

extremely active in our area for two mosquito-borne diseases, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). Although none of the mosquito pools in Concord tested positive for WNV or EEE, EEE was found in mosquitos in two towns surrounding Concord, and a number of human cases of WNV were found in several towns near Concord. The numbers of WNV and EEE positive mosquitoes and human WNV cases increased weekly throughout July and August, and necessitated close communication with EMMCP and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health until the risk of mosquito-borne disease abated in October. The Board of Health provided numerous notifications urging Town residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites during this period.

HEALTH DIVISION

Susan Rask, MS, RS, Public Health Director
Stanley Sosnicki, CEHT, Assistant 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 is responsible for assisting with annual flu clinics, the rabies control program, administration of the Septic Betterment Loan Program, and the issuance of approximately 500 annual licenses/permits.

Regional Public Health Services

The Concord Health Division has provided inspectional services to the Town of Lincoln under a regional contract since 1996. Over the past several years, the program has evolved from providing limited inspectional services to the administration of public health programs within the Town of Lincoln. The Assistant Public Health Director and Administrative Assistant are the primary contacts for providing services in Lincoln. In 2012, this program generated nearly \$28,000 in additional revenue for Concord (over 400 hours of public health and inspectional/administrative staff support).

Projects included working closely with the Lincoln Water Department to promulgate Floor Drain Regulations to comply with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Groundwater Protection requirements and developing a more comprehensive approach to managing public health programs.

The Health Division joined Public Health Initiatives Together, a cooperative effort between the towns of Concord, Acton, Stow, Carlisle, Maynard, Bedford, and Lincoln to examine regional public health needs, discuss how these needs might best be met by working on a regional level, and to seek grant funding to enhance public health services. The group received a Community Transformation Grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) to fund a project which reviewed each town's plans and regulations that affect the built environment for inclusion of elements that would improve public health and to explore a regional plan for making trails more accessible, especially to those with physical mobility restrictions.

Working in conjunction with the Acton Health Department, the Public Health Inspector expanded the Health Division's existing educational program on prevention of tick-borne illnesses. Grant funding provided by Acton was used to create informational brochures and boxes for the brochures which were located on walking trails throughout Concord and Acton. Several tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme disease, Babesiosis, and Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (previously called Erlichiosis) are prevalent in our area, and awareness of how to prevent tick bites is critical to preventing these illnesses.

Healthy Community Planning Project

In April, the Health Division received \$15,000 in grant funding from Massachusetts Department of Public Health Community Health Network Area (CHNA) 15 to undertake a Healthy Community planning project. The 18-month project is working to assess the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health and overall well-being of our community by working to identify Concord's existing assets and resources, define our residents' needs, and determine opportunities for improvement. The project defines health in broad terms, as a measure of overall well-being and as a by-product of a wide array of lifestyle and behavior-related choices and factors. Healthy communities continuously create and

improve their physical and social environments and help people to support one another in aspects of daily life and to develop to their fullest potential. Healthy places are those designed and built to improve the quality of life for all people who live, work, worship, learn, and play within their borders.

The Healthy Community project, named THRIVE: Healthy Concord, has completed two community surveys soliciting feedback from residents about what they think would make Concord a healthier place to live and work. In early 2013, focus groups will be formed around key issues identified in the surveys to decide upon solutions for future implementation.

The healthy community project is funded through the Northwest Suburban Health Alliance/CHNA 15 DoN funds from Lahey Clinic. There are 27 Community Health Networks within Massachusetts, each of which collaboratively identifies local and regional health priorities, designs community-based prevention plans, and tracks success in achieving healthier communities.

Emergency Preparedness

The Health Division continued to work with the Concord Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Region 4A 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 4 years. The Health Division continues to work to recruit and train an engaged group of MRC volunteers to ensure the Town can respond to public health emergencies including staffing shelters or providing public health clinics to dispense medications or vaccines if needed.

Permits & Licenses

The Health Division issued the following licenses and collected \$120,127.53 in permit fees: 189 Food Service/Retail Food (including farm stands and private & public school cafeterias, food banks, churches, caterer operations, residential retail kitchens, mobile food trucks, bed & breakfast establishments); 20 Tobacco Sales; 74 Permits to Keep Farm Animals; 3 Bathing Beaches; 21 Swimming Pools; 49 Hazardous Material Storage/Usage; 2 Motels; 13 Recreational Camp Sites; 16 Day Camp Programs; 1 Tanning Facilities; 37 Registered

Title 5 Inspectors, 71 Disposal Works Installers; 18 Septic Haulers; 13 Rubbish Haulers; 1 Body Art Establishment; 2 Body Art Technicians; 4 Funeral Directors; 2 Funeral Homes; 105 On-Site Sewage Disposal Permits; 166 Building Permit Reviews; and 23 Well Permits.

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 for epidemiological purposes. This confidential information is maintained by the public health nurses and Administrative Assistant and routed to MDPH for appropriate follow-up action through the MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network). Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White and Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne were both trained in use of this software.

