

# 2023 Annual Report



### The Contractual Health Agency serving...

Bernards Township
Bernardsville Borough
Chester Borough
Long Hill Township
Mendham Borough
Peapack & Gladstone Borough

# 2023 PEAPACK & GLADSTONE BOROUGH ANNUAL REPORT TABLE OF CONTENTS

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### A Letter from the Health Officer:

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

I am pleased to share the Bernards Township Health Department's **2023 Annual Report** with our communities. The work we do in Public Health is challenging, complex, and ever-changing with a constant responsibility of protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities. It is my hope that these pages will capture the essence of the work performed by our talented staff. We are grateful to our community partners and to all residents of Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Peapack and Gladstone Borough (Somerset County) and Chester Borough, Mendham Borough, and Long Hill Township (Morris County). Our goal is to provide the best public health services and protect the health of the residents we serve.

This past year has been full of grant applications, and we are reaping the rewards from our diligent work. The Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity program, COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding program, and the Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure program have provided greater capacity in terms of staffing, national accreditation, outbreak preparedness, response capacity and more. Our department also received a statefunded Project Firstline Grant that was intended to educate community partners in infection control and prevention. In addition, we received the first installment of the Opioid settlement money geared towards youth services, substance misuse and mental health. Other grant programs include radon testing and the City Dashboard, which showcases local data intended to advance health equity. These funds have streamlined our ability to provide effective prevention programs.

All environmental services were in full gear with many lead cases that needed immediate attention and follow-up. The environmental staff completed all inspections of over 425 food establishments and other inspections outlined in this report. Health Education also provided an array of fabulous nutrition, heart-healthy and chronic disease programs. It has been a great year with an excellent team of fine professionals.

We are happy to share the exciting work we are doing. It has been a balancing act of leaving the large volume of COVID-19 work behind while embracing the many public health needs of our communities. In December, we renewed all five (5) Interlocal Public Health Services contracts for an additional three years and contracted with a new Public Health Visiting Nursing services agency, Community VNA in Somerville.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart and with great joy that I formally write to inform you of my retirement. After 41 wonderful years with the Bernards Township Health Department, I have decided to begin a new adventure in my life. My last day will be March 31, 2024. I loved my life's work and had the pleasure of working with so many talented people throughout the years. I've had the privilege of living in Bernards Township and raising two wonderful young men. This was truly my dream job. I was afforded the opportunities to excel and have many incredible experiences.

Every day was a new day serving our communities, helping so many people while learning so much. Who would have thought that the last few years of my career would have been the ultimate experience, "a global pandemic". I am proud of the fine work my department and I accomplished for all six (6) municipalities within our jurisdiction.

I am grateful for the 41 years of public service and feel honored to have served Bernards Township and the five contracting municipalities. I will look fondly on the support and kindness I received from the Board of Health members and especially Dr. John Salaki, BOH President, Bernards Township Committee, administration, and coworkers.

Best, in gratitude,

Ly a. Ingione

Lucy A. Forgione, MS, HO, MCHES – Health Officer/Director of Health/Registrar of Vital Statistics Health Educator/Youth Services Coordinator



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide competent, professional, and efficient public health and environmental services to the residents of our community. Through the delivery of the state-mandated "Chapter 52: Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in NJ" and the ordinances and policies of the Board of Health, we promote the public's health by using health education, disease prevention, environmental enforcement, and inspection activities.

2023 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS					
John Salaki, MD	President				
Karen Ellis	Vice President				
Pat Crane	Member				
Kelly Brown, DVM	Member				
Matthew Majewski	Member				
Dr. Shilpa Clott	Member				
Jennifer Asay	Township Committee Liaison				
Paula J. DeBona, Esq.	Board Attorney				

