

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



WEST WINDSOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

West Windsor Township
Robbinsville Township
Hightstown Borough

GOVERNANCE



West Windsor Township 2025

Hemant Marathe, Mayor

Council and Board of Health Members

Andrea Mandel, President

Linda Geevers, Vice President

Sonia Gawas

Daniel Weiss

Martin Whitfield

Administration

Marlena Schmid, Business Administrator/Director, Health & Human Services

GOVERNANCE



Robbinsville Township 2025

David Fried, Mayor

Council and Board of Health Members

Mike Todd, President

Deborah Blakely, Vice President

Christine Ciaccio

Amit Chopra

Hal English

Administration

Bruce R. Davas, ESQ., Business Administrator

GOVERNANCE



Hightstown Borough 2025

Susan Bluth, Mayor

Borough Council

Joe Cicalese, Board of Health Liaison
Cristina Fowler
Todd Frantz
Jeet Gulati
Joshua Jackson, President
Frederick Montferrat

Board of Health

Nancy Distelcamp, President
Edyth Duffy, Vice President
Jennifer Bernal
Dr. Robert Duffy
Skye Gilmartin
Dr. John Laudenberg
Elizabeth Morley
Deb Napolitano

Board of Health Secretary – Robert Gilmartin

Administration

John Francis Roman, Business Administrator

Overview of Public Health Services

West Windsor Township Health Department provides public health services to the communities of West Windsor, Robbinsville and Hightstown through municipal shared services agreements. West Windsor Township is the primary employer while each community is governed under a separate Board of Health. The services and programs offered reflect mandates established in the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, N.J.A.C. 8:52 and reflect the specific needs of each community. The Health Department is administered by the Health Officer with the support of the public health nurse, health educators, Manager of Environmental Health Services and several registered environmental health specialists. Clerical support is provided by full-time professionals in the Health Department. Robbinsville Township and Hightstown Borough designate clerical staff to assist in Board of Health functions such as licensing and vital statistics. The Department contracts with a physician to provide medical director oversight for the clinical services provided to the community such as vaccinations. Throughout 2025, the department continued to receive grant funding to support staffing resource. The West Windsor Health Department provides full time coverage for public health functions and is on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days a week for emergency response to public health issues.

The Health Department is accountable directly to the Boards of Health and to Township and Borough administrations. The Boards for West Windsor and Robbinsville Townships are composed of the elected officials serving on the Township Councils. The Hightstown Board of Health is autonomous and composed of volunteers appointed by the Mayor to represent the community. Boards of Health make policy decisions, review reports prepared by the professional staff and enact ordinances which are deemed necessary to protect the health of the community. Board of Health meetings are open public meetings and are scheduled periodically throughout the year.



Public Health
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Health Department Vision, Mission and Values

Vision Statement

Our vision is to develop and maintain thriving communities whose residents are focused on promoting lifelong personal and family health.

Mission

To achieve our vision, the Department is committed to provide public health services intended to protect, promote, assess, and assure the health, safety and environment of our communities through programs in health education, preventative health services, environmental and consumer health, communicable disease control, public health emergency preparedness and environmental regulation enforcement.

Values

We value an evidence-based approach in providing diversified and high quality programs based on public health needs and government mandates. We embrace the core values of:

Integrity We act in a fair, consistent and impartial manner. We approach all situations objectively, with respect for both individuals and cultures, with sensitivity and without prejudice. We are accountable for our actions.

Efficiency We are committed to making sound and fiscally responsible use of the resources available to us.

Diversity We recognize the value and uniqueness of all persons and cultures. Individuals are treated fairly with respect and our staff is nonarbitrary/noncapricious in the performance of our mandated duties.

Collaboration We seek to establish partnerships with colleagues, agencies, businesses and community groups to enhance our ability to positively impact the health of our communities.

Service We strive to be viewed as an asset to the community through the provision of high quality interventions and the dispatch of prompt, efficient and professional services.