Influenza Vaccine Distribution & Clinics



Council on Aging Flu Clinic

The Health Division sponsored its annual seasonal influenza clinic for Concord Seniors at the Harvey Wheeler Center. Emerson Hospital Home Care nurses administered vaccine to over 140 participants. Vaccine continues to be readily available from primary care physicians and local pharmacies throughout the year; therefore, cities and towns have seen attendance to these public clinics decrease; but, using State-supplied vaccine allows public health departments to continue to serve the at-risk population who may not be able to

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TABLE

Disease	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	'07-'12 Median
Amebiasis	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Babesiosis	0	1	1	3	0	0	1
Campylobacter	4	3	4	6	6	5	5
Cryptococcus	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Cryptosporidia	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Dengue	-	-	-	1	0	0	-
E. Coli	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterovirus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Giardia	1	4	3	2	4	2	3
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	3	0	1	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis C*	6	19	68	23	5	2	13
H1N1 Influenza	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
HGA	0	0	5	8	1	1	1
Legionnaire's Disease	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Lyme Disease	29	84	48	46	11	7	38
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	3	0	0	0	1	2	1
Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonella	3	5	4	4	3	2	4
Shigella	1	3	1	2	0	0	1
Streptococcal Pneumonia	2	2	2	1	1	0	2
Type B Streptococcus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	1	2	0	0	0	1
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

*All cases previous to 2011 included MCI Concord; MDPH now records those totals separately

take advantage of those other venues.

The Town of Concord, through its Health Division, also sponsored a seasonal influenza Clinic for Town employees. Emerson Hospital Home Care administered approximately 65 doses of vaccine to Town employees during this clinic.

Sanitary Housing Inspections

The Assistant Public Health Director is responsible for conducting inspections for compliance with the State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.000, Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation. Health Division staff spent a significant amount of time responding to a steady increase of requests from both tenants and landlords. In the past, housing code violations were identified and landlords would bring the property into compliance. In 2012, housing issues became more complicated, often requiring enforcement in Northeast Housing Court. It is unclear whether financial difficulties during

stressed economic times are adding to the upward trend. The Assistant Public Health Director was subpoenaed at least twice to appear in Northeast Housing Court for cases dealing with tenant/landlord disputes.

WASTEWATER PERMITTING PROGRAM

Onsite Sewage Disposal/Building Reviews for Title 5 & Town Sewer

The Assistant Public Health Director oversees the onsite wastewater management (septic system) program in the Health Division. The Division issued 105 permits for construction and/or alteration of septic systems, reviewed 166 building permit applications for regulatory compliance, and witnessed percolation tests and soil evaluations for 91 properties. The Assistant Public Health Director conducted approximately 235 onsite inspections for compliance with Title 5.

Although permitting for single family sewage disposal

systems has decreased slightly, there continues to be a significant increase in the number of large systems to accommodate multifamily developments and commercial properties. Staff reviewed, permitted and/or inspected the installation of several systems ranging from 2,000 to over 10,000 gallons per day for facilities including the new medical office building on Baker Ave.; an upgraded system at Sushi House/Asian Gourmet on Elm St.; a proposed cluster development on Rt. 2A; and the proposed development at 50 Beharrell St. The Assistant Public Health Director also worked with MA DEP to allow partial occupancy at the Concord Mews complex by allowing septic tanks to be used as tight holding tanks until the complex's wastewater treatment plant became fully operational.

Septic System Betterment Loan Program

The Community Septic System Betterment Loan Program is administered by the Health Division Administrative Assistant. In 2011, there was a significant decline in participation in this program; however, since the summer/fall of 2012 ten applications were processed for property owners to replace failed onsite sewage disposal systems and by year end, \$244,164 had been loaned through the program. Through this program, Concord property owners can borrow up to \$30,000 at 2% interest, to be paid back as a betterment lien over 10 years. The Town is fortunate to be able to offer this type of financial assistance to its residents and the Health Division will continue to actively promote it through increased advertisement, working with local engineers and septic installers, and other Town Departments.

Food Protection Program

The Public Health Inspector conducts risk based inspections of all food service establishments. Food establishments range from complex meal service in full service restaurant to hospital kitchens to convenience store packaged food sales. This program has an emphasis on education and active managerial control, providing facilities with guidance and systems-based approach to food safety.

One restaurant closed, and a new food service facility opened: Walden Grille closed its doors after 25 years, and New England Olive Oil opened a specialty olive oil shop. Five existing food service facilities underwent renovation and/or expansion, and one new restaurant

was proposed, went through an extensive design and review process, but ultimately did not open. In addition, the Public Health Inspector provided significant review and guidance on design of the food service facility for the new Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. The Public Health Inspector allocates a substantial portion of time to working with applicants on complex projects of this type.

Food Inspections & Temporary Food Events

Temporary food event applications are reviewed to identify and address any potential food safety risk factors that could impact the public health. 141 Temporary Food Events/Catered Events were permitted, including Patriots Day Festivities, Chamber of Commerce Spring/Fall Festival, the Memorial Day and Fourth of July Parades, and the Fall Agricultural Fair.

