

Clinton County Health Department

2019 Annual Report



Environmental
Health &
Safety Division



March 2020



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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1. Administrative / Executive Overview

The Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Division uses science, risk management, education, and enforcement to monitor and control environmental factors that may cause illness and injury in Clinton County. The function and operation of the EHS Division is directly guided by Federal, State, and County regulations including the Clinton County and New York State Sanitary Codes.

The overarching mission, operation, and work schedule of the EHS Division is primarily based on a yearly cycle of permitted and regulated facility inspections for 24 different programs. These programs are funded through County and grant funding. In addition to the more than 660 facility operations that were inspected by EHS Division staff during the year, the EHS Division also investigates animal bites, nuisance complaints, reviews realty subdivision plans, sewage treatment system design projects, and, through the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) staff, assists residents in the safety improvement of their dwelling.

The EHS Division had significant staff turnover in 2019 (i.e., 2 retirements, 2 resignations). Even with staff turnover and training new staff, the EHS Division met the Program Objectives and Quality Indicators stated for 2019.

2. EHS Division Program Objectives and Quality Indicators

The EHS Division Program Objectives and Quality Indicators are described below:

Program Objectives - In accordance with the New York State and Clinton County Sanitary Code, the EHS Division implements and maintains authority over the following specific environmental programs:

- Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act
- Agricultural Fairgrounds
- Bathing Beaches
- Campgrounds
- Children's Camps
- Clean Indoor Air Act
- Cooling Towers
- Engineering Reviews
- Epizootic Disease
- Food Service Establishments
- Individual Sewage Treatment Systems
- Lead
- Mass Gatherings
- Migrant Labor Camps
- Mobile Home Parks
- Nuisance Complaints
- Public Functions
- Public Water Systems
- Rabies
- Realty Subdivisions
- Swimming Pools
- Tanning Facilities
- Temporary Residences

2019 EHS Division Quality Objectives and Indicators - Year End Report

1. Food Service Establishments (FSEs)

- a. Complete 100% first and second inspection for all high risk FSEs annually. One inspection was completed for 86 of the 87 high risk FSEs in 2019 (99%). One facility closed before an inspection could be performed. A second inspection or HACCP was completed for 83 of 87 high risk facilities (95%).
- b. Complete 100% inspection of all medium-risk FSEs annually (includes 24 mobile FSEs). At least one inspection was completed for 242 of the 258 medium risk FSEs in 2019 (94%). Sixteen (16) of the medium risk FSEs closed before an inspection could be completed.

2. Seasonal Facility Inspections

- a. Bathing Facilities - Public Swimming Pools and Beaches: Complete 100% of all pool and beach inspections; 57 inspections were completed for the 57 permitted bathing facilities (100%) by August 30, 2019 (outdoor pools) or by Dec. 31, 2019 (indoor pools).
- b. Campgrounds and Temporary Residences: Complete 100% of permitted Campground and Temporary Residences inspections; 23 of 23 permitted Campgrounds (100%) and 32 of 32 permitted Temporary Residence facilities (100%) were inspected in 2019.
- c. Children's Camps: Complete a pre-operational and routine inspection for each of the 7 children's camps annually. Pre-operational and operational inspections were completed for 7 of 7 permitted Children's Campground facilities (100%) in 2019.
- d. Migrant Labor Camps: Complete a pre-operational and routine inspection for each of the 14 migrant labor camps annually. Pre-operational and operational inspections were completed for 14 of 14 permitted Migrant Labor Camp facilities (100%) in 2019.

3. Nuisance Complaint Investigations and Response: Investigate and resolve all nuisance complaints within 1 to 3 months of office receipt. In 2019, 61 (74%) of all Nuisance Complaints (82 received during the year) were investigated, resolved, and/or closed within 1 to 3 months. Some nuisance complaints involve other jurisdictions or entities and/or require more complex and costly measures to rectify, thus requiring a longer

period of time to evaluate, remedy, and closeout. Anonymous complaints are not accepted by the EHS Division.

4. **Rabies Program (Bite or Bat Incident) Investigations:** Investigate all animal bite or bat in home incidents within 1 to 3 business days of report receipt date and resolve in 10 to 11 days from first report. In 2019, all Rabies Program incidents, including 190 animal bite reports and 92 non-bite reports received (282 total) were investigated within 1 business day of report receipt date, and were resolved within 10 to 12 days from first report. Fifty-four (54) persons were authorized for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in 2019.
5. **Respond to and coordinate investigation and response with local, State and Federal officials to public health emergencies/incident response and investigations.** The EHS Division responded to two (2) mercury spills in 2019 that were located in either a regulated facility or public area. As part of the response, the EHS Division reviewed the spills and impact to the public. As a result of both spills, the EHS Division worked closely with the New York State Department of Health to ensure the spills were contained.
6. **As part of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, provide preventative health and safety measures to 240 to 400 residences in targeted County areas with a high rate of documented unmet environmental health needs.** The HNP did meet the objective. A total of 268 health and safety assessments were completed this grant year. In September 2019, HNP submitted a Request for Application (RFA) to fund the program for the next 5 years (2020-2024).
7. **Complete All Public Water System Sanitary Surveys,** as outlined in the DWEP Work Plan (Water Year: April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019). The April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 DWEP Work Plan is on track to meet the program objectives. As of December 31, 2019, EHS Division staff had completed 93 of 123 required public water system inspections for the 2019-2020 grant year (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020).

