



2024 Annual Report



The Contractual Health Agency serving...

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

2024 CHESTER BOROUGH ANNUAL REPORT

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A Letter from the Health Officer

Dear Residents, Colleagues, and Partners,

I am pleased to share the Bernards Township Health Department's **2024 Annual Report** with our communities. Since joining the Health Department in July, it has been an honor and privilege to lead a team of dedicated professionals who consistently strive to provide the best public health services to our nearly 50,000 residents spanning six communities. The past year included many transitions both internally and among our partner agencies. Throughout it all we have remained adaptable and dedicated to continued strategic planning and quality improvement.

Our strong relationships with local organizations, healthcare providers, and community leaders have been instrumental in amplifying our reach and impact. Together we have launched numerous health campaigns, educational programs, and outreach efforts to foster a culture of health and wellness. 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). Special thanks to the Community Visiting Nurse Association for quickly and graciously stepping in at the start of 2024 to ensure that residents, especially our elderly and homebound, had no interruption in services while public health nursing contracts were in transition.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce new marketing and outreach strategies in the coming year to 'meet people where they are.' The fast-paced daily news cycle and rapidly evolving technology make it more important than ever to quickly and effectively deliver credible health information to address emerging health challenges. We will continue to rely on the most up-to-date local public health data to guide decisions for our programs, screenings, and clinics, ensuring that we respond to the specific needs of our community with precision and impact.

Public health workers were in the spotlight during the pandemic, but much of our essential ongoing work can remain invisible. When disease, injury, or death are prevented by a food safety inspection, a swimming pool safety check, a water quality test, or a community vaccination clinic, these prevention success stories ensure the safety of you, your family, and neighbors. A sustainable public health infrastructure remains an ongoing concern nationwide and in New Jersey, which ranks 40th in the nation for public health funding. It's important to recognize that every dollar invested in public health can yield up to \$88 in improved health outcomes, demonstrating that prevention is not only cost-effective but also essential in reducing long-term healthcare costs and improving overall community well-being.

We have been fortunate to have been awarded continued grant funding during 2024 from the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO). This funding will continue through 2025 allowing us to strengthen our outbreak preparedness and emergency response capacities, assure robust workforce development, and align our programs with the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) model. The FPHS was developed to represent a minimum package of public health services to set a foundation for what is needed everywhere for public health to function anywhere.

We are grateful to have received these grant awards but remain concerned about the long-term consequences of an inconsistent funding model in New Jersey. We encourage residents and partners to visit the NJACCHO website to learn more.

I invite you to review our annual report in detail and encourage you to continue to engage with us as we work towards achieving our shared vision of a healthier, safer, and more vibrant community. We aim to build upon partnerships to continue offering high-quality and data-driven services to protect the health of all residents we serve.

Thank you for your trust, support, and commitment to public health.

Sincerely,

Dawn Marling

Dawn Marling, MPH, Health Officer



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.

2024 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

Honoring Dr. John Salaki’s 24 Years of Service



The Bernards Township Board of Health would like to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. John Salaki for his exceptional 24 years of volunteer service, including 11 years as President of the Board.

Dr. Salaki’s expertise in infectious disease proved crucial in his role leading the Board during the H1N1 and COVID-19 pandemics. His guidance and ability to explain complex public health issues have been invaluable. With a deep understanding of Bernards Township’s history, he has consistently made decisions with the community’s safety as the top priority. Throughout his time on the Board, Dr. Salaki remained steadfast in his commitment to its mission, and through numerous challenges, he has left a lasting, positive impact on both the Board and the community.

Recognizing the lasting influence Dr. Salaki has had on the community, the Board of Health, together with the Bernards Township Health Department, extends its heartfelt thanks and wishes him all the best in the future.