Knowledge We embrace continuous learning as a standard practice for our public health workforce and the sharing of information with our community.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF - 2025

Jill Swanson.....Health Officer
Licensed Health Officer, Certified Health Education Specialist
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Geetanjali Jain..... Public Health Nurse
RN,BSN, CIC

Nikita Brancato..... Manager, Environmental Health Services
Licensed Health Officer , Registered Environmental Health Specialist,
Certified Health Education Specialist

Greg Guttadora.....Senior REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Stephanie Shumanov.....REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Max Shumanov, Daria Vinci, Alexa Petitio.....Part-time REHS

Fatema Haque.....Local Health Outreach Coordinator
Certified Health Education Specialist

Ann Wang.....Health Educator/Infectious Disease Program Generalist

Carol Chamberlain.....PT LHOC/IDPG
Licensed Health Officer, Certified Health Education Specialist,
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Karen Rogers.....PT Public Health Nurse
RN, BSN

Jean WardRegistrar

Falguni PatelSecretary/Deputy Registrar

Jessica Goense.....Secretary/Alternate Registrar

Contractual Professionals

Dr. Stephan Vetrano.....Medical Director

Hightstown

Registrar of Vital Statistics.....Peggy Riggio
Board of Health Licensing

Robbinsville

Registrar of Vital Statistics.....Michele Siegfried

Board of Health Licensing.....Annabella Marino

Community Profile: West Windsor Township

Demographic Characteristic - West Windsor Township	Measure
Total Population	29,518
Veteran Population	1.7%
Age	
Persons under 18 years	25%
Persons over 65 years	14.6%
Race and Ethnicity	
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.0%
Asian	52.6%
Black or African American	4.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White alone	35.5%
Hispanic or Latinx	5.1%
Other race	1.6%
Education	
High school graduate or equivalent degree, persons 25+ years	6.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher, persons 25+ years	84.1%
Income	
Median household income	\$190,100
Persons in poverty	7.7%

Community Profile: Robbinsville Township

Demographic Characteristic - Robbinsville Township	Measure
Total Population	15,476
Veteran Population	1.7%
Age	
Persons under 18 years	26.6%
Persons over 65 years	11.2%
Race and Ethnicity	
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.0%
Asian	27.9%
Black or African American	3.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White alone	61.6%
Hispanic or Latinx	5.1%
Other race	1.7%
Education	
High school graduate or equivalent degree, persons 25+ years	14.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher, persons 25+ years	66.7%
Income	
Median household income	\$162,813
Persons in poverty	3.4%

Community Profile: Hightstown Borough

Demographic Characteristic - Hightstown Borough	Measure
Total Population	5,900
Veteran Population	4.9%
Age	
Persons under 18 years	15.8%
Persons over 65 years	15.6%
Race and Ethnicity	
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%
Asian	5.7%
Black or African American	7.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White alone	49.6%
Hispanic or Latinx	36.7%
Other race	23.9%
Education	
High school graduate or equivalent degree, persons 25+ years	31.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher, persons 25+ years	36.7%
Income	
Median household income	\$107,431
Persons in poverty	1.5%

RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Health authorities estimate that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people) get sick from a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die.

CDC, NCEZID, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases, 2022



The retail food program licenses and monitors food safety and sanitation at restaurants, schools, markets, churches and temporary events to ensure food safety and prevent incidence of foodborne illnesses. Unannounced compliance inspections are conducted annually at establishments to monitor conformance with Chapter 24 of the

New Jersey State Sanitary Code. Follow-up inspections are performed when critical violations are found. Establishments serving vulnerable populations or engaging in high risk food preparation are inspected twice a year. Inspectors also investigate potential foodborne illness reports, outbreaks, and consumer complaints related to food establishments. The Health Department conducts site visits in response to product recalls, power outages, emergency events, and provides specialized educational materials.

Designs for new establishments and plans for renovations to existing businesses are reviewed to ensure compliance with rules and regulations. Inspections are conducted prior to opening a new business and a second operational inspection is performed following the opening to audit operational food safety practices. Grease control measures are also evaluated during the plan review phase to ensure we protect the municipal sewerage system.

Retail Food Establishment Program Summary*

2025	WWT	RV	HT
RFE Licenses Issued	171	65	43
Food Inspections	172	64	43
Food Reinspections	45	11	8
Compliance Inspections (NOV)	34	7	9
Non Routine Investigations (Spot Check)	31	7	4
Mobile	9	7	1
Enforcement Actions - Court	5	0	1
Administrative Hearings	3	0	0
Plan Reviews	16	4	3
Temporary Foods Licensed	293	90	74
Temporary Food Inspections	159	59	21

Plan Reviews

Technical plan reviews are conducted for new facilities or renovations to existing establishments. During the plan review process inspectors review plans, menus and equipment specifications to ensure code compliance prior to construction, remodel or change of ownership. Inspectors work closely with the design professionals and construction code officials during this process.

