

# Tioga County Public Health 2018 Annual Report



## Public Health It's what we do!

## PREVENT

- Lead poisoning and test your home for lead
- Rabies by avoiding contact with wild animals
- Injury put your children in the correct car seat

## PROMOTE

- Living a healthy lifestyle
- Healthy moms and babies
- Tick checks after being outdoors

## PROTECT

- Your teeth brush twice a day
- Food you prepare by avoiding cross contamination
- Yourself and your family by getting all your vaccines

## **Public Health Services**

- Animal Bite Investigations Bicycle Safety CarFit Program for Seniors Children with Special Health Care Needs Child Find Program Child Passenger Safety Disease Surveillance Drinking Water Monitoring Early Intervention Fluoride Varnish Program Food Service Inspection Health Education Health Program
- Illness Complaint Investigations Lead Poisoning Prevention Mobile Dental Services Opioid Overdose Prevention Outreach to New Moms Public Health Preparedness Rabies Clinics Special Education Pre-School Program Septic Permits School-Based Dental Clinic Tick & Lyme Disease Education Vaccines for Children & Adults Weights & Measures Testing AND MORE!



## Note From Our Director

On any given day, you might see us out and about, or hear of our involvement in various community collaboratives throughout Tioga County. This is just the tip of the Public Health iceberg.

Although many of our efforts can be seen in how we connect with residents and facilitate change through community-based initiatives, most of the work that we do to prevent disease and promote healthy lifestyles is done behind the scenes. Public Health is the greatest story NEVER told.

These pages are a snapshot of Tioga County Public Health. What we do to protect and promote the health of our residents and visitors, our environment. 1 M

Lisa McCafferty, Public Health Director

#### **Customer Satisfaction Comments**

Healthy Neighborhoods - "The service was supreme."

Early Intervention - "Awesome job by all involved. Service Coordinator was great. Thank you for all your help."

Child Safety Seats - "Perfect! Inspector went above and beyond our expectations. She was very kind and knowledgeable."

Environmental Health Inspections (Food) - "We have always found the PH Dept. to be extremely helpful and responsive. Your collective culture is that of an enabler not a disabler. Keep it up. Thank you."

Septic - "This was my first experience working with PH. With the help we received we felt confident about our project. Technician was always available to answer our many questions and explained reasons why we needed to do what we were doing. We look forward to working with PH again."

**Rabies Clinics -** "We love the online registration. Very happy to have a clinic offered so close to home. Staff was very friendly, helpful and efficient."

**Dental Van -** "I had a really great experience. I believe the service provided was equal to or better than that I have received at a physical dental office. I am extremely grateful for the service provided at an affordable rate. This is a fantastic service. Keep up the great work!"

Immunization Clinic - "Excellent service. Staff was very friendly and informative. Very skillful at administering shots."



#### **WELCOME NEW STAFF**

Jordan Marsh, Early Intervention Service Coordinator Deanna Hutchinson, AmeriCorps VISTA Abigail Canzler, Office Specialist III Ashley Coney, Early Intervention Service Coordinator

#### **INTERNS**

Stuart Howard, Binghamton University Dominick Dryer, High School Emily Dixon, SUNY Cortland

And the numerous nursing interns who joined us throughout the year!

#### **STAFF FAREWELLS**

Alysia Lewis, Early Intervention Service Coordinator Elizana Joseph, AmeriCorps Representative Laura McDermott, Nurse Practitioner Robert Morley, Mail Clerk Andrea Zlinski, Seasonal Clerk

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### **SPECIAL FAREWELL**

Margaret Shuler, Public Health Nurse, retired in May 2018 after providing nursing care to Tioga County Public Health clients for over 34 years. She touched the lives of new mothers, babies, and children and adults in need of physicals and vaccines. She continues to be a part of life at Tioga County Public Health, volunteering at our Rabies Vaccination Clinics and with our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Thank you for taking care of Tioga County residents for so many years!





