

Health Officer Report

The Health Officer was awarded a grant from the NJSDH&SS in October 2009, for the planning, distribution and administration of vaccines, antivirals, and other medical countermeasures, and implementation of the Pandemic H1N1 2009/2010 Influenza Vaccination Campaign.

He has actively participated in the Morris Regional Public Health Partnership, the obesity and elderly subcommittee, and NJ Health Officers Association.

He obtained 2009/2010 Public Health Priority Funding (PHPF) from the NJSDH&SS and also past funding for the TASE (Tobacco Age of Sale Enforcement Program).

The Health Officer, in collaboration with the Morris County Office of Health Management; other Morris County Local Health Departments; local Office of Emergency Management (OEM); Parsippany Police Department; Morris County Prosecutors Office; and many independent volunteers, conducted a full scale major public health emergency Point Of Distribution (POD) drill at the PAL building on Baldwin Road in Parsippany.

The “mock” drill/exercise was very successful and a “hot wash” discussion was held after the drill inside the same building to gain information from all who participated on how any improvements can be made.

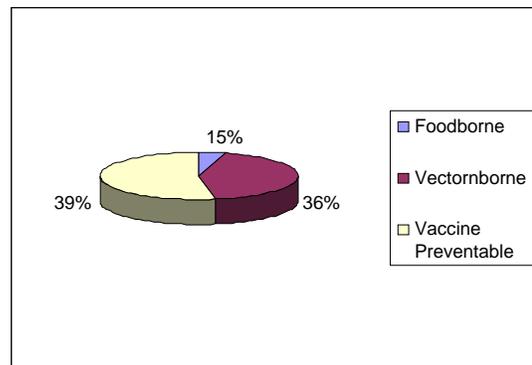
CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDH&SS), beginning September, 2008, required influenza and pneumococcal (Prevnar) vaccination for children six to fifty-nine months of age who attend daycare, or public or private preschool. They were given from September 1 to December 31, 2008 to comply with this change. Also, sixth graders (children born on or after 1/1/97) were required to receive meningococcal and Tetanus/diphtheria/acellular Pertussis booster vaccinations prior to school entry in the fall of 2008.

The local Health Department serves as a resource and provides updates on School Immunization Law to all schools and daycare centers, including new mandate in 2009 requiring children six months through 59 months of age attending licensed child-care centers or preschool facilities to receive influenza vaccine.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) is a web-based system for healthcare providers and laboratories to report 63 reportable communicable diseases and conditions to the state and local health departments. The local health department has the responsibility to perform disease investigation for disease outbreaks, and gastroenteritis and respiratory outbreaks from the long-term care facilities and schools.



The above chart shows the proportion of diseases (includes confirmed, probable, and possible cases) reported from our local Health Department to the CDRSS in 2010.

In 2010, a total of 260 communicable disease cases were reported to the Township. Of these, 62 were confirmed, 18 were possible, 43 were probable, and some remain under investigation.

This breakdown is common for most of New Jersey. These diseases are largely preventable through education and/or vaccination.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Parsippany Health Department collaborated with Morris County Office of Health Management to facilitate a compilation of municipality First Responders into a countywide Medication Database. First Responders include fire, police, first aid, office of emergency management (OEM), municipal officials and public health. First responders would need to receive medication such as antibiotics or antivirals quickly so they would be prepared to serve their communities. This is an ongoing effort.

The Health Officer attended the Local Emergency Planning Council meetings at the Parsippany municipal building in 2010.

FLU/PNEUMONIA CLINICS

We held our annual Flu and Pneumonia clinic in the fall of 2010.

In 2009, we saw the emergence of the H1N1 virus. Our local health department worked with the Board of Education to prevent the spread of flu-like symptoms among students. A system for school surveillance of students with flu like symptoms was implemented. The local health department acted as a resource for teachers, parents, and the general public, and provided education on influenza and the H1N1 virus. The process of providing H1N1 vaccinations to high risk individuals began in the fall of 2009. These clinics continued into 2010, providing vaccinations for the high risk population as well as the general public.