Hightstown Borough

Earth Powered
Rise Food Pantry
The Wedgewood 120

Robbinsville

Main Street Café
Café 512
Silk and Sweets
Dunkin Donuts Renovation

West Windsor

Chick Fil A
Fogo De Chao
Federal Donuts & Chicken
Mouthful Restaurant
Purple Café
Sweetgreen
Wegmans
Wingstop
Kanchipuram Café
Triveni Express
Juice Se Lavi

Emergency Response for Retail Foods

Fires, floods, electrical outages and sick food handlers create emergency situations for food establishments serving the public. Some reports require immediate public health engagement and the Health Department is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to emergencies. Planning is a vital step for the industry. During annual visits to the establishments, inspectors encourage operators to develop and refine emergency plans and to train employees on best practices for ensuring food safety during crisis events.

COMPLAINTS/PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

The Health Department responds to complaints, referrals and requests from residents, business owners, municipal or other government agencies on a variety of public health concerns. Local, state, and federal regulations and guidelines are employed to address these concerns. Inspectors apply evidence-based approaches to address substantiated public health problems identified in the community. In situations which require technical expertise beyond the scope of the local health department, subject matter experts are consulted at the state or federal level. In addition to investigations aimed at preventing and correcting conditions of public health significance, inspectors assist residents in the resolution of quality of life issues and aesthetic concerns.

The response time and resources invested in resolving these issues varies greatly from case to case and the allocation of resources is dependent upon public health significance. Inspectors may successfully resolve an issue in one or two site visits; however many cases require repeat visits to allow for investigation, documentation, education, and repeat follow-ups to ensure abatement. Habitual, unabated issues or conditions which pose an immediate threat to human health and/or the environment are handled through legal enforcement action in court.

Common Issues

Animal Concerns, At-risk Individuals, Bed Bugs, High Weeds, Hoarding, Housing Complaints, Noise, Odors, Obstructed Sidewalks, Poison Ivy, Restaurants, Rodents, Solid Waste, Stagnant Water/Mosquito Breeding, and Tobacco-related Nuisances * In 2025, West Windsor Township transitioned enforcement of property maintenance and minor nuisance complaints such as high grass, overgrown vegetation and unkept properties to the Zoning Office for oversight. The Zoning Office expanded hours for their inspector to assume these duties and ensure resident concerns are promptly investigated.

Complaints Investigations* - Quick Stats

	WW	RV	HT
Total Complaints	144	57	24
Court Actions	0	0	0

*Hightstown Borough and Robbinsville Township have established property maintenance and housing enforcement programs which are administered by municipal code enforcement and housing officers. This step helps conserve public health resources and related costs. Hightstown Borough and Robbinsville Township take the lead investigation and enforcement role on complaints of this nature. The Health Department provides consultative support to these programs upon request.

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL BATHING PLACES

Local health departments conduct safety and sanitation inspections of public recreational bathing facilities to reduce the spread of communicable diseases and protect consumers who use these facilities from illness and injury. The Center for Disease Control reports that swimming is the most popular recreational activity in the United States for children ages 7 to 17; which emphasizes the importance of ensuring safe venues for this popular activity.

Annual inspections are conducted of all public bathing facilities for compliance with Chapter IX of the New Jersey State Sanitary Code. Seasonal facilities are inspected prior to opening for the summer and at least once again during the operational season. Year-round facilities are inspected at least twice annually. Bacteriological water analysis are conducted weekly by private laboratories and reviewed by the Department. New facilities and renovations planned for existing facilities are subject to a technical plan review and approval process.

Public Recreational Bathing Program Quick Stats

	WW	RV	HT
Licenses Issued	23	5	4
Annual Licenses	7	1	2
Seasonal Licenses	16	4	2
Pools	26	5	4
Wading Pools	6	1	0
Spas	3	0	1
Pre-operational Inspections	35	10	5
Compliance Inspections	30	9	6
Unsatisfactory/Closure	4	1	1
Enforcement Actions	4	1	2
Plan Review	3	0	0

Electronic Smoking Devices Facilities

Local ordinance in West Windsor Township require annual licensure for businesses which sell electronic smoking devices. Annual inspections are conducted at each facility.