2024 HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Dawn Marling (started 7/8/24)	Health Officer
Tricia Cowell	Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Registrar
Nancy Dowd	Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Sybil Rainey	Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Jaclyn Handwerger	Registered Environmental Health Specialist/COVID-19 Generalist
Deirdre Vogel	Administrative Assistant, Board of Health Secretary, Deputy Registrar
Margaret Keegan	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	Health Educator/Youth Services Assistant, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Joanna Askey (started 9/23/24)	Grant Manager/Special Projects Coordinator
Patricia Pane (started 10/6/24)	Public Health Nurse

Lucy A. Forgione (joyfully retired on 3/31/24)	Health Officer/Director of Health/Registrar of Vital Statistics/Health Educator/Youth Services Coordinator
Riya Patel (left 4/30/24)	Local Health Outreach Coordinator/Grant Manager
Robyn Postighone (left 3/22/24)	Public Health Nurse



2024 CONTRACTUAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

2024 Bernardsville Borough Board of Health	
Leonard Friedman, DMD	President
Angela Calzetta	Regular Member
James Sasso	Regular Member
Brian Wallace, DC	Regular Member
Lennie Ambelang	Regular Member
Rhonda Simoff	Regular Member
Francine Dello Russo	Regular Member & Recording Secretary
Jena McCredie	Council Liaison

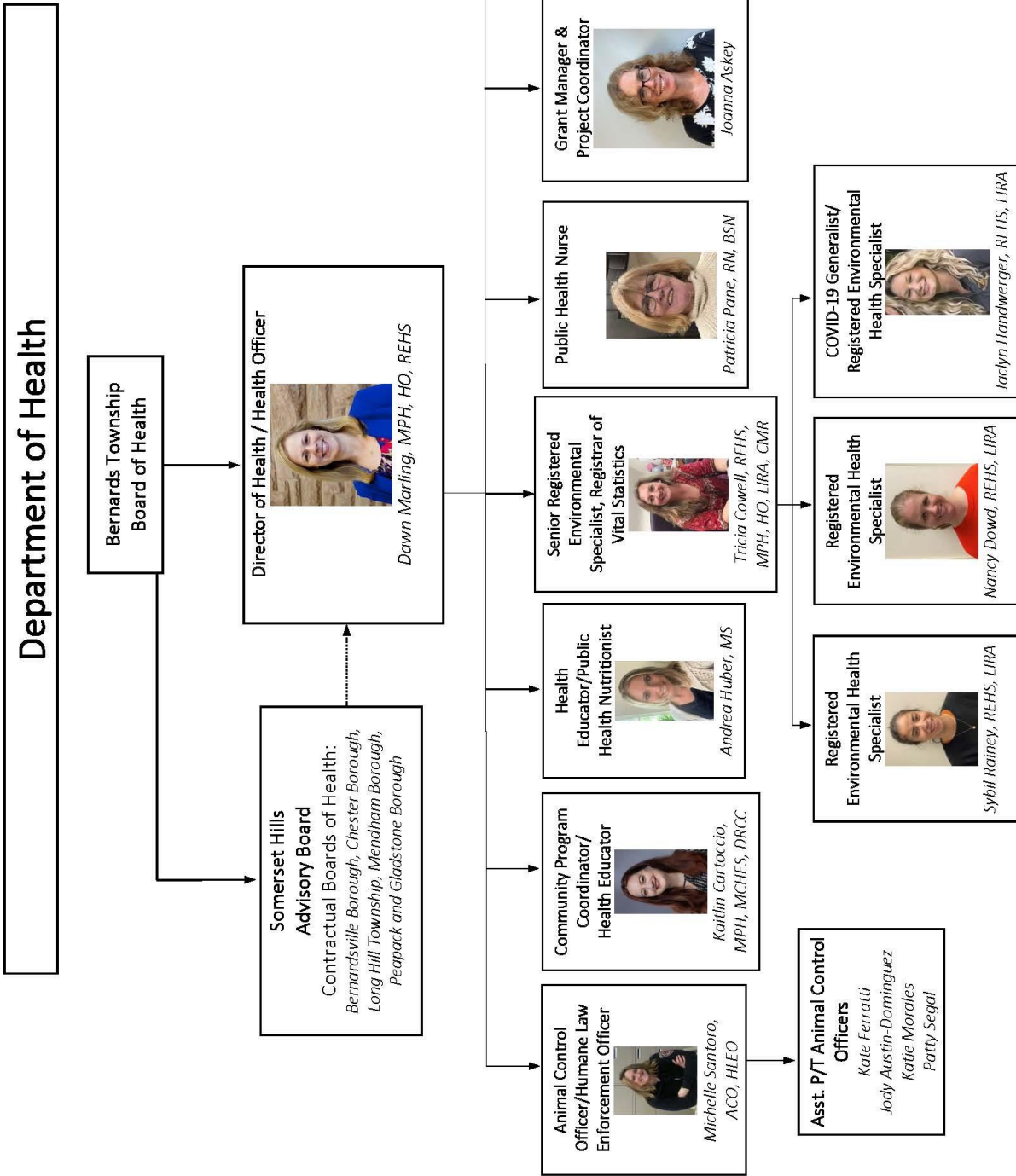
2024 Chester Borough Board of Health	
Eileen Callaghan-Manning	President
Elisa Stelwagon-Buckley	Vice President
Eileen Carey Brown	Regular Member
Mary Beth Infante	Regular Member
Patricia Hill	Regular Member
Thomas Germinario, Esq	BOH Attorney
Virginia Bordonaro	BOH Secretary
Deborah Johnston <i>(Nov '24 - current)</i>	BOH Secretary

