

# TRUMBULL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

### *A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH*

I am pleased to present the first Trumbull Health Department Annual Report for fiscal year 2015-16. This first year of operation was quite an exciting challenge as staff had to be hired, procedures, protocols and forms needed to be developed, vaccines and supplies had to be ordered, and insurance provider and contractual agreements needed to be established just to get the department up and running. We were able to meet the challenge and provide services to residents, contractors and other town departments from day one. In August 2015 the department moved to its permanent location at 335 White Plains Road. Throughout this past year the Trumbull Health Department grew tremendously. Our mission is to protect the health of residents and to prevent disease. We are committed to improving the quality of life for all people we serve by assuring a safe and clean environment for our residents. The dedicated group of Trumbull residents who comprise our Health Board made our success possible by their guidance and support to our mission.

A clean, safe and healthy environment is a foundation of public health and is the main focus of the environmental health programs. A full-time sanitarian and two part-time Registered Sanitarians staff the Environmental Health section. The inspectors work closely with other town departments, contractors, installers and residents to address issues and resolve complaints. A much used service of the department is our tick testing program. The Health Department accepts ticks removed from residents and submits them to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to be tested for the presence of the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease. To aid in the control of the mosquito population and prevent mosquito-borne illnesses, larvicide dunks are made available to town residents who have standing water on their property. Throughout the summer months, the department collects the fresh water lake samples to be analyzed by the state laboratory for elevated bacterial levels.

Our Community Health section is staffed by part-time public health nurses. The department offers most vaccines recommended for children and adults. We also provide blood cholesterol screening, blood pressure screenings and tuberculin testing. Our public health nurses are responsible for monitoring and following childhood lead poisoning cases as well as communicable disease infections affecting town resident.

Our Health Education section, working in conjunction with the public health nurses, have coordinated numerous community blood pressure screenings. We have provided community outreach programs addressing public health issues such as tick-borne illnesses, mosquito-borne illnesses, lead poisoning prevention, radon, sun safety and chronic diseases and conditions.

All Health Department staff have participated throughout the year in staff development programs on a variety of topics including Emergency Preparedness and CPR training. Department staff receive continuous information and training related to emergency response.

With the close of our first year, we look back with pride at our accomplishments and the services we are now able to provide to Trumbull residents and look forward to serving the community for years to come.

We invite our residents to view our website [www.trumbull-ct.gov/THD](http://www.trumbull-ct.gov/THD) regularly for up-dated program information and information on public health issues or by calling 203-452-1030.

Regards,

*Rhonda Capuano*

Director of Health



## TRUMBULL HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Shaquaisha Andrews, Health Inspector  
Rhonda Capuano, MPH, CHES, Director of Health  
Megan DiMeglio, Health Educator  
Joanna DiPalma, Administrative Assistant  
Christine Dudek-Ratushnuk, RN, MSN  
Susan Jacozzi, MPH  
Joel Kunkel, MD, Medical Director  
William Mooney, Registered Sanitarian  
Allen Thibodeau, Registered Sanitarian  
Grace Vetter, RN, MA, NCSN

## TRUMBULL HEALTH BOARD

Richard Bellows, Chairman  
Eileen Pannese, Vice-Chairman  
Deborah Cavalier, Secretary  
Nancy Busch  
Debra Charles

## MISSION

The Trumbull Health Department (THD) serves as the official local public health entity for the Trumbull, Connecticut community. THD is committed to improving the quality of life for all it serves through the promotion of health, prevention of disease, and by assuring a safe and clean environment for our residents.

## VISION

The Trumbull Health Department's overall role is to protect and promote the public's health through people, prevention and partnerships.



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

Trumbull Health Department

## Trumbull Health Department

335 White Plains Road  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
(203) 452-1030

[facebook.com/townoftrumbull](https://www.facebook.com/townoftrumbull)



# COMMUNITY HEALTH

*The Trumbull Health Department investigates, monitors, tracks and implements control measures to address communicable diseases in order to reduce their spread in the community. We work closely with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) and other health agencies to prevent and control the spread of disease. The Health Department provides educational programs and prevention programs/screenings for early prevention, detection and control of chronic diseases.*

- **Vaccines and Services** – During year one of operations, the Health Department expanded vaccine offerings to a wide range of preventive vaccinations for both children and adults. Vaccines were obtained through the Connecticut Department of Health’s Vaccines for Children Program in addition to privately purchased. Six hundred eighty immunizations were administered during the past year. Other screenings included cholesterol, blood pressure, and PPD skin tests (tuberculosis) totaling 208.