2023 HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF				
Lucy A. Forgione	Health Officer/Director of Health/Registrar of Vital Statistics/Health Educator/Youth Services Coordinator			
Tricia Cowell	Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist			
Nancy Dowd	Registered Environmental Health Specialist			
Sybil Rainey	P/T Registered Environmental Health Specialist			
Jaclyn Handwerger	Registered Environmental Health Specialist/COVID-19 Generalist			
Deirdre Vogel	Administrative Assistant/Deputy Board of Health Secretary, Registrar			
Margaret Keegan (started 1/23)	Administrative Associate/Alternate Deputy Registrar			
Michelle Santoro	Animal Control Officer/ Humane Law Enforcement Officer			
Kate Ferratti, Jody Austin- Dominguez, Katie Morales Patricia Segal	Assistant Animal Control Officers			
Kaitlin Cartoccio	Health Educator/Community Program Coordinator/ Municipal Alliance Grant Coordinator			
Andrea Huber (started 5/23)	Health Educator/Youth Services Assistant, Marketing & Communications Coordinator			
Riya Patel	Local Health Outreach Coordinator/Grant Manager			
Maria Novoa Besteiro (left 7/23)	Public Health Nurse			
Robyn Postighone (started 12/27)	Public Health Nurse			



## 2023 CONTRACTUAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

2023 Bernardsville Borough Board of Health				
Leonard Friedman, DMD	President			
Angela Calzetta	Regular Member			
James Sasso	Regular Member			
Brian Wallace, DC	Regular Member			
<b>Lennie Ambelang</b>	Regular Member			
Rhonda Simoff	Regular Member			
Francine Dello Russo	Regular Member & Recording Secretary			
Al Riberio	Council Liaison			

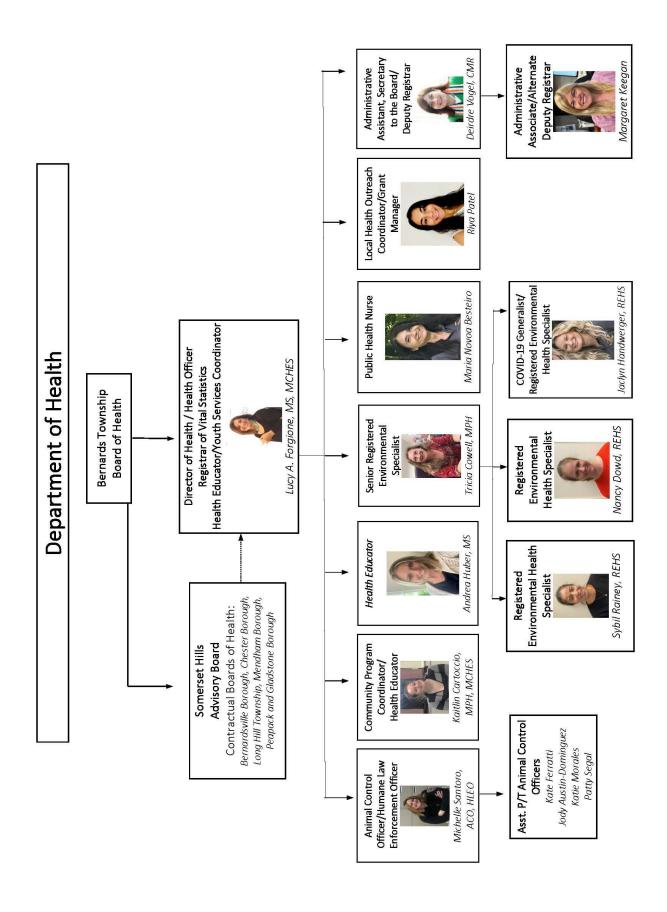
2023 Long Hill Township Board of Health			
Matthew Dorsi President			
Scott Lavender	Regular Member		
Guy Piserchia	Regular Member		
Brendan Rae	Regular Member		
Victor Verlezza	Regular Member		
Megan Phillips	BOH Secretary		

2023 Peapack & Gladstone Borough Board of Health			
Jill Weible President			
Mark Corigliano Regular Member			
Amy Dietrich Regular Member			
Donald Lemma Regular Member			
Jamie Murphy Regular Member			
Eric L. Quartello Regular Member			
John Sweeney Regular Member			
Nancy Bretzger BOH Secretary			

2023 Chester Borough Board of Health			
Eileen Callaghan-Manning President			
Elisa Stelwagon-Buckley Vice President			
Eileen Carey Brown Regular Memb			
Mary Beth Infante Regular Membe			
Thomas Germinario, Esq BOH Attorney			
Dena Dziergoski	BOH Secretary		