Congratulations to **Mel Miller** and **Denis McCann** for graduating from Leadership Tioga! Leadership Tioga is a program designed to educate and assist individuals who live or work in Tioga County and want to learn more about various services, agencies, and resources in our community. They learned how several agencies operate within the county and how they, as individuals, can use their knowledge and skills to become future leaders in the community. It's a great program that promotes personal growth, networking, and a deeper appreciation for the community as a whole.

#### Employee of the First Half

**Barb McCormick** began working at Tioga County Public Health in July 1998 as an Account Clerk Typist. Barb was promoted several times, and is now a Confidential Assistant. In her role, Barb is responsible for a large number of fiscal and administrative support tasks. She is successful in all areas.

Barb also received this award from her peers in 2012. In addition, Barb has twice been selected as the Tioga County Employee of the Quarter (2007 & 2012). Barb is a hard worker, often completing tasks in record time, answering the majority of the live calls and always unselfishly doing everything for her co-workers.

#### Employee of the Second Half

**Amy Fancher** began her journey with us in May of 2016 after wowing us with her impressive resume' and communication skills. As a Health Educator she has spent her time running our Facebook page, maintains our website, works on bulletin boards, edited and organized much of nursing's immunization and lead work plans, and became a Certified Car Seat Technician. Her knack for learning new things has been crucial to being our Disease Control lead.

A Windsor, NY native, she got her BA from Binghamton University and went on to get two Master's Degrees from SUNY Cortland.

Amy was a 2017 Tioga Leadership graduate. Her healthy lifestyle also conditioned her to complete the 2017 New York City marathon.



#### Tioga County Instititue for Advancement

This year Tioga County held their first-ever Institute for Advancement and Todd Kopalek, Environmental Health Supervisor was Chosen to take part in the program. This yearlong training helps prepare employees for the future with the county. Due to a large number of retirements looming, Economic Development and Planning outlined this as a critical need for the county. During the year-long training, participants learned about government operations, budgeting, skill-building in conflict management, teambuilding, and more.

## **2018 Public Health Highlights:**

- Due to a significant number of influenza cases, we responded with an educational campaign targeting prevention of the spread of the flu.
- With the assistance of an AmeriCorps volunteer, we had a record-setting year for Narcan trainings.
- Several outreach activities took place including rabies prevention billboards, the release of monthly "What the Health!?" restroom flyers, and multiple television interviews.
- Successful collaboration with community partners has led to great things. We partnered with schools to educate hundreds of students about preventing Lyme disease, practiced a Point of Dispensing event and organized a parent support group for families with special needs children.
- Environmental Health worked with local food operators to ensure safe food handling as reports of foodborne diseases occurred locally and nationally.
- Healthy Neighborhoods Program responded to reports of rodent infestations, requests for childproofing assistance and home pollution leading to illness.



#### **SOME OF OUR NOTABLE NUMBERS:**



## **Tioga County All-Stars!**

#### **Top Pediatric Lead Testing Doctors' Offices:**

Northern Tioga Center for Family Health in Richford United Health Services Newark Valley United Health Services Candor

#### **Rabies Immunization Excellence:**

**Kim Cleveland**, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center **Terry Hills**, Day Hollow Animal Hospital **Karen O'Brien**, Newark Valley Animal Hospital Michelle Maine, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center Mark Roberts, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center Marina Shepler, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center

#### Thank you for making our rabies immunization clinics possible!

#### **Pharmacy Consultant:**

Dr. John Gatto, The Owego Pharmacy

### 2018 Public Health POD

In April, we practiced our Medical Countermeasure Operations at the Valley United Presbyterian Church in Waverly.

Key things we tested were:

- Communicating to POD workers, law enforcement, the site and others about the need for workers.
- Using the Tioga County Medical Reserve
   Corps volunteers
- Registering participants through a paperless system.
- How quickly we could get people their shot and out the door.
- Accessibility for those with physical or language barriers.