3. Program Highlights

A. Tobacco Compliance Programs

The Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA), as listed in New York State Public Health Law, Article 13-F (Regulation of Tobacco Products - Distribution to Minors), was established in 1997. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has provided grant funding to NYS Counties annually to allow Local Health Departments to administer the regulations and minimize potential adolescent tobacco use. Staff completes regular inspections of the tobacco vending facilities to help ensure that these facilities do not sell tobacco products to minors. In addition to the ATUPA program, the EHS Division also manages the Clean Indoor Air Act regulations on a complaint received basis.

2019 Program Highlights

- New York State raised the age to purchase tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 on November 13, 2019.
- New York State issued a directive to conduct minor checks at all vape shops in 2019.
- Two (2) complaints were received regarding Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) Violations in 2019.
- There were four (4) illegal sales of tobacco products to underage youth (ATUPA Aides) in 2019.



Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Operators	108	104	104	100
- EHS Staff Only Check	128	82	134	33
- EHS Staff and Minor Check	227	102	109	100
- Re-Inspections	48	48	19	16
Number of Enforcements	3	2	3	4
Clean Indoor Air Act	2015	2016	2018	2019
- Complaints Investigated	0	0	0	2

Analysis of Program

- The ATUPA program met the program objectives for 2019.

2020 Plan

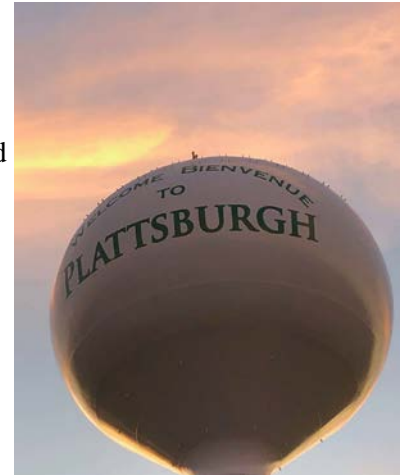
- EHS Division ATUPA staff plan to continue program efforts to prevent the sale of tobacco products to youth under the age of 21.
- In 2020, the EHS Division plans to launch an Online Vendor Training to allow vendors to more easily access a training program.
- The EHS Division plans to use ATUPA Aides between the ages of 18 and 20 in 2020.

B. Public Water Program

The EHS Division Water Program is implemented in accordance with Part 5 of the New York State Sanitary Code and Article 8 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code. The NYSDOH provides Drinking Water Enhancement Program (DWEP) funding to NYS Counties annually to allow Local Health Departments to accommodate the regulations, including the monitoring and oversight of community and non-community public water systems within the County.

2019 Program Highlights

- As part of the Water Program in 2018-2019 (ending on March 31, 2019), the EHS Division monitored the results of operation, maintenance, and water quality testing for approximately 200 public water systems.
- Two (2) Enforcement Office Conferences and related meetings were held in 2019 to address facility violations associated with inadequate water sample testing and/or proper system operation.
- EHS completed water system design plan reviews for fourteen (14) projects, including the following: Schuylar Falls Tank Upgrades, Town of Plattsburgh Tank Upgrades, Beekmantown Water District, and Plattsburgh City Water District Staffing Change.
- The EHS Division was awarded \$1,000 from the Clinton County Soil & Water District and \$1,000 from the Clinton County Water Quality Coordinating Committee to provide well sampling for private residences in the Great Chazy Watershed. In 2019, 76 samples were collected and analyzed. Of the 76 samples, 27 samples (36%) were total coliform positive, while one (1) sample was *E. coli* positive. The Clinton County Soil & Water District has awarded the EHS Division with \$2,000 to continue this program in 2020.



Shown above is the recently renovated Town of Plattsburgh water storage tank.

Water System Inspections	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Community (MHPs, Apartments, Municipal)	42	34	60	38
Non-Community (FSE, Schools, Campgrounds)	89	85	81	76

Analysis of Program

- The 2019-2020 Water Program is on track to meet or exceed the work plan for water system inspections targets (work plan end date is March 31, 2020).
- The EHS Division continued ongoing efforts and correspondence with the road salt contamination of private water supply wells in the Town of Beekmantown and the Town of Saranac (Moffitsville Hamlet). The Town of Beekmantown has begun construction on a new water treatment system that will serve potable water to the affected residents. The project is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2020.

2020 Plan

- In the 2019-2020 DWEP, EHS Water Program staff intends to continue to provide Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) assistance to Water Operators from local Community Water Systems.
- EHS Division Water Program staff intends to provide assistance to local municipalities and certified water operators to offer continuing education during the upcoming year.

C. Individual Sewage Treatment Systems, Realty Subdivision Program, and Engineering Reviews

The EHS Division implements the Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS) Program in accordance with Appendix 75-A (Wastewater Treatment Standard- Individual Household Systems) of the State Sanitary Code and Article 9 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code. As part of this program, the EHS Division completes intake, review, and approval of standard applications for residential/individual sewage treatment systems as well as sewage treatment systems for smaller industrial and commercial facilities/businesses with sewage discharge less than 1,000 gallons per day or CCHD permitted facilities up to 10,000 gallons per day. In addition, the EHS Division also completes intake, engineering review and approval for water system projects with infrastructure changes or additions in the following programs that are under the jurisdiction of the EHS Division: Food Service Establishments, Mobile Home Parks, Campgrounds, Children’s Camps, Swimming Pools, Beaches, Public Water Systems, Temporary Residences, and Realty Subdivisions.