2023 Mendham Borough Board of Health			
Marilyn Althoff, MD President			
John Nosta	Vice President		
Laura Gill	Regular Member		
Laura Montenegro	Regular Member		
Ted Rostiac	Regular Member		
Melissa Young	Alternate -1		
Ed Brooks	Alternate - 2		
Lauren McBride	BOH Secretary		







## **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

PEAPACK & GLADSTONE BOROUGH		
<u>PLAN REVIEWS</u>	<u>Number</u>	
Septic System plans (new, alterations, repairs, abandonment)	5	
Soil log inspections for septic systems suitability (new, alterations, subdivisions)	2	
Septic "As-Built" Plan Review	2	
Other Plan Reviews (Board of Adjustment-additions, pool locations, site-plans, variance)	2	
Client/Professional Meetings	1	
<u>INSPECTIONS</u>	<u>Number</u>	
ABC License Checks	0	
Cross-Connections	4	
Kennel/Pet Shop	0	
Lead (Pb) Inspections for children at risk	Monthly	
CDRSS lead investigations and case follow-up	0	
Public Health Complaints with follow-ups/re-checks	2	
Rabies Control; Dog/Cat bite investigations; testing of wild animals in contact with humans or wild animals and follow-ups	3	
Radon Kits	1	
Recreational Bathing	3	
Retail Food Establishments: Chapter 24 (includes plan reviews, pre-opening, semi-annual, follow-up, re-inspections)	39	



INSPECTIONS	Number	
Retail Food Establishment Temporary- # Events/ # Vendors	0	
Septic Inspections including new, alterations, repairs, & abandonment	26	
Well Inspections (includes installations of casing, pitless adaptors, well abandonments, PWTA reports)	3	
Youth Camps	0	

- Manage statistics for monthly Health Officer's Report
- Participate in *Local Emergency Planning Committee* (LEPC)
- Manage system for issuing permits for soil logs, septic system, construction, and wells.
- Manage Food Establishment licensing system.
- Inquiries: OPRA requests regarding location; type of septic system; well water questions; inspection reports for realty transfers
- Rabies quarantine follow-up





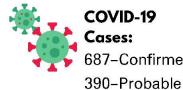
	<u>Rabies Control</u>			
Rabies Control	Rabies Clinic January 14, 2023 November 11, 2023	138 Dogs, 35 Cats-Total 1173 146 Dogs, 51 Cats-Total 197 (10 Dogs, 1 Cats from PG)		
	10-day quarantine Bats found in homes and tested	N/A N/A		
	Dogs and Cats in contact with Wildlife: 45-day quarantine	N/A		
	Wildlife/Domestic Exposure Rabies Testing: Negative Result	N/A		



## Public Health in Action



COVID-19 Vaccinations: 179



COVID-19 Cases: 687-Confirmed



**COVID-19 Testing** & Vaccine Clinics: 37



Homebound COVID-19 Vaccinations: 20



Flu Shots **Administered:** 



Communicable **Disease Reports:** 738-Confirmed 505-Probable



**Cancer Screening** Services:



Septic Inspections:



**Food Service** Inspections: 427



Recreational **Bathing** Inspections:



11

**Health Education Programs:** 



Rabies Control/ **Animal Bite** Investigations: 48



**Radon Tests** Distributed: 68



**Zufall Health Clinic Visits:** 

24

### **HEALTH MATTERS E-NEWSLETTER**

### **LINKS TO HEALTH MATTERS ISSUES**

- **January 2023**
- <u>February 2023</u>
- March 2023
- April 2023
- May 2023
- <u>Iune 2023</u>
- <u>July 2023</u>
- August 2023
- September 2023
- October 2023
- November 2023
- December 2023

### January 2023



### February 2023





March 2023 April 2023





### May 2023



### **June 2023**





### <u>Iuly 2023</u>



### August 2023



### September 2023



### October 2023





### **November 2023**

### December 2023







## COMMUNICABLE/CHRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

### **ZUFALL HEALTH-2023 REPORT**

## Sexually Transmitted Illness (STI) SCREENING AND TREATMENT SERVICES

STI TYPE	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED D		NUMBER OF CLIENTS DIAGNOSED AND TREATED		NUMBER OF PREVENTIVELY TREATED CONTACTS	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
SYPHILLIS	0	3	0	0	0	0
GONORRHEA	1	3	0	0	0	0
CHLAMYDIA	1	3	0	0	0	0
PID	0	0	0	0	0	0
HERPES	0	0	0	0	0	0
HPV/VW	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRICHOMONIASIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MONILIASIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUBIC LICE/SCABIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
UTI	2	1	0	0	0	0
HIV	0	5	0	0	0	0
TOTAL NUMBER	4	15	0	0	0	0