2024 Long Hill Township Board of Health	
Matthew Dorsi	President
Scott Lavender	Regular Member
Guy Piserchia	Regular Member
Aubrey Reichard-Eline	Regular Member
Victor Verlezza	Regular Member
Megan Phillips	BOH Secretary

2024 Mendham Borough Board of Health	
Ed Brooks	President
John Nosta	Vice President
Dr. Marilyn Althoff	BOH Committee Chair
Laura Montenegro	Regular Member
Ted Rostiac	Regular Member
Ken Lordy	Alternate
Lauren McBride	BOH Secretary

2024 Peapack & Gladstone Borough Board of Health	
Jill Weible	President
Mark Corigliano	Mayor/Regular Member
Dr. Jamie Murphy	Regular Member
Eric L. Quartello	Regular Member
Sergio Silva	Regular Member
Julie Sueta	Regular Member
John Sweeney	Regular Member
Nancy Bretzger	BOH Secretary





BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER HEALTH -

CHESTER BOROUGH		
PLAN REVIEWS	CB	TOTAL Municipalities
Septic System plans (new, alterations, repairs, abandonment)	4	61
Septic "As-Built" Plan Review	0	34
Other Plan Reviews (Board of Adjustment – additions, pool locations, site-plans, variance)	1	17
INSPECTIONS	CB	TOTAL Municipalities
Kennel/Pet Shop	4	9
New cases of elevated blood lead (Pb)	0	1
CDRSS environmental lead investigations and case follow-up	0	23
Public Health Complaints with follow-ups/re-checks	19	99
Rabies Control; Dog/Cat bite investigations; testing of wild animals in contact with humans or wild animals and follow-ups	0	50
Recreational Bathing	3	59
Retail Food Establishments: Chapter 24 (includes plan reviews, pre-opening, semi-annual, follow-up, re-inspections)	76	415



INSPECTIONS	CB	TOTAL Municipalities
Temporary Retail Food Establishment - # Events/# Vendors	4 / 64	26 / 80
Soil log inspections for septic systems suitability (new, alterations, subdivisions)	2	37
Septic Inspections including new, alterations, repairs, and abandonment	13	370
Well Inspections (includes installations of casing, pitless adaptors, well abandonments, PWTA reports)	2	16
Massage and Body Art Facility Inspections and Plan Review	8	8
Youth Camps	0	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Board of Health Meetings. • Manage statistics for monthly Health Officer's Report. • Participated in client and professional meetings on an as-needed basis. • Inquiries: OPRA requests regarding location; type of septic system; well water questions; inspection reports for realty transfers. • Work directly with Chester Borough BOH secretary. • Rabies quarantine follow-up 		