2019 Program Highlights

- Sixty (60) plan reviews were completed in 2019 for new facility water treatment systems, facility and municipal water and wastewater treatment and distribution system upgrades, swimming pool upgrade projects, campground upgrades, food service establishment upgrades, and commercial or residential engineered sewage treatment systems.
- In 2019, Clinton County was not awarded with any additional funds from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) for the Septic System Replacement Grant. Based on conversations with State representatives, it appears additional funds may be received in 2020. If awarded funds, the EHS Division will continue public outreach to promote the program.



Shown above is an EHS Division inspected infiltration chamber absorption field.

The following report table lists the number of conventional and detailed engineering plan review approvals as completed for the following number of program facility types:

Engineering Plan Review Approvals	2016	2017	2018	2019
Conventional System Permit Applications Approved	189	147	123	134
Realty Subdivisions Approvals	3	3	3	1
Alternative Sewage System Plan Approvals	42	25	43	45
Water System Facilities	29	19	18	14

Analysis of Program

- During the year, the EHS Division continued to provide outreach, education, and assistance to facilities and homeowners requiring technical knowledge pertaining to new and replacement sewage treatment systems.

2020 Plan

- EHS Division staff plan to continue to provide outreach, education, and assistance to facilities and homeowners pertaining to new and replacement sewage treatment systems. By maximizing education to the public through sewage treatment system design reviews, the EHS Division is serving to maximize protection of drinking water supplies and nearby surface waterbodies from potential sewage system impacts.

D. Food Service Establishment Program

The EHS Division implements the Food Service Establishment (FSE) program in accordance with Sections 14-1, 14-2, and 14-4 of the State Sanitary Code and Article 11 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code. Owners and operators of FSEs, including mobile units and temporary food services, must operate their premises in such a way as to avoid public health hazards. As part of this program, the EHS Division staff complete inspections of food services as well as intake, review, and approval of plans for new or remodeled food services.

2019 Program Highlights

- The number of FSEs operating and permitted in Clinton County during 2019 was 472. During 2019, 22 new FSEs were opened in the County, while 18 FSEs ceased business operation.
- In 2019, the EHS Division completed the first and second inspections at 85 of the 86 high risk FSEs (99%). One (1) facility closed before an inspection could be conducted. The EHS Division also inspected 252 medium risk and 22 low risk FSEs in 2019.
- In 2019, EHS staff completed 56 inspections of temporary food service events in 2019. Staff generally inspects these recurring events every other year.
- In August 2019, the EHS Division provided a presentation on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Plans (HACCPs) at the 2019 Food Service Professional Academy for school food workers.
- In April 2019, the EHS Division provided a presentation on food safety, hot holding, and cooling to local restaurant workers. Approximately 40 people attended the event at the South Plattsburgh Volunteer Fire Department.



Shown above is a food worker wearing gloves while handling produce

Food Service Inspections	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
- Inspections	567	528	518	500	513
- Permitted Operations	537	491	480	469	472

Analysis of Program

- Two (2) formal Enforcement Office Conferences were conducted with FSEs in 2019. Each facility agreed to a Stipulation Agreement with conditions. Since only (2) FSEs proceeded to enforcement in 2019, it is apparent that the inspection work by EHS Division staff is effective in reducing and/or eliminating violations through education during inspections or seminars.

2020 Plan

- In 2020, the “*Guide to Obtaining a Food Service Permit and Application*” is planned to be reviewed and updated.
- During 2020, the EHS Division will plan to achieve 100% inspection for all high and medium risk Food Service Establishments. EHS staff will plan to complete a minimum of two (2) inspections for all high risk food service establishments (FSEs) and at least one inspection for all medium risk FSEs (including Mobile FSEs).
- The EHS Division is planning one or two food safety training seminars in 2020 for FSE operators.

E. Nuisance Complaint Program

Consistent with the Clinton County Sanitary Code Article 6 (Nuisance Complaints), the EHS Division also implements a Nuisance Complaint Program, which includes the intake, review, and investigation of nuisance complaints. Complaints most often involve failing septic systems, unsatisfactory conditions at facilities under CCHD jurisdiction, illegal waste disposal issues, and/or food-service establishment issues.

2019 Program Highlights

- In 2019, the EHS received and investigated a total of 72 nuisance complaints. Most nuisance complaints were resolved within 1 to 3 months. Some nuisance complaints involve other jurisdictions or entities and/or require more complex and costly measures to rectify, thus requiring a longer period of time to evaluate, plan, remedy, and closeout.

Nuisance Complaints					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Complaints Investigated	82	92	73	82	72

Analysis of Program and Plan

- In general, the types of complaints received by the EHS Division has remained historically consistent; with sewage, trash/garbage, and water quality related issues being the most common types of complaints received.
- The EHS Division has developed a new electronic database to track complaints. This new system, along with electronic saving of all related documents, has allowed the EHS Division to ensure the complaint is addressed in a timely fashion.

2020 Plan

- The EHS Division intends to continue to maximize communication with other municipal departments and agencies, regarding nuisance complaints received by the EHS Division, in order to maximize complaint resolution turnaround.
- The CCHD is planning to hold a joint meeting with local Code Enforcement Officers (CEOs) in 2020 to discuss (in part) jurisdiction matters pertaining to Nuisance Complaints.