PREGNANCY TESTS 2023				
Number of Pregnancy Tests Number of Positive				
Performed	Pregnancy Tests			
2	0			



CANCER SCREENING SERVICES 2023				
SCREENING TYPE	NUMBER SCREENED			
BREAST EXAMS (ages 15-34)	0			
BREAST EXAMS (age 35-64)	0			
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 15-34)	0			
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 35-64)	0			
COLORECTAL EXAMS (ages >40)	6			
PROSTATE EXAMS (ages > 50)	0			
TOTAL NUMBER OF SCREENINGS	6			

<sup>\*</sup>All clients who are screened for STIs and cancer are also provided with health education.

SCREENING TYPE	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTOR	22
DIABETES	2

ZUFALL HEALTH TOTAL PATIENTS	TOTAL VISITS
24	24



2023 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS (P = Probable Case)							
Disease	BT	BV	СВ	LH	MB	PG	TOTAL 2023
P = Probable Case							
Amoebiasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Babesiosis	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
Botulism - Infant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	2 5P	0 2P	0	0 1P	0 2P	0	2 10P
Chikungunya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COVID-19	385 184P	76 23P	39 19P	105 41P	45 98P	37 25P	687 390P
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasma Phagocytophilum (Previously HGE)	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Erlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Erlichia Chaffeensis (Previously HME)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Haemophilus Influenzae	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - Acute	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Hepatitis B - Chronic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - Acute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - Chronic	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Influenza, Human Isolates – Type A H3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza, Human Isolates - Type A H1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Disease	BT	BV	СВ	LH	MB	PG	TOTAL 2023
Influenza, Human Isolates Type 2009 H1N1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates - Type A (Subtyping not done)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates, Type A H3 (Subtyping not done)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates Type B (Subtyping not done)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legionellosis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	1 40P	0 19P	2 6P	7 8P	0 12P	0 19P	9 104P
Meningococcal Disease (Neisseria Meningitidis)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis - Non-Typhoid	5	1	1	1	1	2	11
Shiga Toxin Producing E. Coli (STEC-NON 0157-H7)	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Shigellosis- NON 0157:H7	0 1P	0	0	0	0	0	0 1P
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Streptococcus Pyogenes (GAS) Without Toxic Shock Syndrome	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varicella	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vibrio Infection (Other than V Cholera SPP)	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
West Nile Virus (WNV)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	409 230P	83 44P	43 25P	117 50P	47 110P	40 44P	738 505P



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATION HOURS Atlantic Health Visiting Nurses Association (VNA)					
Town	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>	Per Town
	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	
Bernards Township	7	10	0	0	17
Bernardsville Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Chester Borough	0	1	0	6	7
Long Hill Township	2	0	4	0	6
Mendham Borough	2	1	0	0	3
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	2	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	13	12	4	6	35

SENIOR CITIZEN HOME VISITS					
TOWN	Number of Visits	Hours			
Bernards Township	6	9			
Bernardsville Borough	0	0			
Chester Borough	0	0			
Long Hill Township	3	4.5			
Mendham Borough	0	0			
Peapack and Gladstone Borough 1 1.5					
TOTAL HOME VISITS FOR 2023 10 15					
*These numbers reflect only COVID-19/Flu vaccinations given to the homebound					



SENIOR CITIZEN HEALTH MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATION					
2023	New Patients	Return Patients	TOTAL Patients	Hours	
Bernards Township/ Bernardsville Borough	17	249	266	31	
Chester Borough	7	67	74	20	
Long Hill Township	6	80	86	24.5	
Mendham Borough	3	22	25	8	
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	2	34	36	8.75	
TOTAL	35	452	487	92.25	

SCHOOL AUDITS						
State-mandated imr	State-mandated immunization program school audits completed.					
Town	# Schools Audited	Hours				
Bernards Township	24	120				
Bernardsville Borough	7	32				
Chester Borough	1	5				
Long Hill Township	8	40				
Mendham Borough	2	10				
Peapack and Gladstone	1	5				
Borough TOTAL	43	212				