	<u>Rabies Control</u>	
Rabies Control	Rabies Clinics January 13, 2024 November 9, 2024	146 Dogs, 51 Cats – 197 Total 77 Dogs, 17 Cats – 94 Total
	10-day quarantine	0
	Bats found in homes and tested	0
	Dogs and Cats in contact with Wildlife: 45-day quarantine	0
	Wildlife/Domestic Exposure Rabies Testing: Negative Result	0

ADOPTED THROUGH BERNARDS TWP ANIMAL CONTROL



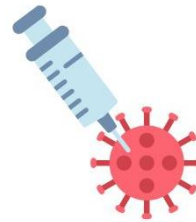
Public Health in Action

2024

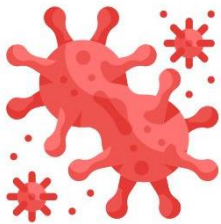


Homebound Covid-19 and Flu Vaccinations:

1 Covid, 3 Flu



Flu Vaccinations Administered: 100

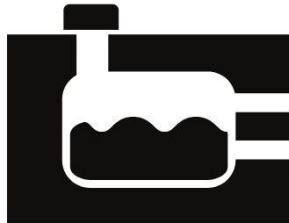


Communicable Disease Reports:

779 Confirmed,
524 Probable



Blood Pressure Screenings: 407



Septic Inspections: 370



Food Service Inspections: 415



Recreational Bathing Inspections: 59



Health Education Programs: 27



Total Zufall Clients: 19 Cancer Screenings: 4 Heart Disease Screenings: 10



Rabies Control/Animal Bite Investigations: 50



Mayor's Wellness Campaign - In 2023, Bernards Township was designated as a "Healthy Town Up and Coming" by the NJ Health Care Quality Institute. As a result of the collaborative efforts from Bernards Township Mayors Jennifer Asay (2024) and Janice Fields (2025), the Bernards Township Clerks Office, Bernards Township Human Resources, the Bernards Township Library, Bernards Township Parks and Recreation and the Bernards Township Health Department, Bernards Township was declared a "Healthy Town" for 2024.



2024 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators
Staying Young at Heart	02/22/24	19	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Norovirus Training	3/11/24	Matheny Medical Center Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Norovirus Training	3/12/24	Fellowship Village Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Norovirus Training	3/18/24	Holly Manor Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Norovirus Training	4/3/24	Holly Manor Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
QPR Suicide Prevention Training	4/3/24	2	Empower Somerset
Beyond Calories	4/4/24	13	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Norovirus Training	4/25/24	The Residence Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Infection Control Training	4/25/24	Arbor Terrace Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
The Bernards Township Municipal Alliance: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention	4/29/24	20 members of Boy Scout Troop 555	Kaitlin Cartoccio
Youth Mental Health First Aid	5/8/24	22	Empower Somerset, Community in Crisis
Mental Health First Aid	5/2/24	24	Empower Somerset, Community in Crisis



Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators
Sugar Shocker	6/12/24	20	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Sugar Shocker	6/26/24	25	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Health & Safety Days - Day 1	7/11/24	125	Andrea Huber and Anushka Pophali
Health & Safety Days - Day 2	7/18/24	150	Andrea Huber and Anushka Pophali
Healthy Eats, Happy Kids	7/22/24	3	Andrea Huber
Health & Safety Days - Day 3	7/26/24	125	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Food Allergies: Knowledge is Power	8/8/24	12	Andrea and Girl Scouts (Anjni Naik and Kaitlyn Steel)
Back to School: Nutrition for Busy Families	9/26/24	8	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Understanding Your Risk of Breast Cancer	10/17/24	5	Lynne Tamburrino, APN-Atlantic Health
QPR Suicide Prevention Training	10/17/24	2	Empower Somerset
Portion Control	11/12/24	8	Karen Connelly, RD, RWJUH
QPR Suicide Prevention Training	11/13/24	12	Empower Somerset
Sugar Savy	11/14/24	10	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Smart Parenting for Smart Kids	12/9/24	25	Dr. Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Community in Crisis
Sugar Savy	12/10/24	7	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive



HEALTH MATTERS E-NEWSLETTER

Month	Topics
<u>January 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Vegetarian Stuffed Mushrooms, BTHD Rabies Vaccine Clinics, Bernards Township Dog and Cat Licenses, National Radon Action Awareness Month, Staying Young At Heart, Screenagers: Next Chapter, Don't Invite Sickness to the Table
<u>February 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Kale Breakfast Scramble, 7 Strategies to Live a Heart Healthy Lifestyle, Grab N Go, Bernards Township Dog and Cat Licenses, Staying Young at Heart, Love Shouldn't Hurt, Cancer Thriving and Surviving, and GSCYMCA Program Info.
<u>March 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Healthier Take on a Shamrock Shake, National Nutrition Month, 34 Annual Twilight Challenge 5k, Adopt Ray, QPR Suicide Prevention Training, Colorectal Cancer Month, and What is Trauma Really Program Info
<u>April 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Mache, Beet and Orange Salad, DEA Rx Takeback Day, 34 Annual Twilight Challenge 5k, Get Cracking, Beyond Calories, Mental Health First Aid/Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, National Public Health Week and Congratulations to Lucy Forgione for Retiring After 41 years in Public Health.
<u>May 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Deviled Eggs, Become Mental Health First Aid Certified, Tick Check, Twilight Challenge 5k, Finding A Fawn, Skin Cancer Screening (Save The Date), Instagram Pages, and Morris County Health Needs Assessment.
<u>June 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Greek Potato Salad, Men's Health Awareness Month, "Think Smart Before Jumping In" Waterborne Illnesses, Pride Month – LGBTQ+ Health Resources, Morris County Health Needs Assessment, Somerset County RWJ Barnabas Community Survey, Social Media information and Skin Cancer Screening.
<u>July 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – 4 th of July Caprese Salad, Healthy Eats, Happy Kids, Protect Your Pets This Summer, Beat The Heat, H5N1: Bird Flu, Morris County Health Needs Assessment, Somerset County RWJ Barnabas Community Survey, Food Allergy Program, and Social Media information.
<u>August 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Watermelon, Arugula, and Pine Nut Salad, Food Allergies: Knowledge is Power, National Night Out, Outdoor Movie Night, Healthy Aging Workshops, Understanding Prostate and Ovarian Cancer, and Social Media information.



Month	Topics
<u>September 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Cheesy Avocado Quesadillas, Back to School: Nutrition for Busy Families, Meet Our New Health Officer, Dawn Marling, MPH, 2024 Flu Shot Schedule, Updated COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Recommendations, Uptick in Pertussis Cases, Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information
<u>October 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Pumpkin Chili, Understanding Your Risk of Breast Cancer, Children’s Health Month, 2024 Flu Shot Schedule, COVID-19 Clinic Schedule, Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Trust Your Instincts: A Story of Survival, and Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information.
<u>November 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Italian Turkey Tortellini Soup, Sugar Savvy, Children’s Health Month, COVID-19 Clinic Schedule, Starting Your Own Food Truck, Rabies Vaccine Clinic, Great American Smokeout, A Tale of Hopes, COVID-19 Test Kit Expiration Dates and Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information.
<u>December 2024</u>	Recipe of the Month – Stuffed Spaghetti Squash, Stay Holiday Healthy, Party Smart, Adopt Theo or Ellie, Bernards Twp Dog and Cat Licenses, Smart Parenting for Smart Kids, Free Blood Pressure Screening, Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness, Mind N Mingle, and Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

2024 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Numbers reflect lab reports and disease investigations that have been approved by the New Jersey Department of Health. Final data for 2024 may vary as NJDOH finalizes their review process. To protect privacy, municipal-level data has been combined to reflect disease surveillance across the entire Bernards Township Health Department jurisdiction.