Shown above is a nuisance complaint with garbage and debris that was cleaned-up after the EHS Division investigation.

F. Mobile Home Park Program (MHP) and Temporary Residence (TR) Programs

The EHS Division works with Mobile Home Park (MHP) owners/operators to ensure that both their water and sanitation systems are in working order per the NYS Sanitary Code Subpart 17 and Clinton County Sanitary Code Article 13. Regular inspections of MHPs are performed by EHS Division staff to check the facilities water system, sewage disposal system, garbage disposal and fire safety. In accordance with NYS Sanitary Code Subpart 7-1 and Clinton County Sanitary Code Article 13, the EHS Division also works with Temporary Residence (e.g. Hotels and Motels) facility owner(s), the facility manager, and Local Building Code Officer(s) to insure that motel, hotel, and other temporary residence facilities are constructed and upgraded to the applicable Building and Fire Codes requirements at the time the facility was built.

2019 Program Highlights

- During the year, EHS Division staff regularly communicated with Department of Social Services and local Code Enforcement Officers in order to more quickly resolve public health issues (i.e., bed bug complaints) identified by residents at CCHD permitted Temporary Residence facilities.
- The EHS Division conducted enforcement against the Maken Motel in April and October 2019 as a result of non-compliance with Subpart 7-1. The Town of Plattsburgh conducted a separate inspection and enforcement action, which resulted in the temporary closure of multiple rooms at this facility.

Mobile Home Parks	2016	2017	2018	2019
- Inspections	37	42	40	38
- Permitted Operations	36	41	40	38
Temporary Residences	2016	2017	2018	2019
- Inspections	30	35	32	32
- Permitted Operations	30	32	32	31

Analysis of Program

- EHS Division staff completed inspections at all 38 Permitted Mobile Home Parks and 31 Permitted Temporary Residences during 2019.
- EHS Division staff continues to work with all mobile home parks and temporary residence owners and operators to achieve reasonable compliance with applicable State and County Sanitary Code standards.

2020 Plan

- In 2020, EHS Division staff plan to continue routine correspondence with Department of Social Services and local Code Enforcement Officers regarding the results of temporary residence inspections, facility issues, and habitability status for the vulnerable homeless population.

G. Tanning Facilities

The EHS Division implements the Tanning Facilities program in accordance with Subpart 72-1 of the State Sanitary Code, Public Health Law, Article 35-A, and Article 24 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code (revised 2019). The purpose of these regulations is to protect the public from health hazards associated with unsafe sanitary conditions and unsafe exposure to ultraviolet tanning devices. Owners and operators of tanning facilities are required to provide users information and notification (i.e., Warning Signage), proper tanning unit operation, and appropriate tracking of patron tanning schedules in order to avoid overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. As part of this program, the EHS Division completes inspections of tanning facilities as well as review and approval of plans for operation of new tanning facilities. In accordance with Subpart 72-1, tanning facilities are inspected every two years (minimum) or more frequently as determined relative to a complaint or injury.



Example of a CCHD regulated tanning bed

2019 Program Highlights

- The number of Tanning Facilities in Clinton County has decreased from 22 facilities in 2011 to 10 facilities in 2019.
- In 2015, the CCHD initiated permitting of tanning facilities on a two (2) year cycle as allowed in Subpart 72-1 (Tanning Facility) Code. Tanning facilities are required to be inspected biannually.

Tanning Facilities	2018	2019
- Inspections	8	5
- Permitted Operations	10	10

Analysis of Program

- In 2019, NYS amended Subpart 72-1 to require patrons be 18 years or older to use a tanning facility.
- In general, the tanning facility operators in Clinton County were observed to be knowledgeable regarding the Subpart 72-1 regulations and operate their facilities in compliance with the regulations.

2020 Plan

- EHS Division staff will offer informational training services to new or prospective tanning facility operators, as requested.
- The EHS Division intends to continue to permit, regulate, and inspect tanning facilities on a two-year cycle as allowed by the State Sanitary Code, Subpart 72-1.

H. Seasonal Programs (Agricultural Fairgrounds, Swimming Pools, Bathing Beaches, Campgrounds, Children’s Camps, and Migrant Labor Camps)

The EHS Division implements seasonal programs during the summer and fall months of each year, including: Campgrounds, Children’s Camps, Swimming Pools, Bathing Beaches, and Migrant Labor Camps. In addition, the EHS Division also regulates the Clinton County Fair (Agricultural Fairgrounds), in accordance with Subpart 7-5 (Agricultural Fairgrounds) of the NYS Sanitary Code and Article 17 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code.

The Swimming Pool Program and Bathing Beach Program are implemented in accordance with Subpart 6-1 and Subpart 6-2 of the NYS Sanitary Code, respectively, and Article 14 (Bathing Facilities) of the Clinton County Sanitary Code. The objective of these code sections is to ensure swimming and bathing facilities have the required safety provisions and sanitary infrastructure and operation, all focused to reduce the potential for bather injury, illness, and death.

During the summer seasons, the EHS Division manages the Campground Program in accordance with Subpart 7-3 of the NYS Sanitary Code and Article 19 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code, and the Children’s Camp Program, in accordance with Subpart 7-2 of the NYS Sanitary Code and Article 18 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code. The EHS Division works with the local campground owner/operators to ensure that both the water and sanitation systems are in working order.