Licenses Issued	4
Inspections	6
Out of Compliance visits	2
Enforcement Actions	1

Campgrounds

One campground facility is in operation at Mercer County Park, West Windsor.
One (1) inspection was conducted.

POTABLE WELLS AND DRINKING WATER SAFETY

The installation and abandonment of private, domestic wells and wells which serve public non-community water systems are permitted and inspected by the Department to ensure compliance with state regulations. Inspectors often provide consultation to residents in interpretation of lab analysis conducted on private wells and during real estate transfers of property. The inspection and review of a new well is a multi-step process and involves multiple site visits to the property in addition to documentation review. The Department also inspects installation of geothermal and irrigation wells to help safeguard the integrity of our ground water resources.

2025 Potable Water Activity

	HT	RV	WW	Totals
New Well Inspections	0	2	8	10
Investigations	0	1	9	10
Public Water Complaints	1	0	2	3



ONSITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM SAFETY



WWHD provides education, permitting, and inspections of low-volume (less than 2,000 gallons/day), residential and commercial onsite wastewater treatment systems (e.g., septic systems) to ensure that systems are designed, constructed, and maintained properly, thus improving the state's water quality and protecting both human health and the environment. Activities include soil evaluation, investigations, installation inspections, technical design reviews and third-party inspection

reports reviews for property transfers. The health department also performs technical reviews and offers recommendations to professional boards on projects with existing or proposed onsite wastewater treatment systems.

2025 Septic System Activity

	HT	RV	WW	Totals
New Installations	0	0	5	5
Repairs/Alterations	0	2	37	39
New plan reviews	0	2	6	8
Construction Prior Approvals	0	0	42	42
Site Assessment for Soil Suitability	0	6	8	14
Site Plan Review	0	18	0	18
Approximate Number of Systems	2	809	1940	2749
Realty Transfer Reviews	0	12	19	31
Investigations	0	0	1	1
Septic/Well Sealings	0	4	14	18



YOUTH CAMPS

Youth camps are inspected prior to operation for compliance with state regulations covering sanitation and safety standards. Inspectors meet with camp directors to review records, plans and certifications. The physical components of the camps such as kitchens and swimming pools are inspected for compliance with local and state regulations. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Health periodically conducts operational inspections of youth camps during the season.

Youth Camp Inspections

	HT	RV	WW
Pre-operational inspections	2	0	3
Compliance achieved	1	0	2

BODY ART REGULATION

State regulations require local licensing and inspections of establishments performing piercings, tattooing, and permanent cosmetics. The Health Department receives frequent inquiries from potential new business owners on technical questions regarding licensing and operational requirements. Currently there are two (2) body art establishments licensed in the Department’s service area. The primary focus of this program is to ensure safe practices and prevent bloodborne pathogen transmissions or infections.

Body Art Activity

	HT	WWT	RV
Licensed Establishments/Inspections Conducted	1	2	0
Satisfactory Rating	1	2	0
Plan Review for new establishment	0	0	0
Enforcement Actions	0	0	0

WHAT IS BODY ART?

**BODY PIERCING -TATTOOING - EAR -
 PIERCING- MICRODERMAL ANCHORS -
 MICROBLADING – MICROPIGMENTATION -
 AREOLA RESTORATION - CAMOUFLAGE**

TANNING ESTABLISHMENTS

Tanning facilities are licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and inspected by local health departments. Zero facilities are licensed in Hightstown.

Tanning Facility Inspections

	WW	RV
Licensed Establishments/Site Visits Conducted	1/1	2/2

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that each year 6 million people are treated for SKIN CANCER, 9 billion dollars are spent on treatments, and 8,000 lives in the United States are lost due to melanoma. Most cases are PREVENTABLE!

MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

Local ordinances in West Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough mandate licensing and operational requirements for massage establishments. Annual inspections focus on safe and sanitary operations; including the proper use of antimicrobial disinfectants, availability of handwashing facilities and licensing of personnel. Hightstown adopted the code in 2016 and there are currently no licensed businesses in operation.

The Health Department conducts inspections of establishments providing massage or body work service in accordance with local ordinances adopted in West Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough.

Massage Quick Stats	WWT
Licensed Establishments	4
Inspection	4
Investigations & Spot Checks	1
Enforcement Actions	0

RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM



The Health Department is the lead agency for rabies control activities. Rabies is a fatal, viral disease that continues to threaten the health of exposed residents, pets and wildlife in New Jersey. Pet licensing, vaccination clinics, exposure investigations, and educational outreach efforts are strategies used to prevent disease transmission.