For more information about reportable diseases please visit: www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics

Disease	Somerset County (BT, BV, PG)	Morris County (CB, LH, MB)	TOTAL 2024
<i>Numbers below represent both laboratory Confirmed and Probable cases, designated by a 'P'. In epidemiology, a probable case refers to a suspected case of a disease or health condition that meets specific criteria outlined in a case definition, indicating a higher likelihood of the individual having the condition, but without definitive laboratory confirmation.</i>			
Amoebiasis	0	0	0
Babesiosis	2	2	4
Botulism - Infant	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	4/ 16 P	7 P	4/ 23 P
Chikungunya	1	0	1
Cholera	0	0	0
COVID-19	388/ 216 P	153 / 180 P	541 / 396 P
Cryptosporidiosis	3	0	3
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	1 P	0	1 P
Diphtheria	0	0	0
E. Coli (STEC)	1/ 4 P	5 P	1/ 9 P
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Phagocytophilum	1	1	2
Erlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Erlichia Chaffeensis	0	0	0
Giardiasis	4	1	5
Haemophilus Influenzae	1	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - Acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - Chronic	3	0	3
Hepatitis C - Acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - Chronic	1/ 1P	0	1/ 1 P
Influenza, Human Isolates	0	5	5
Influenza, Type A H1	0	0	0



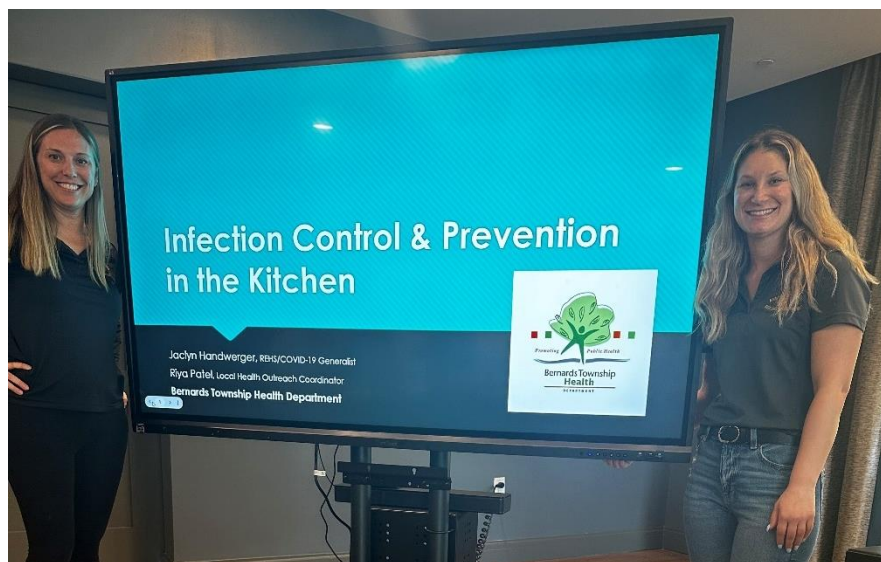
Disease	Somerset County (BT, BV, PG)	Morris County (CB, LH, MB)	TOTAL 2024
Influenza, Type 2009 H1N1	37	11	48
Influenza, Type A (Subtyping not done)	52	26	78
Influenza, Type A H3	28	10	38
Influenza, Type B	15	10	25
Legionellosis	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	43 P	26 P	69 P
Malaria	1	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Meningococcal Disease (Neisseria Meningitidis)	0	0	0
Mpox	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0
Pertussis	3	0	3
Rubella	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	9/ 4P	5/ 1 P	14/ 5 P
Shigellosis	3 P	1 P	4 P
Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses	0	1 P	1 P
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	1	0	1
Streptococcus Pyogenes	2 P	0	2 P
Varicella	0	2 P	2 P
Vibrio Infection (Other than V Cholera SPP)	1 P	1 P	2 P
West Nile Virus (WNV)	0	0	0
Yersiniosis	8 P	1 P	9 P
TOTAL	555/ 299 P	224/ 225 P	779/ 524 P

OUTBREAK MONITORING

In addition to the above-listed communicable disease responses, the Health Department assisted Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities, as well as Schools and Childcare Centers, with the management of COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks. Local Health Departments provide guidance on implementing rapid control measures to limit the spread of disease within a facility and serve as a liaison with NJDOH as needed.

During 2024, the Health Department ensured daily monitoring during 27 disease outbreaks:

- 23 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
- 2 iGAS (Invasive Group A streptococcal infection)
- 1 Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
- 1 hMPV (Human metapneumovirus)



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING PARTNERSHIPS – ZUFALL 2024

Numbers reflect services for all 6 municipalities covered by the Bernards Township Health Department.

