2008	2009
Chickens	381	923	716
Horses	179	162	166
Cattle	146	158	217
Rabbits	2	34	70
Goats	34	19	17
Geese/Ducks	23	26	23
Guinea Hens	43	8	14
Sheep	6	11	10
Beehives	4	4	4
Llamas	2	0	0
Donkeys	3	1	2
Turkey	0	0	5
Pigs	0	4	12
TOTAL	823	1,350	1,256

*Wastewater Permitting Program*

The Environmental Health Inspector oversees the onsite wastewater management (septic system) program in the Health Division. The Division issued 135 permits for construction and/or alteration of septic systems, reviewed 129 building permit applications for regulatory compliance, and witnessed over 200 deep test holes and 100 percolation tests. The Environmental Health Inspector conducted approximately 300 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 has successfully loaned all of the original \$1,000,000 funded from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust and approved at the 2004 Annual Town Meeting. The program allows homeowners to borrow up to \$20,000 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.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

David Burgess, Chair  
 Deborah Farnsworth  
 Ann Snow, RN  
 Susanna Bedell

The Board of Health is responsible for the overall stewardship of the public health of Concord. It promotes, enacts, and enforces health rules and regulations in accordance with local bylaws and state law. There are five members of the Board, appointed for three-year terms by the Town Manager.

The Board of Health held 7 hearings for variances to State and local wastewater system regulations, 1 hearing for Food Establishments, and 2 hearings pertaining to other public health matters. The Board revised regulations governing private water supply, irrigation, geothermal, and monitoring wells; and issued a policy concerning the granting of certain variances for repairs to onsite wastewater systems.

The Board successfully sponsored Article 42 at Annual Town Meeting, re-authorizing the Community Septic Loan Program with additional funding of \$2,000,000 that will be available beginning in 2010 to residents who need financial assistance during the replacement of their onsite wastewater system. The program will make loans of up to \$30,000, secured by a betterment lien on the property, and repayable at 2% interest over 10 years.

**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. The mission is to provide the highest 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. Home Care made the difficult decision to discontinue the Psychiatric Nursing Program this past year. The small size of the program and the small referral source factored into the decision to discontinue this service and to concentrate