#### We Did Some Great Work During This Drill!

#### Look at All Who Participated:

23 Public Health Employees
12 Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers
3 POD Evaluators
90 Through the POD in 2 Hours
2 Nursing Homes
260 Nursing Home Residents Through POD in 2 Hours

We were also one of the few counties that exceeded New York State's goal!



## **Rabies in Tioga County**



### 2018 Rabies Numbers:

222 Animal Bite Investigations (48 Wild Animal) (174 Domestic Animal)

**46** Individuals Requiring Rabies Treatment

**50** Animals Submitted for Testing (6 Positive for Rabies) (44 Negative for Rabies)

9 Rabies Vaccination Clinics 1,269 Animals Vaccinated

### Our Rabies Prevention Team had a Busy Year

- Investigating all reports involving animal bites.
- Working with people needing rabies postexposure treatment.
- Planning and running rabies vaccination clinics throughout the county.
- Running a billboard campaign warning of the threat of rabies in wild animals.

### **2019 Rabies Vaccination Clinics**

Wednesday, January 23rd (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Candor Fire Station Thursday, March 28th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Waverly Village Barn Saturday, April 27th (2:00 - 4:00pm) - Hickories Park in Owego Thursday, May 23rd (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Newark Valley Fire Station Thursday, June 20th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Apalachin Fire Station Thursday, July 25th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Spencer Fire Station Thursday, August 29th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Berkshire Fire Station Thursday, September 26th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Nichols Fire Station

#### Pre-Registration is Required at www.health.ny.gov/go2clinic/54









## Ticks & Lyme Disease

#### **Outreach and Education**

#### We are proud to report:

- Last spring we teamed up with the Carantouan Greenway, along with Southern Tier Lyme Support, A Hope for Lyme, PA Lyme Resource Network, and Binghamton University to bring "Youth Tick and Lyme Disease Educational Awareness Campaign" to Tioga and Waverly School Districts.
- Through these presentations, we were able to educate over 1,330 students about protecting themselves from ticks, the importance of tick checks, and the signs of Lyme disease.

#### **Confirmed Cases of Lyme Disease in Tioga County**







## **Child Passenger Safety**

#### 2018 Highlights:

- Oversaw the Child Passenger Safety Program for Tioga County.
- Educated parents/caregivers about proper car seat installation and fit for their child.
- Assisted in the replacement of expired or dangerous car seats.
- Teamed up with Serafini Transportation to train 40 bus drivers and monitors on proper car seat use and installation to ensure that their littlest riders are safe!



#### 2018 Tioga County Child Passenger Safety Statistics



Seats Checked Installed Incorrectly Installed Correctly Seats Provided
Includes data from Tioga County Public Health, Tioga County Sheriff's Office, and Waverly Police Department

## **Children Services**



### Developmental Resource Library

Great News! Thanks to a \$5,000 award from the Pickert-Hickock Fund of the Community Foundation we have been able to implement a Developmental Resource Library for Children with Special Needs.

#### Our goal is to:

- Provide specialized resources for free to families.
- Partner with the Coburn Free Library and Waverly Free Library.
- Provide a variety of resources, such as books, DVDs, some toys, computer software and other Assistive Technology Devices. Examples include books and videos on Autism, Down syndrome and learning disabilities, weighted blankets, compression vests, and tablets for non-verbal children.
- We plan to serve at least 100 families in the first year of the program.

### Early Intervention Support Group

To better connect with our Early Intervention families we started a support group. This support group will...

- Connect families with similar needs.
- Meet bi-monthly.
- Include things like a presentation from a local expert, allow for informal discussions, and unstructured play for children.
- Publish schedules and presenters in advance so families know what the main meeting topic will be.
- Allow families to attend meetings important to them and will build relationships within El. The first set of support groups were held in Waverly.



## The Opioid Epidemic

Last year we were extremely fortunate to have an AmeriCorps member focus on the opioid epidemic. Elizana Joseph spent her one year term training Tioga County community members on how to identify opioid overdoses and how to administer Narcan.