2023 CLINICS AND SCREENINGS - NON COVID-19					
Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators		
Skin Cancer Screening	July 25 <sup>th</sup>	32	Dr. Elizabeth Quigley		
	Oct 11 <sup>th</sup> St James Church	75			
Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics	Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> Garabrant Center	5	Atlantic Health Visiting Nurses		
Seasonal Tru Shot Chines	Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> PG Mun Gym	17	Association		
	Oct 26 <sup>th</sup> B'Ville Library	17			
	Homebound Visits	5			

2023 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS					
Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators		
The Doctor is In: Women and Stroke	February 9, 2023	17	Dr. Boccia Liang		
Staying Young at Heart	February 16, 2023	16	Elisa England RD, Ellen Petrosino RD - Nourish and Thrive Nutrition Center		
Building a Healthy Kitchen: with Elisa England RD and Ellen Petrosino RD	April 27, 2023	18	Elisa England RD, Ellen Petrosino RD - Nourish and Thrive Nutrition Center		
Health & Safety Days - Day 1	July 14, 2023	100	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel		
Healthy Eats, Happy Kids	July 17, 2023	13	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel		
Health & Safety Days - Day 2	July 21, 2023	100	Andrea Huber, Jaclyn Handwerger		
Health & Safety Days - Day 3	July 21, 2023	100	Andrea/Jackie		
MyPlate	August 9, 2023	32	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel		
Eat Smart to Play Hard	August 10, 2023	15	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel		



Back to School Nutrition	September 12, 2023	17	Elisa England, Ellen Petrosino
Calci-Yum	October 8, 2023	9	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel
Know Your Breasts: Early Detection is Key	October 11, 2023	5	Dr. Linda Aboody – Memorial Sloan Kettering
Holiday Healthier	November 2, 2023	7	Elisa England RD, Ellen Petrosino RD - Nourish and Thrive Nutrition Center

### **RISK COMMUNICATION & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

- Utilized the RAVE Alert system to send out emergency health updates.
- Updated all emergency rosters and databases for six (6) towns.
- Updated Bernards Township Health Department Call Roster for After Hours and Weekend Emergencies.
- Continued to update BT Health Department Social Service Resource pages as needed.
- Continued to update information sheets for communications/shelters for six (6) towns.





# COVID-19 MANAGEMENT & MITIGATION MONTH BY MONTH

\*occurred every month

### **January**

- The Local Health Outreach Coordinator (LHOC) continued to work to identify the vulnerable populations in our jurisdictions and identify gaps to help address the needs of COVID-19 positive and exposed persons:
  - Coordinated homebound vaccinations for individuals who are bedridden and/or disabled
  - Continued to catalog a list of available resources to help vulnerable populations access critical resources such as social services, mental health services, and general healthcare. Also included access to resources like food banks, mental health services, visiting nurses, telehealth solutions, and other community programs
  - Prioritized COVID-19 response initiatives such as weekly COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics
  - Regularly monitored COVID-19 related data received through testing and contact tracing
  - Worked with other local health department LHOCs in NJ to create collaborative opportunities and resources through monthly meetings
  - Collaborated with local faith-based organizations to implement COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics in underserved communities, as well as preventative health initiatives

#### Vaccination Efforts

- Vaccine clinics were conducted throughout January at Saint James Church.
- The Health Department offered Pediatric Pfizer (5-11) Bivalent Boosters, Pfizer Bivalent Boosters for 12+ and Moderna Bivalent Boosters for 18+.
- Staff responsibilities for vaccination clinics were continuously discussed as vaccine supply and demand change.
- Clinic supplies have been assessed and prepared to ensure we can continue vaccination efforts. The Public Health Nurse ordered supplies and maintained inventory.
- Contacted volunteers as needed according to skills and vaccine demand. We have utilized licensed medical professional volunteers, as well as Spanish-speaking volunteers.



