



DIRECTOR OF HEALTH REPORT Jessica Kristy, MPH October 2022

This month's report includes various images from events that occurred in October with descriptive captions underneath them.

Miscellaneous

TEAM, Inc. acknowledged NVHD with a Community Partnership Award at its 57th Annual Meeting on October 13, 2022. I was asked to receive the acknowledgement award and speak about our leadership in public health and social services, including and beyond our pandemic response. The entire Valley delegation submitted a congratulatory citation to the General Assembly acknowledging this achievement as well! I am so proud of the NVHD staff who continue to make a positive impact in our community. Way to go Team NVHD!



Picture 1: Dr. Browne, NVHD's Medical Advisor stands to the left of Director Kristy who is holding the plaque that was presented to her at the event.



Picture 2: Pictured from left to right is David Morgan, President/CEO of TEAM, INC., NVHD's Director Jessica Kristy, State Representative Kara Rochelle, and Representative Mary Welander. Jessica is holding the plaque and Kara is holding the General Assembly Citation certificate.

Carissa and I continue to attend the virtual Valley Council for Health & Human Services meetings, which occur the first Tuesday of the month. The CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) continues to meet virtually on the first Wednesday of the month.

Quality Improvement

To continuously build NVHD's quality improvement culture, and in compliance with national accreditation requirements, NVHD always maintains at least two quality improvement projects with one focused on administrative improvements and one focused on programmatic improvements. The Visibility/Communications Team and Pandemic to Endemic Transition (PET) Teams continue to meet and work on their respective projects.

NVHD Gives Back Program

Amanda continues to coordinate our "NVHD Gives Back" program. During the months of October and November, we are collecting toys for the TEAM, Inc. Toys 4 Kids Holiday Drive along with many other Valley organizations.





Workforce Development

We held our monthly staff meeting on October 6th where we welcomed Rich Kearns, Director of Security for Seymour Public Schools and School Resource Officer Corey Tomasella who provided staff an updated ALICE Training®. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate and is a nationally recognized active shooter training program. Rich and Officer Tomasella provided a very thorough classroom training with a practical component as well. Thank you, Seymour Public Schools, for continuing to be a wonderful community partner and leader in emergency preparedness and response. Later in the month, Judi attended a functional active shooter drill that took place on October 20th. The drill was hosted in partnership by Sikorsky, Echo Hose Ambulance, Shelton Fire and Police Departments.



Picture 3: Rich and John watch Rich Kearns demonstrate how to disarm Officer Tomasella who is holding a fake rifle gun as a last resort option in an active shooter situation.



Picture 4: Nicolette is participating in a demonstration of how to use a rope and body weight to keep a potential intruder from entering a room. Officer Tomasella is inside the restroom simulating the intruder and is unable to open the door. Rich Kearns looks on and teaches the demo.

Legislative Changes Impacting Public Health

I continue to participate on the CT Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment Legislative Workgroup and attend additional meetings related to Public Act 22-49.

Community Health Assessment (CHA/Index) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Carissa, Joan and I continue to participate in the CHA/Index advisory committee. The unveiling event will be held on November 15th at Center Stage in Shelton. An email invitation was widely distributed, and any community member is encouraged to attend! I was invited to return as a panelist alongside Pat Charmel, CEO of Griffin, Dr. Reese Morales of Ansonia Public Schools, David Morgan, President/CEO of TEAM, Inc., Bill Purcell from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and Kelly Tremlett, a Naugatuck resident who was co-chair of the Collective Impact Initiative Community Resource Task Force. We will be recording the event and will make it available afterwards across our websites.





Naugatuck Valley Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Program

I partnered with Lorrie from BHcare's Alliance for Prevention & Wellness and Community Police Officer, Officer Oczkowski from the Seymour Police Department to host a Medication Take Back Event that overlapped the NVHD flu & COVID-19 booster clinic at the Seymour Community Center on Thursday, October 13th. I also partnered with John from the Derby Youth Service Bureau and Derby PD to host an event on Saturday, October 29th, which Lisa T. attended. Aligned with the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, these events were held in reflection of our joint commitment to safety and health by encouraging the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting. We collected 45lbs at the Seymour event and approximately 50lbs at the Derby event!

We had a meeting with the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) about a 2-year grant opportunity. The focus of this grant is Academic Detailing on Opioids Safety (ADOPS), which is an evidence-based interactive educational outreach to physicians and prescribers to provide unbiased, non-commercial, evidence-based information about medications and other therapeutic decisions, with the goal to improve patient care. NVHD staff and our partners at APW will be trained by the UCONN School of Pharmacy and begin implementing this program as soon as we receive our executed contract.