Working closely with the Animal Control Officers and the Police Departments, health officials respond to and investigate potential rabies exposures to prevent disease in our community. Confinement notices are issued when a resident is bitten by a dog or cat to monitor the animal for potential illness. Exposures to wildlife require laboratory analysis and follow up. If warranted, exposed individuals are referred for medical evaluation and treatment. Testing may be ordered for wildlife or animals where exposures are suspected. Encouraging residents to vaccinate pets and avoid exposures to wildlife are some of the strategies public health professionals employ to protect our communities. The Health Department and animal control work to maintain close communications with area veterinary clinics and animal facilities to foster a cooperative relationship and rapid response to potential cases.

Free rabies clinics are hosted by the Health Department four (4) times per year and at least once in each of the 3 municipalities.

Education and prevention are vital components of the rabies program and are ongoing throughout the year. Consultations on animal-related issues and disease control are provided to employees, businesses, volunteers, animal control and residents.

N.J. Rabies Testing 2025 Stats

Positive Rabies Result Statewide:

**153 Terrestrials
22 Bats**

Mercer County:

**5 Raccoons
1 Bats
2 Skunks
3 Foxes**

Hightstown:

1 Raccoon

West Windsor:

1 Skunk

***"Cats have accounted
for 93% of the
domestic animal cases
in New Jersey since
1989. For the last 5
years there has been
an average of 18 cats
infected with rabies
annually."***

*New Jersey Department of Health,
New Jersey Rabies Cases by
County and Species, January 1 –
December 31, 2025*

Rabies Control Responses

	Investigations Bites Report Domestic Animals	Potential Rabies Exposures Contact with Wildlife
HB	6	2
RV	39	3
WW	30	12
Total	75	17

Public Health Advisories Issued for Rabies - 2 (1 skunk, 1 raccoon)

Rabies Vaccination Clinics

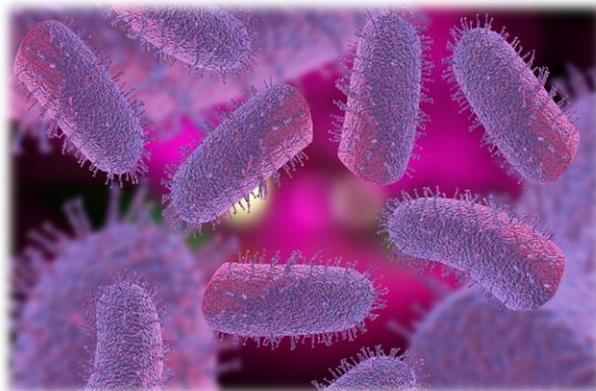
4 Clinics Offered 141 dogs, 25 cats vaccinated

January 9, 2025	Robbinsville	67 dogs, 4 cats
April 24, 2025	West Windsor	17 dogs, 7 cats
November 6, 2025	West Windsor	35 dogs, 7 cats
December 4, 2025	Hightstown	22 dogs, 7 cats

Local Partners in Rabies Prevention

West Windsor Police Department
 Robbinsville Police Department
 Hightstown Police Department
 NorthStar VETS
 SAVE

East Windsor Animal Control
 Western Monmouth Animal Control
 Princeton Animal Hospital & Cat Clinic
 Nassau Animal Hospital



Rabies Virus, CDC Image

KENNELS, PET SHOPS, SHELTERS/POUND FACILITIES

Animal facilities are licensed and inspected to ensure compliance with regulations which focus on safe, sanitary and humane operations. These facilities are inspected annually and new or remodeled facilities undergo plan review by the Health Department. Facilities are inspected at least once per year.

Animal Facility Activity (#licensed/ #inspections)

2025	RV	WW
Kennels	2/3	1/2
Pet Shops	0	1/1
Shelter/Pound	0	2/2*
Plan Review	0	0

***1 shelter licensed in 2025 (WW) did not house animals and therefore a routine inspection was not conducted.**

Pet Licensing

Pet licensing helps to reconnect lost pets with their owners, supports low cost spay and neuter programs and assists in ensuring up-to-date rabies vaccinations are maintained for domestic pets. Residents in West Windsor Township annually license pet dogs and cats directly with the Health Department. This service is provided by the Office of the Clerk in Robbinsville and Hightstown.