	<ul> <li>Received vaccine allocations as requested for Pfizer and Moderna bivalent boosters.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Monitored COVID daily reporting at local long-term care facilities. Acting as a liaison between the state and facilities as needed.</li> <li>Weekly COVID-19 NJ Office of Local Public Health calls and</li> </ul>
	distribution of new info to staff.
	<ul> <li>Stayed up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination process in New Jersey via weekly State-led vaccinator calls.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Followed up on contact tracing in CDRSS conducted by staff. Statistics compiled on COVID-19 infections.</li> </ul>
<u>February</u>	<ul> <li>Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&amp;J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations.</li> </ul>
March	<ul> <li>Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&amp;J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations. Additionally, 1 homebound vaccination was conducted by the Public Health Nurse, as well as 1 Pfizer Bivalent vaccination at St. Bernards Church in Bernardsville, NJ.</li> </ul>
<u>April</u>	<ul> <li>Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&amp;J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations.</li> </ul>
<u>May</u>	<ul> <li>Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&amp;J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations. Additionally, 8 homebound vaccinations were conducted by the Public Health Nurse.</li> </ul>
<u>June</u>	<ul> <li>Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations.</li> </ul>
<u>July</u>	No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of July.
August	No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of October.
September	No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of September.
<u>October</u>	<ul> <li>Flu clinics were held to decrease the incidence of respiratory illness in the Bernards Township area.</li> <li>No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of October.</li> </ul>
November	No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of November.
December	The Public Health Nurse provided homebound COVID-19 vaccinations, solely offering Moderna for adults.



# The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Office of Local Public Health's (OLPH) Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program

- The Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program is a non-competitive grant funding opportunity offered to all eligible non-LINCS Agency local health departments (LHDs) to boost public health capacity during the COVID-19 response. Bernards Township Health Department was awarded \$274,735 for the project period 7/1/2022 6/30/2023, as well as an additional \$495,411 for the project period 7/1/2023 6/30/2024.
- Funding categories include:
  - **a). Outbreak Preparedness (OP)** to strengthen outbreak preparedness/response capacity by reimbursing eligible COVID-19 and other infectious disease-related expenses **\$21,606** (2022-2023), **\$30,008** (2023-2024)
  - **b).** Local Health Outreach Coordinator (LHOC) to hire full-time personnel to assess, mitigate, and respond to populations disproportionately affected by the social and health impacts of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases \$123,529 (2022-2023), \$183,822 (2023-2024)
  - **c). Infectious Disease Preparedness Generalist (IDPG)** to hire full-time personnel to assist with outreach to populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, POD planning, logistics, testing, and contact tracing, etc. **\$129,600** (2022-2023), **\$192,216** (2023-2024)
  - **d). Public Health Accreditation (ACC)** to strengthen public health infrastructure and transform governmental public health by supporting LHDs seeking voluntary national public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). **\$89,365** (2023-2024)

#### LHOC Deliverables:

- Managed all program activities and finances of state-funded grants to comply with NJDOH requirements.
- Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
- Assisted the Chief Financial Officer in creating quarterly budget reports for state-funded grants.
- Communicated with faith-based organizations to provide healthcare resources for underserved populations, specifically those with limited to no health insurance.



- Coordinated a homebound, vaccination program to allow bedridden and disabled community residents to access COVID-19/flu vaccines in their homes.
- Organized monthly meetings with other LHOCs to collaborate and discuss best practices to help serve at-risk populations in local communities.
- Worked closely with the NJDOH Program to manage state-funded grants.
- Maintained a vulnerable populations email distribution list to disseminate pertinent information to community partners regarding COVID-19 prevention, vaccination, testing, contact tracing, and social support messaging.
- Participated in monthly/quarterly meetings with local stakeholders including faith-based organizations, state/county health departments, LINCS Social Support Coordinators, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
- Provided testing and vaccination statistics to the County LINCS agency through weekly surveys.
- Utilized the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) to track and manage grant-related activities.
- Distributed COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits to local organizations including but not limited to libraries, senior living facilities, long-term care facilities, assisted-living facilities, daycares, schools, and faith-based organizations.
- Re-applied for additional funding from the Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity grant.