Sexually Transmitted Illness (STI) SCREENING AND TREATMENT SERVICES

<u>STI TYPE</u>	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED		NUMBER OF CLIENTS DIAGNOSED AND TREATED		NUMBER OF PREVENTIVELY TREATED CONTACTS	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
SYPHILLIS	1	2	0	0	0	0
GONORRHEA	3	2	0	0	0	0
CHLAMYDIA	3	2	0	0	0	0
PID	0	0	0	0	0	0
HERPES	0	0	0	0	0	0
HPV/VW	1	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
HIV	2	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL NUMBER	10	7	0	0	0	0

PREGNANCY TESTS 2024

Number of Pregnancy Tests Performed	Number of Positive Pregnancy Tests
3	0



CANCER SCREENING SERVICES 2024	
SCREENING TYPE	NUMBER SCREENED
BREAST EXAMS (ages 15-34)	0
BREAST EXAMS (age 35-64)	1
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 15-34)	2
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 35-64)	0
COLORECTAL EXAMS (ages >40)	1
PROSTATE EXAMS (ages > 50)	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF SCREENINGS	4

***All clients who are screened for STIs and cancer are also provided with health education.**

SCREENING TYPE	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTOR	10
DIABETES	3

ZUFALL HEALTH TOTAL PATIENTS	TOTAL VISITS
19	19



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING PARTNERSHIPS
Community Visiting Nurse Association (CVNA)

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

<i>2024</i>	TOTAL
Bernards Township/ Bernardsville Borough	184
Chester Borough	91
Long Hill Township	61
Mendham Borough	34
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	37
TOTAL	407

SCHOOL AUDITS

State-mandated immunization program school audits completed.

Town	# Schools Audited
Bernards Township	25
Bernardsville Borough	7
Chester Borough	1
Long Hill Township	8
Mendham Borough	5
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	1
TOTAL	47



2024 CLINICS AND SCREENINGS

Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators
Skin Cancer Screening	Jul 15 th <i>Fellowship Village</i>	32	Lauren Vitolo, PA-C, Dermatology Consultants
Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics	Oct 9 th <i>St James Church</i>	62	Bernards Township Health Department Public Health Nurse, Community Visiting Nurse Association, Wegman's Pharmacy, Green Brook Family Medicine
	Oct 17 th <i>Garabrant Center</i>	6	
	Oct 25 th <i>PG Mun Gym</i>	11	
	Oct 30 th <i>BV Library</i>	18	
Seasonal Flu Shot and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics	Nov 13 th <i>LH Library</i>	2	
	Dec 3 rd <i>BT Library</i>	4	
	Homebound Visits	3	



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.



**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 strengthen communicable disease outbreak preparedness and response and build public health capacity. Bernards Township Health Department was awarded **\$495,411.00** for the project period **7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024** and **\$74,664.00** for the project period **7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025**.
- **Funding categories include:**
 - a). Outbreak Preparedness (OP)** to strengthen outbreak preparedness/response capacity by reimbursing eligible COVID-19 and other infectious disease-related expenses - **\$30,008.00** (2023-2024), **\$29,462.00** (2024 - 2025)
 - b). Public Health Capacity (PHC)** to build public health capacity across workforce, foundational capabilities and data modernization strategies - **\$45,202.00** (2024-2025)
 - c). 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 - **\$183,822.00** (2023-2024)
 - d). 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. - **\$192,216.00** (2023-2024)
 - e). 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). **\$89,365.00** (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 disease 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.

- **IDPG Deliverables:**

- 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 vaccines in their homes.
- 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.

- **ACC Deliverables:**
 - Contracted with Strategic Health Advisers to prepare for national public health accreditation and to complete prerequisites for application to the Public Health Accreditation Board.
 - Worked with SHA to develop a Quality Improvement and Performance Management Plan, establishing guidelines to measure Health Department capacity and maximize responsiveness to community needs and public health goals.