		
HB	202	11
RV	730	
WW	751	98



HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION

Health promotion is incorporated into all facets of the health department programming, with a focus on providing services which encourage informed health decisions and healthy lifestyles. Staff regularly participate in the various coalitions and provider groups in the effort to build relationships with partner agencies and remain informed on services available to community members. These include, but are not limited to, Hunterdon-Mercer Chronic Disease Coalition, Central Regional Tobacco Collaboration, Prevention Coalition of Mercer Council, Central New Jersey Lead and Healthy Homes Coalition, Jersey Shore Addiction Services, WIC, Zuffall Health Center, Rise, and various professional organizations. The Health Department attends community events held throughout the year to distribute public health information. The Department is an active member of the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership and works with community partners to align health promotion efforts through the development and implementation of the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan for Mercer County. The Department also participates on the Community Advisory Board for the Penn Medicine Princeton Health.





Public Health
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West Windsor Health Department

2025 Health Education & Promotion

West Windsor Health Department delivers evidence-based health education programs that empower residents to make informed decisions, practice healthy behaviors, and reduce preventable health risks. Leveraging partnerships with schools, senior centers, community organizations, and local businesses enable us to provide accessible, and responsive interventions within community settings. Our programs address priority topics such as chronic disease prevention, communicable disease, mental health awareness, nutrition, substance use prevention, etc. Health education and promotion is a cornerstone of the department's prevention efforts, and we look forward to expanding these goals in 2026.

Customized Health Promotion Programs

By adapting to the cultural, linguistic and contextual needs of our diverse community, we foster greater engagement and inspire sustainable healthy behavior changes.



Handwashing Lessons Elementary Schools

Adapted for
Special Education &
Spanish Dual Language
Immersion classes



Community Health Fair Iglesia Pentecostal Ríos de Agua Viva - Living Waters Pentecostal Church

Spanish/English
bilingual resources &
volunteer interpreters



Nutrition Curriculum MCCC Center for Adult Transition Program

Designed for students
with developmental and
intellectual disabilities



Health Education Programs Senior Centers

Addressing requests by
seniors and senior
center managers



Outreach to Senior Living Communities

Chinese/English
bilingual resources



Kids & Teens Tick Lessons Rise Summer Camp

Complemented the
camp's outdoor events

Health and Wellness & Community Engagement Highlights

43 Community Events

12

Employee Newsletters

11 Clinic Tabletops

96

Digital Media Outreach

21 Senior Center Events

1,976

Free Test Kit Distribution

TOTAL

143

Health
Education
Activities,
2025

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The West Windsor Health Department partnered with three school districts within our jurisdiction to conduct Handwashing Scrub Club lessons. The program is a 20-30 min presentation (single-session) for kindergarten and first grade, emphasizing the importance of cleanliness, the role handwashing plays in preventing illness, and when they should wash their hands.

35

Kindergarten classrooms reached

Student touchpoints reached

589



TEACHER REMARKS

"the students were very engaged"

"great way to get kids excited about handwashing"

"love the slides & light"

"come back again"

"timely for sick season"



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING AND RESPONSE

The Health Department develops, updates, and exercises preparedness plans for potential public health emergencies. An emphasis is placed on coordinating our plans with a broad range of partners. Plans are integrated with county, state and federal plans to facilitate a strategic, coordinated public health response.

Community Preparedness

Risk Communication and All-Preparedness Messaging: In addition to planning for our response during emergencies, the department helps spread the word to residents and businesses about steps they can take to be better prepared for storms, outbreaks, natural disasters and bioterrorism events. Educational materials are distributed through a variety of venues and staff actively discuss the importance of having plans in place during routine compliance visits to establishments. The Health Department’s Risk Communication plan was updated in 2025.

Workforce Development in Emergency Preparedness: Throughout the year staff members attend trainings focused on emergency operations to ensure that in times of emergencies, all agencies involved in the response recognize the standardized Incident Command System (ICS) framework established for emergency response under the National Incident Management System. Many of the trainings are developed by FEMA and sponsored by local agencies. Staff also take part in table top exercises and discussions with partners to train and evaluate planning efforts.