#### IDPG Deliverables:

- Assisted the LHOC with coordination of COVID-19 vaccine and testing clinics.
- Assisted in the operation of weekly COVID-19 vaccine clinics sponsored by the Health Department until 06/2023.
- Assisted LTCs, Assisted Living, and schools with COVID-19 and other Communicable Disease Outbreaks.
- Assisted with vaccine delivery and refrigerator monitoring.
- Assisted the LHOC and Public Health Nurse with coordinating a homebound, vaccination program to allow bedridden and disabled community residents to access COVID-19 vaccines in their homes.
- Created signage for COVID-19 clinics in each of the 6 communities.
- Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
- Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
- Assisted COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit distribution to local organizations including but not limited to libraries, senior living facilities, long-term care



- facilities, assisted-living facilities, daycares, schools, and faith-based organizations
- Provided tickborne disease educational material to the community through the Health Department website, social media, and rabies clinics.
- Posted tickborne awareness signs at local parks and distributed tick removal cards to the community.

# The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Office of Local Public Health's (OLPH) COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program

- Grant period: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024
- The COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program is a non-competitive grant funding opportunity offered to county and local health departments (LHDs) to support COVID-19 and other adult vaccination efforts among populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.
- This program provides funding to LHDs to integrate COVID-19 vaccination and education into existing LHD programs, continue to implement mobile/off-site COVID-19 vaccinations, and partner with trusted faith or community-based organizations to conduct vaccine educational outreach sessions to increase vaccine confidence in racial and ethnic minority groups.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of \$120,000 to hire a
  Public Health Nurse to expand vaccination efforts and fund any vaccine-related
  purchases.

### • Project Deliverables:

- Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
- Participated in weekly evening and weekend vaccination clinics.
- Worked with underserved populations and faith-based organizations to encourage vaccine uptake.
- Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
- Vaccinated individuals aged 5 years and older at weekly/monthly vaccination clinics.
- Vaccinated homebound and disabled individuals.
- Maintained inventory of clinical supplies necessary for vaccine clinics.
- Partnered, planned, and implemented vaccination and other health-related screening activities with critical organizations including churches and FQHCs.
- Partnered with trusted faith-based organizations to conduct educational sessions among racial and ethnic minority groups.



• Integrated COVID-19 vaccination and education into existing local health department programs.

## New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials' (NJACCHO) Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant

- Grant period: 10/1/2022-6/30/2024
- The Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant offers funding to Local Health Departments to achieve a variety of programmatic goals to create long-term infrastructure improvements, while planning for health equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Bernards Township Health Department uses these funds to strengthen
  organizational capacity to drive progress on public health priorities and increase
  capacity across the department.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of \$632,102 for the project period 10/1/2022 6/30/2024.
- Project Deliverables:
- Strengthen organizational capacity to drive progress on public health priorities and increase capacity across the local health department.
- Create new hire positions to support grant-specific goals and initiatives.





## 2023 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT **COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS**

JANUARY		
Clinic Date Daily Total		
1/10	14	
1/17	14	
1/26	25	
1/31	6	
January Monthly Total	59	

FEBRUARY		
Clinic Date Daily Total		
2/7	3	
2/28	6	
February Monthly Total		

MARCH		
Clinic Date Daily Total		
3/7	5	
3/14	7	
3/28	5	
3/30	1	
March Monthly Total	18	

APRIL			
Clinic Date Daily Total			
4/4	2		
4/25	13		
April Monthly Total	15		

MAY		
Clinic Date Daily Tota		
5/2	4	
5/9	10	
5/18	3	
5/23	26	
5/25	3	
5/30	10	
May Monthly Total	56	

JUNE		
Clinic Date	Daily Total	
6/6	5	
6/13	2	
6/20	2	
6/27	3	
June Monthly Total	12	

TOTAL COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN 2023: 179

(including homebound vaccine doses)



# 2023 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

JANUARY	Total	#	%
	Tested	Positive	Positive
1/5	3	1	33%
1/12	5	0	0%
1/19	4	0	0%
1/26	5	1	20%
Total	17	2	12%

**TOTAL COVID-19 TESTS ADMINISTERED IN 2023:** 63

FEBRUARY	Total	#	%
	Tested	Positive	Positive
2/2	11	1	9%
2/9	4	0	0%
2/16	7	1	14%
2/23	5	1	20%
Total	27	3	11%

MARCH	Total	#	%
	Tested	Positive	Positive
3/2	4	1	25%
3/9	2	0	0%
3/16	4	0	0%
3/23	4	1	0%
3/20	2	0	0%
Total	16	2	12.5%