- **OP Deliverables:**
 - Worked closely with long-term care/assisted-living facilities and schools to strengthen and monitor communicable disease reporting and manage outbreak preparedness; investigated and monitored communicable and infectious disease events.
 - Funded equipment and supplies used for communicable and infectious disease preparedness, response and outreach capacity.

- **PHC Deliverables:**
 - Contracted with Strategic Health Advisers to update Health Department Risk Communication Plan and develop a Continuity of Operations Plan.

**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** was 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 **\$120,000.00** 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 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: 10/1/2022-6/30/2025

- 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 **\$632,102.00** for the project period **10/1/2022 - 6/30/2025**.
- **Project Deliverables:**
- Continued to fund a part-time Public Health Nurse following the expiration of the Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program.
- Brought a part-time bilingual REHS to full-time status, expanding services offered to contracted municipalities and providing Spanish-language outreach
- Funded a full-time REHS/IDPG position to support the Public Health Nurse and increase Health Department capacity to conduct disease monitoring and outbreak investigations
- Partially funded a part-time Health Educator position, supporting community health screenings and nutritional education.
- Hired a part-time Grant Manager/Special Projects Coordinator to assume grant management and reporting obligations and manage infrastructure improvement and department modernization processes.
- Funded minor building renovations to modernize infrastructure and improve accessibility.
- Funded attendance at NACCHO/NJACCHO conferences, allowing staff to stay current on emerging public health events.
- Funded tick-borne illness public awareness and prevention materials.
- Funded necessary equipment and supplies to support Animal Control Officer capacity.

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

- **Grant period: July/1/2024-3/31/2026**
- The **Sustaining Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant** offers funding to Local Health Departments to sustain public health infrastructure, allowing LHDs to more aptly respond to infectious diseases and future public health needs while continuing to direct resources to ensure health equity.
- Bernards Township Health Department will use these funds to sustain organizational capacity upon expiration of the Enhancing Grant, including staffing, building infrastructure improvements and data modernization processes.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of **\$168,049.00** for the project period **7/1/2024 – 3/31/2026**.
- **Project Deliverables:**
- Sustain organizational capacity to drive progress on public health priorities, expand public data collection for public health and health equity priorities.
- Sustain ongoing communicable/infectious disease mitigation efforts.
- Continue building infrastructure improvements while planning for health equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Continue funding for a part-time Public Health Nurse, bilingual REHS, health education staffing, and part-time Grant Manager after the expiration of Enhancing Grant funding.
- Invest in an online platform for Animal Control licensing, increasing accessibility for residents and modernizing data management capacity.



2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS:

Joanna Askey

- New York University School of Law, J.D.

Kaitlin V. Cartoccio, MPH, MCHES, DRCC:

- Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) #19897
- Bernards Municipal Alliance and Youth Services Commission
- 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 President and member (2024)
- Rutgers Center For Executive Leadership In
Government
- Dale Carnegie Certificates “Develop Your Leadership
Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading” 2022, “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, Permit No: 040140 , ID No: 031563
- 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

2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

Nancy Dowd, REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-102051
- Pest Control License 254990
- Mendham Borough Board of Health
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor, ID No: 027886
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



Jaclyn Handwerger, REHS

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

Andrea Huber, MS

- 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

2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

Dawn Marling, MPH, HO, REHS

- Licensed NJ Health Officer – #A-102099
- Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) - #B-102099
- Master of Public Health (MPH), Rutgers School of Public Health
- NJ Association of County & City Health Officials (NJACCHO)
- NJACCHO Emergency Preparedness Workgroup and Medium Local Health Dept Forum
- Greater Somerset County Public Health Partnership, Member
- Somerset County Health Officers Association
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): All contractual towns
- Morris County Public Health Partnership
- Morris County Health Officers Association
- Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Dale Carnegie “Effective Communication and Human Relations” 2025

Patricia Pane, RN, BSN

- Public Health Nurse
- Navigating Disease Investigations with Cultural Humility & Awareness Fall 2024

Sybil Rainey, REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) - #B-102197
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor, Permit No: 038577, ID No: 038577
- Navigating Disease Investigations with Cultural Humility & Awareness Fall 2024
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

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

