



# Northeast District Department of Health

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

## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, Fiscal Year 2021***



COVID-19 first appeared in December of 2019. By the summer of 2020, infections were common in northeast CT. The team at NDDH provided leadership and support to the community and we, in turn, were supported by many public health partners. We are fortunate to work in a state with a strong public health system—and a local community dedicated to working cooperatively to care for friends and neighbors.

NDDH helped schools prepare for re-opening and helped businesses understand and adhere to the Governor's Executive Orders and the state's Department of Economic and Community Development's Rules such as social distancing and mask-wearing. We counseled individuals and businesses on isolation and quarantine requirements.

NDDH contact tracers reached out to people to talk about very challenging personal experiences. They were the helpful voices that provided information and assistance including referrals to social services. Throughout the year we promoted COVID-19 testing services.

In December 2020, NDDH became one of the first in the northeast to offer COVID-19 vaccinations. NDDH conducted training programs to ensure that health-care workers and other high priority groups received their vaccines in a timely fashion. As vaccine eligibility expanded, NDDH expanded its outreach and education efforts. We used new technologies including Zoom meetings for a train the trainer initiative to teach employers, municipalities, social service agencies, and others to help people schedule vaccination appointments. NDDH was among the first in the region to offer COVID-19 vaccines to children and worked with Day Kimball Healthcare to bring vaccination clinics to all district schools in record time. By May 2021, we focused on socially vulnerable and hard to reach audiences using Vaccine Equity Partnership Funds from the CT DPH. Our activities were aligned with our strategic plan—including website development, customer service, health informatics, and performance management. Consequently, we were working on strategic goals while combating COVID.

NDDH provided 464 doses of COVID vaccine to Putnam residents and held 13 COVID vaccination clinics in Putnam. We contacted 1,044 residents from Putnam for COVID case investigations.

Community partnerships and the outpouring of support of the community was integral to our efforts. We would not have been able to vaccinate so many without our Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. They provided endless hours of work and heaps of compassion and caring. (Anyone interested in becoming an MRC volunteer can learn more on our [NDDH.org](http://NDDH.org) website.) We received funding from the CT Office of Rural Health and Loos & Company, hand sanitizer from Walgreen's, and a vaccine freezer from Bousquet's Appliances. Interns from Eastern CT State University's Business Information Systems program helped us design a website to simplify the vaccination registration process. Day Kimball and Generations Healthcare agencies were excellent partners in providing vaccine, and Access Community Action Agency, the Family Resource Centers of Plainfield and Putnam, Hale YMCA, InterFaith Human Services of Putnam, Project PIN, Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizens Center Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging, TEEG, and United Services helped us to locate, educate, and vaccinate community members. **We thank you all and look forward to another year of successful programs to continue to make this a great and healthy community.**

*Susan Starkey, MPH MS RD*

Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD  
Director of Health



**NORTHEAST DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Public Health Activities for the Town of Putnam, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**



<b>Environmental Services</b>	
<b>Subsurface Sewage Disposal</b>	
As-Built	6
B100	6
Plan Review, Commercial	0
Plan Review, New	9
Plan Review, Repair	4
Plan Review, Revised	6
Plan Review, Subdivision	0
Permit to Construct, Commercial	0
Permit to Construct, New	6
Permit to Construct, Repair	3
Sieve Analysis	0
Soil Test, Additional	1
Soil Test, New	4
Soil Test, Repair	6
Tank or Sewer Line	1
Water Treatment Permit	0
Property Document Search	0
<b>Potable Water</b>	
Well Permit	9
Other Water Services	0
<b>Food Service Sanitation</b>	
Restaurant Inspection	11
Restaurant Re-inspection	5
Restaurant Plan Review	5
Temporary Food Event	3
<b>Health Inspections</b>	
Campground	0
Daycare	1
Group Home	0
Hair Salon	43
Hotel/Motel	1
Medical	0
Nail Salon	4
Pool Inspection	3
<b>Complaints</b>	
Animal or Animal Waste	1
Bed Bugs	3
Food Service	7
Garbage	12
Heat/Water	10
Housing	4
Insects, Vermin (excluding Bed Bugs)	4
Lead Complaint	1
Mold	2
Odor	0
Outdoor Wood Furnace/Smoke	0
Septic	1
COVID-19 Related	47
<b>Health Services</b>	
Lead Poisoning Prevention	0
Rabies Prevention	0
Number of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	0
<b>Total Environmental Services</b>	<b>229</b>

<b>Reportable Communicable Disease (Calendar Year 2020)</b>	
Babesiosis	1
Giardiasis	1
Chlamydia	n/a
Gonorrhea	n/a
Group B Streptococcus	1
Hepatitis B	0
Hepatitis C	6
Influenza	73
Legionellosis	2
Listeriosis	0
Lyme Disease	1
Rotavirus	0
Salmonellosis	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	2
<b>Total Reportable Communicable Disease</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>NDDH Oral Health Screening &amp; Education Program</b>	
Total Seen:	n/a
• Number with Caries	n/a
• Number with Other Dental Care Needs	n/a
*Due to COVID-19 no Putnam students were screened	
<b>NDDH District-Wide Services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response</li> <li>• Community Health Education covering a broad range of topics to prevent illness, promote wellness and protect health</li> <li>• Radon Awareness and Test Kits-for free home testing for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer</li> <li>• Flu Immunizations</li> </ul>	
<b>Grants (Federal, State &amp; Private Funds)</b>	
<p><b>CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Per-Capita Allocation</b> for support of municipal and district departments of health</p> <p><b>CT DPH and U.S. Centers for Disease Control &amp; Prevention (CDC) Chronic Disease Prevention</b> using environmental and policy strategies to increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p><b>CT DPH Freedom from Smoking</b>-tobacco cessation, multi session classes and nicotine replacement</p> <p><b>CT DPH/CDC for Public Health Emergency Preparedness</b></p> <p><b>CT DPH to build a Medical Reserve Corps</b> of volunteers to respond to events of public health concern</p> <p><b>CT Office of Rural Health with HRSA funding</b> to teach people to register online for COVID vaccine</p>	
<b>COVID-Related Grants:</b>	
<p><b>CT DPH Vaccine Program/CDC</b> – For support and staff to conduct COVID-19 vaccinations</p> <p><b>CT DPH/CDC – Epidemiology and Laboratory capacity</b> for detection, response, surveillance, and prevention of COVID-19</p> <p><b>CT COVID-19 Crisis Relief</b> to enhance response including education, personal protective supplies, and equipment</p> <p><b>CT DPH Vaccine Equity Partnership Funding</b> to locate, educate and vaccinate vulnerable populations against COVID-19</p> <p><b>Generations Family Health Center/HRSA</b> – Subcontracted with NDDH to develop COVID-19 messaging campaigns (Norm the COVID-19 Community Watchdog &amp; Mask it Up music video)</p>	