2012 FOOD SERVICE/RETAIL PERMITS

37 Retail Food Permits	6 Nursing Homes/Assisted Living
41 Food Service Operations	1 Hospital/In-Patient Kitchens
9 Farm Stands	4 Private School Cafeterias
9 Public School Cafeterias	1 Home for Aged Community
6 Religious Organizations	4 Seasonal Food Operations
1 Food Bank	2 B&B with Food Service
1 Sporting Event Food Service	2 Daycare with Food Service
2 Mobile Food Trucks	4 Rental Hall Kitchens
9 Caterers Base of Operations	2 Residential Retail Kitchens
3 Food Processors	11 Milk/Cream Permits
7 Frozen Ice cream	2 Community Assistance Food Groups
14 Deli's in Retail Establishments	

Community Food Report

A group of nearly thirty Concord citizens, Town officials, and local experts formed a steering and advisory committee in 2011 to discuss ways to promote a sustainable food system in Concord. The members represented an array of stakeholders such as farmers, educators, business owners, Town policy-makers, chefs, and members of local organizations. Their efforts culminated in a report issued in 2012, *Building Local Food Connections, A Community Food System Assessment*. The Public Health Inspector served on this committee and provided valuable technical expertise on regulatory requirements relating to local agriculture, food sale and service, and keeping of animals.

Recreational Camp Program

There are 13 sites licensed by the Health Division that host camp programs and/or serve as rental locations to "out of town" programs. All camp programs (16) were reviewed by the Public Health Inspector for compliance with the State Sanitary Code, "Minimum Sanitation

and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for Children”, including background checks on staff, medical protocols, and health record reviews. Many facilities offer high risk activities such as ropes courses which require additional safety checks and reviews. 2012 saw an increase in children attending camp in Concord, with a total of 5,405 campers, compared to 4,200 campers in 2011.

Bathing Beach Program

The Health Division initiated a contract to provide services for collection and analysis of bathing beach water samples. Samples are taken weekly at the 3 semi-public beaches, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, for compliance with 105 CMR 445.00, Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches. 50 water samples were collected from the 3 beaches over a 16 week period. Analysis of water samples resulted in a 4-day closure at one beach due to bacterial levels exceeding acceptable limits for bathing beach waters.

Ice Rink Air Quality

The Concord Health Division licenses 2 indoor ice rinks (Valley Sports and Middlesex School Atkins Hockey Rink); when applicable, the Public Health Inspector observes and reviews testing data for air quality for indoor ice rinks that use combustion engines that produce exhaust containing carbon monoxide or nitrogen oxide, for ice resurfacing. As of November 2011, neither licensed facility was using this type of machine to resurface the ice. Both facilities are utilizing electric ice re-surfacers that do not require air quality testing per 105 CMR 675.00.

Swimming Pools

There are 13 sites in Concord that hold recreational pool permits. One new pool facility was installed in 2012 at the Concord Mews/Mill Creek residential complex. 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 conducts water tests at each pool as well as monitors safety equipment and trained personnel for each site.

Animal Permits

The Public Health Inspector serves as the Town’s Animal Inspector. 74 properties are inspected for sanitary conditions, health of animals and elimination of odors and

pests with proper manure storage/removal. This year, Public Health Inspector spent a considerable amount of time revising the Board of Health’s regulation Minimum Standards for Keeping of Animals (originally adopted in 1976). The original regulation often caused confusion amongst applicants and property owners because of outdated language and/or references to zoning regulations that did not fall within the Health Inspector’s jurisdiction. The revised regulation that was adopted by the Board of Health focuses on issues that fall under the Health Department’s purview, such as sanitary conditions, animal health, and public health nuisances.

2009 – 2012 ANIMAL CENSUS INFORMATION

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Beehives	4	4	-	-
Cattle	217	243	178	255
Chickens	716	1,056	1,368	3,211
Donkeys	2	2	3	2
Geese/Ducks	23	29	38	37
Goats	17	10	13	21
Guinea Hens	14	9	8	7
Horses	166	164	163	182
Llamas	0	0	-	-
Pigs	12	10	2	15
Rabbits	70	78	112	200
Sheep	10	15	1	4
Turkey	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>57</u>
TOTAL	1,256	1,627	1,894	3,991

Rabies Control Program

During 2012, 24 domestic animals (dogs & cats) were quarantined by either the Concord Health Division or Animal Control Officer due to contact with potentially rabid animals. 16 domestic animals were quarantined and followed by the Dog Officer because of animal bites to humans. Rabies tests were conducted on 13 potentially rabid animals (8 bats, 1 cat, 3 woodchucks and a dog). None of the animals tested positive for the rabies virus.

At the Health Division’s Annual Rabies Clinic, Concord Animal Hospital veterinarians administered the rabies vaccine to 46 dogs and 2 cats.

EMERSON HOSPITAL HOME CARE SERVICES

Brian Hailey, MSPT Director

Emerson Hospital Home Care is a Medicare/Medicaid Certified, Joint Commission accredited, provider of