As soon as we received our H1N1 vaccine, we held H1N1 Flu clinics starting in November 2009 to help stop the Pandemic H1N1 Flu illness. We held many H1N1 flu clinics and continued to offer them through August of 2010. In all, 4,616 H1N1 immunizations were administered, and 3,150 doses were distributed to other providers.

We held our annual flu/pneumonia clinic starting in September of 2010.

314 influenza and 18 pneumonia vaccines were administered.

FOOD SAFETY

In May of 2008, NJDH&SS released its “Risk-based Inspection Report” and “Retail Food Inspection Report” for documenting retail food establishment inspections. These were developed in conjunction with the NJ Best Practices for Retail Food Protection Committee and are to be used to assist REHS staff in performing inspections in a standardized and uniform manner.

At the conclusion of a retail food establishment inspection each establishment is rated based upon the inspector’s findings. The establishment is issued an evaluation placard which must be posted in a conspicuous place near the public entrance. Each establishment is rated as one of the following:

- “Satisfactory” – The establishment is operating in substantial compliance with the retail food establishment codes.
- “Conditionally Satisfactory” – The establishment is not operating within substantial compliance within the food code. Due to the nature of the violation(s) the inspector will schedule a re-inspection.
- “Unsatisfactory” – The establishment was found operating with one or more violations that create an imminent hazard. The establishment is closed until conditions are corrected.

REHS staff performed 444 initial food service inspections and roughly 207 re-inspections in 2010. The results of these inspections are available for review by the public at the Parsippany Health Department.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

For the flu season, educational materials on preventive steps against the flu were provided to residents during our flu clinics by the Health Educator. Also educational materials for the prevention of Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, and disaster survival were handed out.

Educational material was also sent to administration and placed in the Mayor's quarterly newsletter.

Educational materials for the prevention of Pertussis was distributed to all local Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

LEAD POISONING

Blood level screening is mandated for New Jersey children at one and two years of age. Minimally, they should have at least one lead test before their sixth birthday. Lead levels of >10 ug/dL trigger an environmental investigation and Public Health Nursing follow-up.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Health Screenings, Health Services, and Education, such as blood pressure, osteoporosis, female, male, and skin cancer screenings, peripheral vascular disease, stroke, SMAC blood work, flu clinics, and podiatry services are offered to our residents.

Preventive healthcare to uninsured and underinsured is provided through our Child Health Conference according to the Vaccines for Children Program guidelines.

Communicable disease investigations and follow-ups are conducted by the Public Health Nurses.

RABIES CLINICS AND ANIMAL BITES

Human Rabies vaccine production was limited in the United States in 2008, leading to a NJDH&SS requirement that healthcare providers seek approval of the local health officer prior to being able to order Rabies vaccine for a patient. Pre-exposure prophylaxis was only allowed for first responders in 2009 due to the shortage of vaccine.

Parsippany Health Department held an annual free rabies clinic for all dogs and cats in November of 2010. All animal bites are thoroughly investigated with quarantine notices given to the biting animal owner if possible.

TOBACCO AGE-OF-SALE PROGRAM (TASE)

REHS staff participated in this program with teenage volunteers between the ages of 15-17. During TASE year 12, which ran from 4/1/08 through 3/31/09, thirty-two (32) initial inspections were made. Inspection costs were reimbursed by the NJDH&SS TASE program.

TUBERCULOSIS

TB control for Morris County is done by the TB Clinic at Morristown Memorial Hospital. They do all contact investigations, follow-ups, and direct observation therapy.

Annual TB testing reports are submitted to the Health Department by all schools.

HEALTH FAIRS

The Health Educator provided educational materials on various issues such as lead toys, vaccines, stroke, influenza, and other topics at the health fair.

PLANS FOR 2011

The Health Department will continue to conduct food service inspections, pool/beach inspections, immunization audits, and communicable disease investigations. We will also continue flu clinics to make them as cost-efficient and user-friendly as possible.

We will seek opportunities to offer health education to our residents, particularly in the areas of obesity, heart disease and diabetes prevention.

Skin cancer screening clinic; male and female cancer clinics; SMAC blood screening clinics; stroke and PVD screening clinics will be held in 2011.