Elizana helped make improvements to the Tioga County ASAP Coalition, including a monthly newsletter, planning community events and bringing new ideas to Tioga County.

### Tioga County ASAP

Tioga County Public Health continues to have an active role in the Tioga County Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Multiple events took place in 2018 including:

- Black Balloon Day
- Overdose Awareness Day
- Family Fun Day
- Drug Take Back Events

Over the summer we also hosted local high school student and summer intern, Dominick Dryer who assisted the coalition with a film project focusing on Tioga County families affected by the opioid epidemic. Keep an eye out in 2019 for the first film screening!

In 2018 the Tioga County ASAP Coalition was also awarded the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant!



#### **Medication Drop Boxes**

Is your medicine cabinet full of expired medications you no longer use? You can dispose of your expired, unwanted, or unused medicines by using one of the medication drop boxes in Tioga County.

#### Drop Boxes in Tioga County:

Tioga County Sheriff's Office 103 Corporate Drive, Owego, NY (607) 687-1010

Owego Police Department 90 Temple Street, Owego, NY (607) 687-2233

Waverly Police Department 32 Ithaca Street, Waverly, NY (607) 565-2836

Apalachin Pharmacy 6845 State Route 434, Apalachin, NY (607) 625-2129



## **Dental Services**

2018 was another great year for the Tioga Mobile Dental Program. Adults and children visited the Tioga Dental Van and received services including dental cleanings, sealants, fillings and extractions.

### In 2018 Dental Van Staff **Completed:**

**2119** Screenings 500 Sealants 1270 Dental Cleanings **1449** Fluoride Treatments

### 2018 Highlights

- Conducted 3rd grade dental screenings for the NYSDOH Nutrition, Physical Activity & Dental Health survey. Participating schools included Candor and Elm St Elementary.
- Transitioned to paperless dental charts!
- Work is underway for the new Mobile Dental Unit. It will be on the streets of Tioga County in early 2019!



## **Public Health Nursing**

### **Lead Testing Rates**

In 2018, Tioga County saw an increase in lead testing rates by providers for 1 year olds for the first time since 2014. There was, however, a small decrease in lead testing rates for 2 year olds.

We recognized the top lead testers as:

- Northern Tioga Center for Family Health in Richford
- United Health Services Candor
- United Health Services Newark Valley •

### **Birth Packets**

We are very proud of our updated newborn outreach packets that are sent to all new parents 500 in Tioga County.

These birth packets come with a gender-specific book that highlights healthy behaviors, parenting tips, and services available for their family. They also receive a colorful growth chart to help track their child's growth over the years.

### Look At What We Did in 2018!

225 New Mom Calls 329 Newborn Packets Sent Out 24 Children Received VFC Vaccines 88 PPD Tests 123 Flu Shots Administered 32 Lead Outreach Activities And so much more!

#### **Communicable Diseases Reported** in 2018



## **Healthy Neighborhoods Program**

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program is wrapping up its 5th year of our grant. This past year was a memorable one.

Some of our highlights include:

- Working with a local subdivision on a rat problem.
- Providing childproofing supplies for one family to prevent a child from turning on the stove, and another family for a child who had climbed out of an open window.
- Providing clean-up kits for those affected from summer flooding.
- We also found that 67% of the homes visited this year did not have functioning smoke detectors.

#### Look At All We Accomplished in 2018:



## Food Safety

2018 was another busy year for our Environmental Health staff. Foodborne illness reports led to collaborative work with local food establishments, our staff, and New York State Department of Health.

We updated ou<mark>r Fo</mark>od Safety Training for Food Handlers making it more user<sub>-</sub>friendly and accessible.

We also inspected and renewed permits for our local restaurants, and provided permits and inspections for the Strawberry Festival and the Tioga County Fair.

### 2018 Food Safety Numbers

208 Food Inspections 82 Temporary Food Inspections 35 Establishments with a Violation 179 Completed Food Safety Course

## Weights & Measures

#### Do you ever wonder...

- If you really got ten gallons the last time you filled your car with gasoline?
- If that premium gasoline really was 93 Octane?
- If you really got a half pound of corned beef last week at the deli?