The EHS Division manages the Migrant Labor Camp Program in accordance with Part 15 of the State Sanitary Code and Clinton County Sanitary Code, Article 15. Efforts for this program are primarily focused to ensure that migrant labor (residential) camps provide a safe and sanitary environment for their workers. In accordance with the State and County Sanitary Codes, at least one pre-operational inspection must be made prior the opening of each Children’s Camp or Migrant Labor Camp, and one routine inspection must be completed when the Children’s Camp or Migrant labor Camp is operating to ensure that the physical facilities are safe and that supervision (for Children’s Camps) is adequate during operation.

2019 Program Highlights

- During 2019, the EHS Division completed inspections of all campgrounds, swimming pools and bathing beaches that were permitted in Clinton County. During 2019, all children’s camps and migrant labor camps received a pre-operational and operational inspection.
- The EHS Division conducted enforcement against the Super 8 Motel in October 2019 for non-compliance with Subpart 6-1 (swimming pools). In accordance with final conclusions from the Board of Health, the pool was closed by the Board of Health for a minimum of four (4) months.

SEASONAL FACILITIES	2016	2017	2018	2019
Campground - Permitted Operators	24	23	23	24
Inspections Completed	26	23	23	24
Migrant Labor Camp - Permitted Operators	14	15	14	14
Operational Inspections Completed	16	16	14	14
Pool and Beach - Permitted Operators	56	57	57	58
Inspections Completed	56	60	57	60
Children’s Camps - Permitted Operators	7	7	7	7
Operational Inspections Completed	9	9	9	8

Analysis of Program and Plan

- In 2019, the EHS Division completed all required Seasonal Facility inspections.
- According to available data, no water-borne illnesses linked to these facilities were experienced in the County in 2019.

2020 Plan

- In 2020, EHS Division Program Supervisors will oversee the completion of both pre-operational and operational inspections required for Migrant Labor Camps and Children's Camps, as well as timely inspection of all beaches and pools.
- EHS management will also ensure that biennial review of pool and beach safety plans will be accomplished.
- In 2020, the EHS Division will be evaluating the need for a pool supervision training for pool operators.



Shown above is a typical spa

I. Rabies Prevention Program

In accordance with Public Health Law, Sections 2140-2145 and State Sanitary Code Part 2, the CCHD implements a Rabies Prevention Program to reduce the risk of rabies exposure to humans. Rabies is a deadly viral disease that affects the nervous system and is 100 percent fatal once symptoms develop. All mammals, including humans, are susceptible to rabies. Rabies is transmitted from the saliva of an infected animal, usually by a bite. In general, the Rabies Program includes the investigation of animal bite reports, testing animal specimens for rabies, providing pet vaccination clinics, and recommending rabies post exposure prophylaxis for exposed persons. Additionally, State Public Health Law requires all dogs, cats, and ferrets to be vaccinated against rabies by age 4 months. Pets must be at least 3 months old to receive their initial rabies vaccination and must receive a booster (1) year later, then at least every three years after for the rest of their life. Public Health Law also requires the CCHD to provide a pet vaccination clinic free to the public at least once every four (4) months.

2019 Program Highlights

- Seven (7) rabies clinics were held with a total of 1,375 domestic animals receiving free vaccinations. As part of each clinic, donations were accepted from the public and a total of \$3,343 was received in 2019.
- The US Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Service completed the regional oral rabies vaccination bait drop in August. Areas treated included the eastern and northern portions of Clinton County as part of the National Rabies Management Program. Baits were distributed in a grid pattern via airplane.

Rabies Prevention Statistics	2016	2017	2018	2019
Animal Bite Investigations	288	292	257	282
Non-Bite Investigations	58	69	63	92
People authorized for Post-Exposure Treatment	15	28	41	54
Total Vaccinations	1,534	1,340	1,523	1,375
Dogs	1,063	919	1,021	995
Cats	467	418	502	378
Ferrets	4	3	0	2
Specimens Tested For Rabies	93	126	105	120
Number Specimens Testing Positive	2	2	1	2

Animal Rabies Specimens Tested 2019				
Species	Negative	Non-Testable	Positive	TOTAL
Bat, Big Brown	17	3	2	22
Bat, Red	2	0	0	2
Bobcat	1	0	0	1
Cat	9	0	0	9
Cattle	2	0	0	2
Deer	1	0	0	1
Dog	13	0	0	13
Fox, Red	2	0	0	2
Coyote	19	0	0	19
Sheep	1	0	0	1
Goat	2	0	0	2
Pig	1	0	0	1
Raccoon	15	1	0	16
Skunk	29	0	0	29

Analysis of Program:

- The burden of human rabies disease in Clinton County was minimal in 2019, which is at least partly related to the effectiveness of the CCHD’s program to control rabies in the animal population and rapid follow-up on potential exposures.
- During each of the seven (7) clinics conducted in 2019, attendance by the public was overall consistent with previous years.

2020 Plan

- In 2020, the EHS Division will continue initiation of investigations within one (1) business day of receipt for animal bite reports submitted to the EHS Division as well as continue to work with Federal and State officials in all efforts to slow the spread of terrestrial animal rabies in Clinton County. In order to maximize rabies prevention in Clinton County, the CCHD will conduct a minimum of seven (7) rabies clinics during 2020.



Shown above is the rabies vaccination clinic in Ellenburg.

J. Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Monitoring Program

During 2001 through 2011, the CCHD implemented a Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Monitoring Program, which was ceased after the 2011 summer season due to low mosquito borne virus activity in the County and perceived minimal health risk. The Clinton County Mosquito Arbovirus Surveillance Program was reinitiated in 2016 by the CCHD with the majority of field and lab work completed by SUNY Plattsburgh Lake Champlain Research Institute (LCRI) from June 12, 2019 through September 4, 2019.

Gravid traps, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) miniature light traps, and resting boxes were used in the 2019 Mosquito Surveillance Program. Traps were operated and maintained at six (6) locations around the county, based on three criteria: 1) Even distribution of trapping sites according to the square mileage of the county; 2) High quality mosquito habitat; and 3) High human population densities nearby.



Example of a Centers for Disease Control gravid trap

During the 2019 mosquito surveillance season, mosquito traps were placed at Point Au Roche (State Park), Plattsburgh (SUNY Plattsburgh Field House), Plattsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Morrisonville (River Road), West Chazy (Spring on Recore Rd), and Champlain (Southwick Road).

The 2019 season collection yielded (73) mosquito pools that were submitted to NYSDOH Wadsworth Arbovirus Laboratory in Albany, NY. Zero (0) pools tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in 2019. Historically, Clinton County has had only one (1) human West Nile Virus positive case, back in 2002. The following table shows the trap dates, number of collected mosquito pools, and test results for each year of the program.

Summary of Annual Mosquito Borne Virus Surveillance & Monitoring Results

	# of Trap Dates	Trapping Season	Mosquito Pools	Positive Test Results
2001	52	July 9 - October 4	52	0
2002	62	May 29 - September 29	76	0
2003	42	June 25 - October 1	126	1*
2004	36	June 7 - September 14	175	1**
2005	32	June 15 - September 20	101	0
2006	33	June 3 - October 7	56	0
2007	53	May 31 - September 4	93	0
2008	53	June 2 - September 11	112	1***
2009	53	June 1 - October 9	147	0
2010	50	May 1 - September 20	117	0
2011	50	May 15 - October 1	96	0
2016	51	June 16 - September 17	52	0
2017	31	June 7 - September 21	93	6*
2018	25	June 7 - September 21	68	3*
2019	31	June 12 - September 4	73	0

* tested positive for West Nile Virus; ** tested positive for Jamestown Canyon virus

*** tested positive for CVV – Cache Valley Virus

The full report can be found at this link:

<http://www.clintonhealth.org/pdf%20files/2019CCWestNileVirusReport.pdf>

Analysis of Program:

- As expected, monitoring for the mosquito host for Zika, *Aedes aegypti*, resulted in no collections of this species in any year, suggesting the likelihood of locally acquired mosquito-borne Zika virus in Clinton County is non-existent at this time.
- The result of historic monitoring continues to indicate, with a relatively high degree of certainty, that the presence of mosquito vector borne viruses continues to be present but low in Clinton County.

2020 Plan

- In 2020, the EHS Division will plan to continue to implement the Mosquito Surveillance program, in order to continue surveillance for mosquito-borne viruses, including, West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Clinton County.

K. Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP)

Funded by a NYS grant, the CCHD has sponsored the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) continuously since its inception in 1985. HNP continues to work to enhance the health, safety, and environmental living conditions for Clinton County residents. The HNP focuses primarily on asthma, childhood lead poisoning, fire safety, indoor air quality, and injury prevention. The Healthy Neighborhoods Program is available to all residents of Clinton County. To participate in the program, a home visit is required in which HNP staff conduct a brief health and safety survey with the help of the resident. After completing the survey, HNP staff will educate and review the safety products that can be provided to the resident which can include smoke detector(s), carbon monoxide detector(s), fire extinguisher, various child safety items, general safety items (first aid kit, flashlight, etc.), as well as pillow and mattress covers for those diagnosed with asthma.

2019 Program Highlights

- During 2019, HNP continued to maintain a strong referral network system by collaborating with many programs and agencies through outreach events, including but not limited to health fairs and presentations. A significant portion of surveys completed during this grant year were referrals from programs and agencies throughout Clinton County, including CCHD, DSS, Farmers Market, Office of the Aging, JCEO and more. During the year, the HNP generated 603 referrals to other community agencies and organizations.
- HNP was able to obtain their goal of reaching 240 to 400 homes. A total of 268 health and safety assessments were completed this grant year. A total of 937 homes were contacted during 2019 through referrals, tabling events, and neighborhood (door to door) canvases.
- During the 2019 calendar year, the HNP distributed the following health and safety products to residents: smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and other health/safety prevention products including; batteries, nightlights, first aid kits, non-slip bath treads, flashlights, child safety products, radon kits, mold/mildew sealant, and asthma safety materials. During 2019, HNP also participated in local committees, including: “Action for Health,” “Safety Kids Committee,” and “Community Care Partners.”

Healthy Neighborhood Program (HNP)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
- Dwelling Units Contacted	1,415	1,393	1,292	945	937
- Initial Visits	498	486	439	367	227
- Revisits (90 – 180 day)	131	144	136	116	212
- Public Engagement: Flyers distributed, presentation attendance, door-to-door, mailed flyers	1,832	2,339	1,849	1,787	2,498

Analysis of Program

- Although program funds were limited in 2019, the HNP received contributions from the Town of Beekmantown (\$500), Town of Champlain (\$500), Foundation of CVPH (\$2,500), and products from the Keeseville Volunteer Fire Department. These contributions were used to purchase additional HNP supplies, which were provided to homes in the respective communities.