Screening Type	FY 15-16
Blood Pressure	152
Cholesterol	2
PPD (Tuberculin)	54

Immunizations	FY 15-16
Private	649
Public	31

- **Lead Program** – The Public Health Nurses monitor the CT DPH disease tracking and reporting database Maven (lead). The nurses will follow-up on any reported elevated blood lead levels in children up six years of age. The follow-up includes telephone calls to parents and pediatricians, providing parents with educational materials on testing requirements, cleaning and proper nutrition and home visits. Eight children were followed during this past year for elevated blood lead levels of which four became active case reports of childhood lead poisoning.
  - **TB Program** – The Health Department is responsible for investigating all cases of active tuberculosis (TB) in the Town. During fiscal year 2015-2016 there were no active tuberculosis (TB) cases in Trumbull residents. The Health Department also evaluates, diagnoses and treats latent TB. A person with latent TB is infected with TB but does not show symptoms and is not contagious. There were no individuals evaluated and treated for latent TB during fiscal year 2015-2016.
  - **Enteric Disease Follow-up** – The Public Health Nurses monitor the CT DPH disease tracking and reporting database Maven (enteric). The department works in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Health Food Net program. The Health Department interviewed 18 individuals with laboratory confirmed foodborne illnesses.
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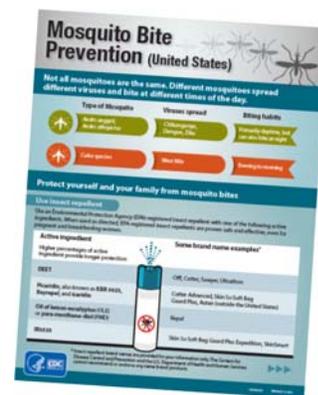
# HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Education Section provides outreach to our citizens, schools, businesses, public and private entities. Our goal is to promote healthy lifestyles through our Health Promotion and Wellness Programs. In 2015-16 the Health Department launched health promotion initiatives to help community members live healthier lifestyles and reduce their risk of disease. Some of these initiatives and community events included:

- Blood Pressure Workshop
- National Walking Day event
- Zika Education
- Community/School Health Fairs
- Glow Germs
- Sun Safety
- Tick Talk



The Health Department has developed partnerships with several community organizations, such as Trumbull Public Schools, Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking (TPAUD), Primary Care Action Group, Get Healthy Connecticut, Sacred Heart University, and Southern Connecticut State University to help us reach even more community members and address the health issues of our community.

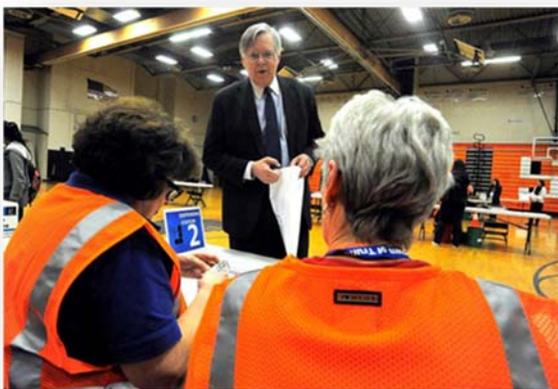


# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



The Health Department works to ensure that the Town of Trumbull responds effectively to natural disasters, bioterrorism and other emergencies that could affect the health of the public. This is achieved through department planning and collaboration, staff training, and educating our citizens. The Trumbull Health Department is part of the Mass Dispensing Area (MDA) #12 which comprises Stratford, Monroe and Trumbull. In the event of a bioterrorism attack, the Health Department is prepared to do mass dispensing and mass vaccination, providing medication or vaccinations quickly to town residents to prevent disease. Some of the activities during this past year that staff participated in to prepare for such an event included:

- Participation in a Point of Distribution Drill (Stamford)
- Participation in Regional Tabletop Exercises
- Participation in a Technical Assistance Review with the CT Department of Public Health
- Conducted and participated in Call-down drills
- Fit Testing of staff for respirator masks
- Staff review of Emergency Preparedness Response Plan and two-way radio usage
- Up-dated the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response Plan for the town



# FINANCIALS: REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