Emergency Preparedness

ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services, Chair

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF 8 meeting on October 7th and I attended the Region 5 REPT Steering Committee meeting on the 17th. I attended a virtual statewide Burn Surge Tabletop Exercise hosted by the CT Healthcare Coalition on the 19th.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

I attended the virtual Region 5 local PHEP workgroup meeting hosted by the Region 5 Lead, Torrington Area Health District. I also attended the Naugatuck Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) meeting.

Medical Reserve Corps

I continue to serve as the Region 5 MRC Lead and participate in regional Unit Leaders meetings for region 5 and 2. During the month of October, we had several MRC activations for clinical support at the NVHD vaccine clinics. Thank you to our volunteer vaccinators!

Surveillance & Outbreak Response Team (SORT)

- COVID-19 Pandemic – Status: Response
- Monkeypox Outbreak 2022 – Status: Standby & training
- Ebola Virus Disease 2022 Uganda Outbreak – Status: Standby & training
- Influenza, RSV, and other respiratory viruses: Monitoring

The following update is provided by SORT Coordinator, Lisa T.:

The team continues to meet with our school districts bi-weekly on Wednesdays to discuss case rates and mitigation strategies. We helped develop and documented Covid protocol flowcharts for each school district that can be disseminated to their school communities. We are beginning to track and report on the rising influenza cases, so that we have a good view into respiratory illnesses that may impact our school attendance and hospital utilization by Valley residents. We have been assisting at community flu and Covid-19 booster clinics during the busy October vaccination season.





Adult Case Statistics (18+)

	September	October
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	752	690
Successful Phone Contact	90	68
Attempted Contact-Letters Mailed	496	494
Attempted Phone Calls for Abbreviated Interviews	150	74
Not Attempted due to Delayed Report	16	24
No contact or attempt	0	30

Laboratory reported cases in October were 9% lower than in September. However, cases this October were 25% higher than cases in October 2021.

We attempted contact via letter or phone with 92% of the cases. 3% came in outside of their isolation period (delayed reports). We did not attempt contact with 5% of the October cases.

We continue to send letters to the remaining cases, along with our community flow chart depicting current guidelines for cases and contacts.

Youth and Teen Case Statistics (0-17)

	September	October
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	90	56
Successful Phone Contact	52	21
Attempted Contact-Letters Mailed	0	0
Attempted Phone Calls for Abbreviated Interviews	33	21
Not Attempted due to Delayed Report	5	10
No contact or attempt	0	4

Of the 690 lab reported cases in October, 56 (8.1%) represented people under 18, which represented a decrease from the 11.8% in September. We attempted contact by phone with all 42 of these cases (75%), successfully reaching 21 (37.5%) for abbreviated interviews. 10 cases, or 17.8%, came in too late to contact (delayed reports). There was no attempt on the remaining 4 cases.

Additionally, 120 positive home-tests were reported to us by our school partners. These test results were predominantly for children, although a few represented positive staff members.





COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REPORT
Carissa Caserta, MPH
Assistant Director
October 2022

Staffing Announcement

Gabrielle Diaz has unfortunately left NVHD for a position at the State of CT Department of Public Health. She will be greatly missed! She was a great health educator and instrumental in running our COVID clinics.

We are excited to announce our new health educator, Lisa Trupp, will be starting in November. Lisa is currently our Program Coordinator the Surveillance and Outreach Response Team (COVID outreach). She will be a great addition to the community health team with her experience and knowledge!

Community Health Programs

A Matter of Balance

We completed two Matter of Balance programs in October. One was at the Derby Senior Center (10 participants) and the other at the Shelton Senior Center (8 participants). This program has been very well received and we have been asked to come back in January. I participated in the quarterly Master Trainer call from Matter of Balance which reviews any changes to the programs and updates.



Picture 5: Paulina and Kristie are pictured with the most recent graduates of the Shelton Matter of Balance class.

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) and COVID-19 Immunization Action Plan (CAP) Programs

Our community health outreach team working on the COVID-19 Immunization Action Plan (CAP) grant continues to be heavily active out in the community attending events to promote our services and COVID clinics. Nancy and Vanessa continue to go work with community-based organizations like the Salvation Army, YMCA, libraries, senior centers, food pantries, schools and daycare centers, town halls, and shelters. They continue to create COVID-19 educational materials that are shared online on our website and social media platforms as well as printed copies for in-person events. We continue to work with Andrews Marketing company to design a media campaign regarding vaccine hesitancy. Once we have materials created, I will share them with you all!





Picture 6: A group of 6 children hold up black backpacks that have the NVHD #VaxtheValley logo on it. Their faces are covered with smiley face clipart due to not having a photo release form.



Picture 7: A group of 6 children sit at a table completing coloring and vaccine education games.



Picture 8: Pictured left to right is a Salvation Army Employee, Captain Cheryl McCollum of the Salvation Army, Nancy Serrano, NVHD CAP Coordinator and Vanessa Lopez, NVHD CAP Community Outreach Worker in front of food pantry shelves at the Ansonia Salvation Army's Kettle Kick-Off and Re-Launch of the newly remodeled client choice pantry.