APRIL	Total	#	%
	Tested	Positive	Positive
4/6	3	0	0%
4/13	0	0	0%
4/20	0	0	0%
4/27	0	0	0%
Total	3	0	0%



# 2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS:

### Kaitlin V. Cartoccio, MPH, MCHES, DRCC:

- Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) #19897
- Bernards Municipal Alliance
- Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC)
- Community in Crisis
- Safe Communities Coalition
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): Bernards Township
- Masters Public Health (MPH) Rutgers University
- National Society for Public Health Educators (SOPHE)
- New Jersey SOPHE member and President Elect (2023)
- Rutgers Center For Executive Leadership In Government
- Dale Carnegie "Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading" 2022
- Dale Carnegie Certificate "High Impact Presentations" 2023
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### Tricia Cowell, Senior REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist License #B-102153
- Health Officer License #A-102153
- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #5256
- Awarded Mini Master of Public Administration through Rutgers Center for Executive Leadership in Government
- Master Public Health (MPH), Southern New Hampshire University
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): Bernardsville Borough, Long Hill Township, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough
- Bernardsville Borough and Chester Borough Boards of Health
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Notary Public
- Dale Carnegie "Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading" 2023
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified





# 2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

### Nancy Dowd, REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-102051
- Pest Control License
- Mendham Borough Board of Health
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### Jaclyn Handwerger, REHS

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-173974
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Servsafe Food Protection Manager
- OSHA 10- Hour General Industry Safety and Health
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



- Health Educator/Public Health Nutritionist
- Masters Nutrition and Food Science Montclair State
- Didactic Program in Dietetics Montclair State
- Dietetic Internship Iowa State
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- New Jersey SOPHE member
- OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Safety and Health
- Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### **Margaret Keegan**

- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #2531
- Registrars' Association of New Jersey
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### Maria Novoa Besteiro, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse





# 2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

### Riya Patel

- Local Health Outreach Coordinator/Grant Manager
- Bachelor of Science in Public Health The College of New Jersey
- NJACCHO Chronic Disease Workgroup Member
- New Jersey SOPHE Member
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified
- Dale Carnegie "Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading" 2023
- Dale Carnegie "Strictly Business Immersion" 2023
- Dale Carnegie "High Impact Presentations" 2023

### Robyn Postighone, RN, MPA, MBA

- Just Culture Safety Culture Certified Trainer
- NJDOH/APIC Infectious Disease Certification
- Institute of Health (IHI) Open School: Model for Improvement, PDSA Cycles, Interpreting Data, Leading Quality Improvement, System-Wide Changes, Reliable Healthy Systems
- Lean Six Sigma Belt Certification

### Sybil Rainey, REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-102197
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### Michelle Santoro, ACO, Humane Officer:

- Biology, Bachelor of Science
- Certified Animal Control Officer
- Humane Law Enforcement Officer
- FEMA Animals in Disaster IS-00010 & IS-00012
- FEMA Livestock in Disaster IS-00111.a
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### Deirdre Vogel, CMR, RMC:

- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #3534
- Registered Municipal Clerks Certification (RMC) # C-1555
- Bernards Township Board of Health Secretary
- Registrars' Association of New Jersey
- Notary Public
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified





# 2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

### Lucy A. Forgione, MS, MCHES

- Licensed NJ Health Officer #A-482
- Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) #492
- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #1432
- Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse
- Community in Crisis
- NJ Association of County & City Health Officials (NJACCHO) Communicable Disease Committee, Program Committee
- William Paterson University Alumni School of Public Health Education Spotlight Fall 2021
- Healthier Somerset 2021 Award for Outstanding Community Service during COVID-19
- Greater Somerset Public Health Partnership, Member and Treasurer
- Somerset County Health Officers Association, Treasurer 2005-Present
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): All contractual towns
- Morris County Public Health Partnership
- Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition 2010-Present
- North Jersey Health Collaborative
- Registrars' Association of New Jersey
- Somerset County Human Services Advisory Council Member 2006 Present
- Dale Carnegie "Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading" 2022
- Dale Carnegie "High Impact Presentations" 2023
- New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials Board of Directors & Executive Committee 2022-2024
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