Most people take it for granted that the measurements that affect them every day are accurate. Luckily for New Yorkers, there is a dedicated group of state and municipal weights and measures officials working to assure measurement accuracy and thus promote a fair and equitable marketplace.

### 2018 Weights & Measures Numbers

126 Inspection Sites 476 Devices Inspected

5 Complaints Received/Investigated

## **Community Health Assessment**

Back in the fall we began to update the Tioga County Community Health Assessment. This yearlong process began with updating and reviewing existing data. A survey was developed to help gather information from the community. In 2019 we will begin to review the data from the survey responses and see how it compares to the existing data.

This is an important project because it will help us focus efforts on what is making the health of our residents good or bad. Together with other organizations and healthcare leaders we will formulate a plan that will support and enhance the health of the community. Tioga County, NY 2019 Community Health Assessment





Do you have barriers to getting

## **Tioga Tells**

In August, a collaborative project with Tioga County Public Health, Tioga Opportunities, Inc. and Rural Health Network kicked-off Tioga Tells. This assessment evaluates the strengths and challenges impacting the quality of life of Tioga County residents. Through existing data, new data collection, and focus groups, this project will lead to a better understanding of what influences the quality of life for residents. Tioga Tells is led by AmeriCorps Project Leader, Deanna Hutchison.

### **TIOGA TELLS**

Inviting Communities to the Table

## "What the Health!?"

This year we decided to try something different to get people thinking about their health and the health of the environment around them. Every month we create a "What the Health!?" publication which includes information about topics such as the HPV vaccine, urine barometer to gauge if you're drinking enough water ,and how to test for radon in your home.





Our Public Health Liaisons distribute these flyers and post them in their restroom stalls. It is hard not to read it when it's right in front of your face! Currently we have 21 sites in Tioga County sharing "What the Health!?" with the community.

Not only do we want people thinking about their health but we also build communication with partners in the community. Our Public Health Liaisons will be instrumental in helping us get information out to the county in an emergency and, thanks to "What the Health!?" we have already developed those relationships.



### Quality Improvement

In 2018, we had several projects to evaluate how we are doing our work and how we can do it better. We asked Public Health employees to consider their work practices and see if there is anything that can be improved.

#### **Examples of Projects Include:**

Septic GIS Mapping Transportation Form Revamp Distribution of Dental Forms Communications Directory El Parent Support Group And More!





### **Board of Health**

Joseph Picco, DDS, President Erica Haray-Butcher Maureen Hawley, BSN Terry Hills, DVM Rani Kapur-Pado, DO Kevin Millar, CRNA Thomas F. Nytch, DVM James Raftis, Jr., DO William H. Standinger III, Legislature

#### **Health & Human Services Committee**

William Standinger III, Chair Tracy Monell Dennis Mullen Loretta Sullivan



Thank you to everyone who helped make 2018 a successful year for Tioga County Public Health!

### **Tioga County Public Health Staff**



Adam Ace Lynn Bennett Barbara Bilbrey Abigail Canzler Ashley Coney Jenna Dyer Amy Fancher Mark Griep Kylie Holochak Deanna Hutchinson Rani Kapur-Pado Al Knapp Todd Kopalek Jessica Lovell Jordan Marsh Nancy Mastro Lisa McCafferty Denis McCann Barb McCormick Susan Medina Melanie Miller Eric Sarnicola Dan Scherrer Lisa Schumacher

Katie Searles Heather Vroman Emily Warfle Denise Werner Marilyn Wertman

### Keep an eye out...we've got some awesome things to come in 2019!

#### Want To Know More? Here's how you can get in touch!



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607-687-8600

Tioga County Health Department

https://tiogacountyny.com/departments/public-health/





Tioga County Public Health P.O. Box 120 Owego, NY 13827

## Tioga County Public Health **2018 Annual Report**