Clinic & Immunizations

NVHD staff have all been assisting at the various flu clinics throughout the Valley. In October, we have administered 966 flu vaccines at 20 various flu clinics! We have gone to a several new locations this year such as Naugatuck Early Learning Center, Ansonia Pre-K at Prendergast School, and Aspire Learning in Naugatuck. There are still several clinics planned in November as well as our weekly COVID clinics.





The weekly COVID clinics were on hold for October because we were hosting so many flu/COVID clinics out in the community. We have planned for several throughout November and December. We decided not to use the VAMS system any longer and have promoted a new scheduling system. The new scheduling link, bit.ly/ValleyVaccine, has been posted on our website and social media, so hoping that works out well!



Picture 9: Pictured left to right is former health educator, Gabrielle Diaz with Nurse Kristie D'Averso at the Seymour Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic



Picture 10: Pictured is Lisa Trupp at a registration table at the Seymour Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic



Picture 11: Pictured are ELC grant-funded part-time LPN, Caitlin Kelley and MRC Volunteer Nurse June vaccinating two residents faced away from the camera at the Seymour Flu & COVID-19 clinic.



Picture 12: Pictured left to right is Vanessa and Nancy at the Seymour Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic with vaccine education materials.





In between flu clinics, Kristie has been administering school vaccines to children. She has vaccinated 28 vaccines to those in need.

Kristie is still providing Directly Observed Therapy for one Tuberculosis patient.

Miscellaneous

I hosted the first Valley Early Childhood Regional Council meeting for the school year. This meeting consists of teachers, Superintendents, Principals, and those who received school readiness grants. This meeting is to review grant requirements and updates on each school/preschool programs.

I participated in the IRB (Institutional Review Board) for Griffin Hospital which hasn't met in quite a while due to COVID. This was a great meeting to review any research studies that have been happening at the hospital and make sure they are following proper guidelines.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT
Melanie Dokla, BS, RS
Assistant Director
October 2022

Food Service Establishments

Preparations are being made to send out applications for the renewal of all licensed food service establishments. Coordination with the town/city Tax Collectors and Water Pollution Control Authorities to identify establishments that owe overdue personal property taxes or have grease interceptor violations will be made again this year. These establishments will need to get a release from the town/city before their license can be renewed. Applications will be mailed by mid-November.

We also continue to conduct routine inspections, plan views and inspections for food service establishments that are new or changing ownership.

Body Care

The renewal of all existing body care permits has been completed. There was a total of 20 (11 last year) establishments that were required to pay a late fee totaling \$1,220 (\$1,060 last year). Annual inspections of the salons have been completed (total of 225) with 6 failed inspections and 2 closure orders. (234 inspections and 4 failures last year). One salon remains closed for employing unlicensed massage therapists.

Staff also continues to conduct plan views and inspections for body care establishments that are new or changing ownership.

Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (SSDS)

Rich Jackson, Head Sanitarian, continues to conduct SSDS inspections, B-100 visit, soil testing, B-100 plan reviews, new SSDS plans reviews, and has issued permits to discharge.

Rich also continues to train staff in the SSDS program.

Housing Complaints

As the temperature becomes cooler the department is seeing a rise in housing complaints. These complaints are for no heat, no hot water and/or heat that is not reaching the required 65°F (Connecticut General State Statues Section 19a-109).

Miscellaneous

NVHD welcomed Amanda Michaud and Mike Hughes to the Environmental Health Division. Both are a great addition to the team and have jumped right into to performing environmental health tasks.

October 23rd-29th was National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. I attended the following webinars:

1. How Best to Achieve Lead Abatement Compliance, Guidance from the State Housing Prosecutor on 10/24/22. Presenter John F. Kerwin, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney for Criminal Housing Matters.
2. Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule on 10/26/22. Presenter EPA.
3. Lead abatement Projects and the Availability of State Bond Dollars: How to Get the Job Done on 10/28/22. Presenter Chris Corcoran, Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program.





Emergency Responses After Hours

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	10/04/2022 4:00pm	4 Rimmondale Street, Seymour	Housing; no heat
2.	10/24/2022 4:00pm	Rental Hall, Ansonia	Foodborne Outbreak Investigation*
3.	10/27/2022 4:00pm	112 Hawkins Street, Derby	Housing; no water
4.	10/29/2022 11:00am	Emmet O'Brien, Ansonia (phone call)	Water leak/power outage
5.	10/31/2022 7:30am	Emmet O'Brien, Ansonia	Water leak/power outage

*Over several days, Jess, Melanie, and Carissa attended several meetings with CT DPH Epidemiology and Foodborne Protection Program staff, Yale FoodCORE students, and Bridgeport Health Department staff as part of the investigation. CT DPH and Bridgeport Health Department remained the primary lead organizations handling the investigation and NVHD assisted.

