



## Northeast District Department of Health

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### ***A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, Fiscal Year 2017***



The Northeast District Department of Health was recognized by the CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) for being among only 25% of health departments across the State to have delivered all of the essential public health services in Fiscal Year 2016—the first year this was assessed—and among the 44% of departments to have done so in 2017. This recognition is a tribute to all those who work for the District. I cannot thank them enough for all they do—and do so well.

NDDH works in many ways to keep people safe and healthy. Our Putting on Airs program of home visits and medication counseling reduces asthma attacks, asthma-related hospital visits, and missed time at school and work. Our Fall Prevention efforts included training professionals in a form of Tai Ji Quan (TJQ) that effectively reduces falls, and was the catalyst for the *TJQ: Moving for Better Balance* class that opened to rave reviews at the Hale YMCA. Our spoof-song *Gypsy Moth Debris*, written in response to reports of falls on slime from the springtime invasion of caterpillars, went viral sparking great fall-prevention awareness!

In the spring, NDDH worked with CT DPH and WINY Radio to host the very successful *On the Air Water Fair* (resulting in almost 300 local residents receiving free well-water tests for arsenic and uranium) before heading over to Quinebaug Valley Community College to join an outpouring of community partners participating in the *Every Day is Earth Day Environmental Fair*.

NDDH continues to be a leader in efforts to prepare for and respond to public health threats. Our staff help educate emergency response, disaster response, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and others so they will be able to respond if an emergency arises. We participated in the 2016 *CT Mass Fatality Drill* as we might be called upon to open a Family Assistance Center should there ever be a local event with a high number of deaths.

We shared information on the importance of preparedness with food service establishments reminding them that events such as water main breaks or power interruptions are likely to occur and disrupt their ability to operate. We emphasized the philosophy that NDDH is a community partner contributing to their business success. We encouraged healthy menu options with reduced salt, sugar, and fat and provided guidelines for using locally-sourced foods. These are not only healthy choices; they are choices that help support local business. We believe efforts to promote individual well-being are also important for our community's overall well-being. Establishments with delicious, safe and healthy foods are in a better position to attract visitors who contribute to our regional economic well-being!

We are dedicated to working collaboratively to keep northeast CT happy, healthy and safe!

*Susan Starkey, MPH MS RD*

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Director of Health



| <b>Environmental Services</b>                |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Subsurface Sewage Disposal</b>            |            |
| As-Built                                     | 32         |
| Plan Review, Commercial                      | 0          |
| B100   | 71         |
| Plan Review, Repair                          | 24         |
| Plan Review, Revised                         | 8          |
| Plan Review, New                             | 17         |
| Plan Review, Subdivision                     | 0          |
| Permit to Construct, Commercial              | 2          |
| Permit to Construct, New                     | 11         |
| Permit to Construct, Repair                  | 22         |
| Sieve Analysis                               | 5          |
| Soil Test, Additional                        | 11         |
| Soil Test, New                               | 21         |
| Soil Test, Repair                            | 21         |
| Tank or Sewer Line                           | 6          |
| Water Treatment Permit                       | 1          |
| Property Document Search                     | 222        |
| <b>Potable Water</b>                         |            |
| Well Permit                                  | 24         |
| Well Cap                                     | 21         |
| Other Water Services                         | 20         |
| <b>Food Service Sanitation</b>               |            |
| Restaurant Inspection                        | 42         |
| Restaurant Re-inspection                     | 3          |
| Restaurant Plan Review                       | 0          |
| Temporary Food Event                         | 170        |
| <b>Health Inspections</b>                    |            |
| Campground                                   | 5          |
| Daycare                                      | 3          |
| Group Home                                   | 0          |
| Hair Salon                                   | 4          |
| Hotel/Motel                                  | 2          |
| Medical                                      | 0          |
| Nail Salon                                   | 0          |
| Pool Inspection                              | 2          |
| <b>Complaints</b>                            |            |
| Animal or Animal Waste                       | 2          |
| Bed Bugs                                     | 0          |
| Food Service                                 | 1          |
| Garbage                                      | 3          |
| Heat/Water                                   | 0          |
| Housing                                      | 1          |
| Insects, Vermin (excluding Bed Bugs)         | 1          |
| Lead Complaint                               | 0          |
| Mold   | 1          |
| Odor   | 2          |
| Other  | 1          |
| Outdoor Wood Furnace/Smoke                   | 0          |
| Septic                                       | 1          |
| <b>Health Services</b>                       |            |
| High Blood Lead Level                        | 2          |
| Lead Poisoning- Home Services                | 0          |
| Rabies Prevention Services                   | 2          |
| Number of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies | 0          |
| <b>Total Environmental Services</b>          | <b>787</b> |

| <b>Reportable Communicable Disease (Calendar Year 2016)</b>   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Babesiosis  | 0         |
| Chlamydia   | 7         |
| Cryptosporidiosis   | 1         |
| Giardiasis  | 0         |
| Gonorrhea   | 1         |
| Group B Streptococcus   | 1         |
| Hepatitis C   | 1         |
| Influenza   | 21        |
| Legionellosis   | 0         |
| Listeriosis   | 0         |
| Lyme Disease  | 5         |
| Rotavirus   | 0         |
| Salmonellosis   | 0         |
| Shiga toxin producing organism  | 2         |
| <b>Total Reportable Communicable Disease</b>  | <b>39</b> |
| <b>NDDH Oral Health Screening &amp; Education Program</b>   |           |
| Total Seen:   | 171       |
| • Number with Caries  | 6         |
| • Number with Other Dental Care Needs   | 22        |
| <b>NDDH District-Wide Services</b>  |           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Health Education covering a broad range of topics that prevent illness, promote wellness and protect health</li> <li>• Qualified Food Operator &amp; Food Awareness Safety Training</li> <li>• Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response</li> <li>• Flu Immunizations</li> </ul>   |           |
| <b>Grants (Federal, State &amp; Private Funds)</b>  |           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CT Collaboration for Fall Prevention at Yale School of Medicine</b> to reduce falls and fall-related injuries among older adults by addressing the multi-factorial risk factors through outreach, education, personal empowerment and efforts to expand comprehensive health services</li> <li>• <b>CT Department of Public Health (DPH) Lead Poisoning Prevention &amp; Control Program</b> for lead poisoning surveillance, environmental investigation and case management</li> <li>• <b>CT DPH Per-Capita Allocation</b> for support of local and district departments of health</li> <li>• <b>CT DPH Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant</b> for environmental and policy strategies to decrease chronic disease</li> <li>• <b>CT DPH Putting on AIRS</b> an In-Home Asthma Trigger Assessment Program to decrease asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits</li> <li>• <b>Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region 4</b> for the Northeast CT Medical Reserve Corps to build voluntary medical and ancillary care capacity</li> <li>• <b>U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Prevention &amp; Control (CDC)</b> Bioterrorism Grant for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response</li> </ul> |           |