2020 Plan

- The HNP staff plan to implement increased networking between agencies in 2020. HNP staff will continue to communicate and coordinate their efforts with other CCHD Divisions and numerous other County Agencies, organizations, and affiliations to maximize their HNP assistance to the public.
- As an additional effort started in 2016, HNP staff plan to continue to provide education to residents regarding proper protection from mosquitos and methods to reduce mosquito breeding habitats on their property.



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Environmental Health & Safety Division Annual Report

2019

- In addition, HNP staff also plan to provide safety information and gun-locks to applicable residents in 2020 as an effort to increase gun safety in the home.

L. Public Health Emergency/Incident Response and Investigations

As part of standard multi-agency agreements and preparation, the EHS Division staff has been trained to respond to a variety of public health emergencies in the County along with its partners including, but not limited to, the CCHD Administration, the CCHD Health Care Services Division, CCHD Medical Reserve Corps, County Emergency Services, the NYSDOH, UVM Health Network-Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH), the City of Plattsburgh Fire Department, NYS Police, Clinton County Sheriff, Clinton County Department of Social Services, the American Red Cross, and local volunteer fire departments.

2019 Program Highlights

- Mercury Spills: The EHS Division responded to two (2) mercury spills in 2019 that were located in a regulated facility and public area. As part of the response, the EHS Division reviewed the spills and impact to the public. As a result of both spills, the EHS Division worked closely with the New York State Department of Health to ensure the spills were contained and subsequently remediated. In both instances, the spills were contained and a spill cleanup contractor was onsite to complete a thorough cleanup.
- Road-Salt Impacted Private Wells (Town of Beekmantown and Town of Saranac): The EHS Division involvement with the salt contaminated groundwater in the Town of Beekmantown and Town of Saranac continued in 2019. Both sources of groundwater contamination resulted from the historic storage of salt/sand mixtures at highway garages (i.e., Town and NYSDOT, respectively). In 2019, the Town of Beekmantown's Engineer continued to assess the scope of the contamination with additional sampling and provided a report of their findings to the EHS Division and NYSDEC. Additionally, the Engineer prepared design plans for to provide safe drinking water to the impacted homes. The Town of Beekmantown project did not obtain New York State funding in 2019. However, the Town still plans to complete their project by Summer 2020.

In the Hamlet of Moffitsville (Town of Saranac), the NYSDOT drilled a new water well for the Saranac Veterinary Clinic and one residential property. It appears that the preliminary well water testing results for the residential property indicated improved water quality. The EHS Division will continue to monitor both of these projects to ensure safe drinking water is being provided to the impacted homes.

Analysis of Program:

- Consistent with efforts provided and experience gained by EHS Division staff in response to previous emergency incidents, during 2019 EHS Division staff completed strong response and investigation efforts for the public health emergency incidents that occurred or continued during the year.
- During 2019, three (3) EHS Division staff received Incident Command System (ICS-400) and HSEEP training. The HSEEP training will help the CCHD prepare comprehensive and accurate After Action Reports (AARs).

2020 Plan

- During 2020, the EHS Division will continue to lead, participate, and/or assist in the response to public health emergencies and incidents.
- CCHD and EHS Division management will continue to provide opportunities for staff to be cross-trained and obtain relevant emergency response training (i.e., ICS, NIMS, etc.), including CCHD Drill training and participation in the CCHD isolation and quarantine (I&Q) training.

M. Cooling Towers

The EHS Division Cooling Towers Program is implemented in accordance with Part 4 of the New York State Sanitary Code and Article 25 of the Clinton County Sanitary Code. The program was initiated in 2018 with additional funds from the NYSDOH Drinking Water Enhancement Program (DWEP), which was provided to NYS Counties to allow Local Health Departments to accommodate the regulations, including the monitoring and oversight of cooling towers within the County.

2019 Program Highlights

- The EHS Division conducted monthly desktop reviews for (25) cooling towers owned by (11) different businesses in the County.

Cooling Tower Facilities	2018	2019
- Registered Towers	24	25

Analysis of Program:

- During the 2019 operating year, there were no significant non-compliance operations for any of the facility cooling towers.

2020 Plan

- Since this program is new and New York State may implement changes to the program, the EHS Division will continue to evaluate and provide feedback to NYSDOH representatives.



Shown above is an example of a regulated cooling tower

4. Division Presentations and Community Engagements

In 2019, EHS Division staff provided and/or participated in the following training, speaking events and/or engagement and interaction efforts with the public and community:

Public Outreach, Promotion and Education Events 2019		
Month	Program(s)	Event or Action
January	Healthy Neighborhoods	WIC tabling two times at OCH site.
February	Healthy Neighborhoods	WIC Peru and OCH Tabling (two times), Peru Community Meal, and Emergency Services Presentation
March	Rabies	Social media campaign to promote pet rabies vaccination clinic.
	Healthy Neighborhoods	Home Expo Tabling (2-day event), Baby and Me Expo, Earth Day at Farmer's Market, BHSN Kids Carnival, and presentations Saranac, Chazy, and Altona town meetings.
April	Healthy Neighborhoods	Educational materials provided at pet rabies vaccination clinic.
	Healthy Neighborhoods	WCAX interview on HNP with Kelly O'Brien, WIRY Interview, Tabling at Bike Block Party. Presentations at the Clinton, Black Brook, Mooers, and Beekmantown town meetings.
	Food Service Establishments	Three (3) EHS Division staff members provided a food safety seminar to approximately 40 food service establishment workers at the South Plattsburgh VFD.
May	Healthy Neighborhoods	Tabling at Relay for Life, Longest Day of Play, Plattsburgh City Hall Wellness Fair Park-A-Palooza and opening day of baseball in Peru. A presentation was conducted at the BHSN Family Corner.
June	Healthy Neighborhoods	Tabling at the Three Steeples United Methodist Church Health Fair.
July	Rabies	Social media campaign to promote pet rabies vaccination clinic. Additionally, EHS Division issued a Press Release regarding a confirmed rabid bat in the Town of Mooers.
	Healthy Neighborhoods	Tabling at the Big Latch On Event, WIC Old Courthouse and Champlain,
August	Food Service Establishments	EHS Division Principal Sanitarian provided a presentation on food safety at the 2019 Food Service Professional Academy for school food workers held at the Clinton County Community Services Building auditorium.
	Rabies	The EHS Division issued a Press Release reiterating the importance of capturing bats that are found in homes.
	Healthy Neighborhoods	Educational materials provided at pet rabies vaccination clinic. Tabling at WIC OCH and Champlain, NACS Fall Festival, SPARCC Live Well-Be Well Event, Peru, Champlain, and Black Brook Rabies Vaccination Clinics. Presentations conducted at school nurses presentation, and Home Bureau.
September	Healthy Neighborhoods	Educational materials provided at four (4) pet rabies vaccination clinics.
	Healthy Neighborhoods	Presentation at BHSN and Roderick Senior Housing in Morrisonville.
October	Rabies	Social media campaign to promote pet rabies vaccination clinic.
December	Healthy Neighborhoods	Educational materials provided at pet rabies vaccination clinic.
	Healthy Neighborhoods	City of Plattsburgh Rabies Vaccination Clinic Tabling

5. Focus for 2020: Environmental Health & Safety Division

The EHS Division will complete program facility inspections, and also assist local governments, community groups, businesses, and the general public to ensure public health and safety. During 2020, the EHS Division will maintain and improve where possible the quality of service in all of our programs, including responsive engineering reviews, provide guidance/education to the public, and maintain optimum inspection frequency for all programs.

In 2020, EHS Division staff will continue to work on the following objectives:

1. **Improve communication with Code Enforcement Officers:** Since the EHS Division and local Code Enforcement Officers (CEOs) have overlapping jurisdictions for certain programs; increased communication would be very beneficial for both parties. To help assist with this objective in 2020, the EHS Division has preliminarily scheduled a meeting on June 10, 2020 with local Code Enforcement Officers to discuss program work and jurisdiction.
2. **Maintain Community Engagement with Environmental Health & Safety Problems and Issues:** As a continued objective, EHS staff plans to provide:
 - An ATUPA Vendor Compliance Online Training Course for local Tobacco Vending Facilities
 - A Water Operator Training Course for local Water Operators
 - At least one Food Safety Training Course for local restaurant operators.
3. **Electronic Files:** In 2018, the EHS Division started to utilize electronic file saving, including digitizing old records. This objective increases staff efficiency for locating files, while also providing a more responsive service to the public. In recent years, a file search through hard copy records could take a significant amount of time, while digitizing documents, such as septic system permits, allows the EHS Division to provide a record to the public almost immediately. The utilization of electronic records, including digitizing records, will continue in 2020.
4. **Septic System Replacement Grant:** Based on the Round 2 funding announcement and program specifics (expected in 2020), the EHS Division plans to continue this program (previously started in 2018) in 2020.
5. **Individual Well Sampling Program:** Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District awarded the CCHD \$2,000 to continue this program in 2020. The EHS Division is planning to issue social media posts to outline program specifics to the public.
6. **Utilization of ArcGIS:** In 2018, the EHS Division obtained two (2) licenses for ArcGIS from the Clinton County Planning offices. The EHS Division started utilizing this program to gather information regarding specific areas of the County and to map specific EHS Division data (i.e., well sampling locations and results). The EHS Division is planning to continue utilizing this program and creating a visual database for all collected data, including but not limited to, approved septic systems, permitted facilities, and well sampling data.



6. Division Contacts

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List of Acronyms

ATUPA – Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act
BWO – Boil Water Order
CART – Community Animal Response Team
CCHD – Clinton County Health Department
CCWQCC - Clinton County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
CDC – Centers for Disease Control
CIAA – Clean Indoor Air Act
CVPH – Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital
DWEP – Drinking Water Enhancement Program
EHIPS – Environmental Health Information Permit System
EHS – Environmental Health and Safety
FSE – Food Service Establishment
GPAWD – Greater Plattsburgh Area Water District
HNP – Healthy Neighborhoods Program
ISTS – Individual Sewage Treatment System
MHP – Mobile Home Park
NYSACHO – NYS Association of County Health Officials
NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOH – New York State Department of Health
NYSDOT – New York State Department of Transportation
NYSEFC – New York State Environmental Facility Corporation
OCH – Old (County) Courthouse
PAC – Professional Advisory Committee
PFC – Perfluorinated Chemicals
TAC – Technical Advisory Committee
TC – Total Coliform (bacteria)
TR – Temporary Residence
WNV – West Nile Virus