Examples of some of the trainings and exercises staff participated in during the year include:

- Table-top exercise with county-wide partners – Measles response -April 15
- Guided Discussion with Mercer County – Risk Communication plan – May 21
- Radiation Response Course – October 17
- OEM Liason Meeting Robbinsville – September 18
- Stop the Bleed and CPR training completed for staff.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases are reported to the local health department by physicians, laboratories, hospitals, schools and institutions in accordance with the rules established under the New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 8, Chapter 57. Local health departments monitor population health through surveillance to detect outbreaks, track disease trends, and guide public-health interventions to prevent further spread of illness. Public health control measures such as exclusion from work or school, quarantine, isolation, contact monitoring, and prophylaxis are important strategies utilized to interrupt the chain of infection and keep the community safe from ongoing spread of illness.

A significant portion of the reporting is performed electronically through a centralized reporting system, the NJDOH-based Communicable Disease Report and Surveillance System. In addition, the Health Department strives to maintain ongoing relationships with key community and healthcare partners to ensure rapid response and open communications during communicable disease investigations and outbreaks.

Real-world Examples from Year 2025.

- **Measles exposures.** Following a report of local exposures to an individual ill with measles, staff initiated a rapid response by conducting interviews, evaluating immunity status, providing guidance and monitoring those exposed throughout their incubation periods. A total of 9 persons residing within the jurisdiction were identified close contacts to the confirmed case and were monitored daily for 21 days following exposure. There were no measles cases confirmed within residents. The Health Department fields numerous calls every year regarding measles. Measles activity has been increasing globally and outbreaks were reported in the United States in 2024 and 2025. Public health messaging encourages residents to ensure they know their immunity status, remain up to date on vaccinations, monitor travel advisories prior to departure and their symptoms upon return from impacted localities. Measles is highly contagious and vaccine preventable.
- **Monkeypox.** In response to cases of monkeypox, the public health nurse promptly administered preventative vaccinations to individuals identified as close contacts to ensure protection was provided within the recommended timeframe. Consultation and education was provided to assist household members in remaining disease-free while sharing living areas. Additionally, guidance and emergency coordination was provided if patients required emergency medical treatment to assist in access to care from local healthcare facilities while ensuring preventative measures were observed to avoid further exposures.

- **Rabies.** Rabies was confirmed in two separate events in which individuals and pets interacted with ill wildlife. Swift response by the Police Department and Animal Control ensured the animals were captured and prioritized for testing. The REHS team conducted prompt and thorough follow-up to ensure preventative treatments were administered to the people and pets which interacted and may consequently have been exposed to the fatal virus. Once infected with the virus, Rabies is almost always fatal. Rabies typically spreads to human through saliva of an infected animal. Human death due to Rabies is preventable. These events stress the importance of maintaining working relationships among community partners such as local healthcare providers, veterinarians, the NJDOH laboratories, and the local responders.
- **Monitoring.** Staff continually monitors school absenteeism through the Surveillance for Infectious Conditions Module (SIC). All K-12 public and private schools are required to report weekly the student census, absences, reasons for absence, and school outbreaks. This consistent communication between the local health department and schools allows us to respond to unusual disease upticks and prepare for potential outbreaks, better protecting student health.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

The Health Department maintains a shared services agreement with Hamilton Township Health Department to provide confidential clinic services for sexually transmitted infections. This arrangement allows residents to access care which includes patient visits, diagnosis, treatment and contact tracing. Residents of West Windsor, Robbinsville and Hightstown are eligible for clinic services. The centralized clinic is an example of county-wide municipal efforts to contain and share cost of providing essential public health services to the community.

Tuberculosis Control

Residents testing positive for Tuberculosis (TB) are followed by a nurse case manager at the Mercer County TB clinic operated by the Trenton Health Team. The County of Mercer maintains a contract for the county-wide services which are partially funded through federal and state resources. Assessments and consultations are provided by a specially trained nurse case manager. Direct observe therapy (DOT), if prescribed, is the responsibility of the local public health nurse in each municipality. During DOT visits, the nurse visits the patient daily at home or work to ensure medication compliance and monitor for side effects. At the physician's discretion, video recorded DOT (VDOT) may also be indicated. In VDOT, the patient records a video of swallowing prescribed tuberculosis medications and shares the video on a daily basis with the nurse. Recorded VDOT are reviewed by the nurse to ensure medication compliance and monitor for side effects. In 2025, no cases required DOT or VDOT services within WWHD's jurisdiction.

2025 Year in Review

Communicable Disease Investigations

Why are they important?



*Detect Disease
When and Where It
Happens*



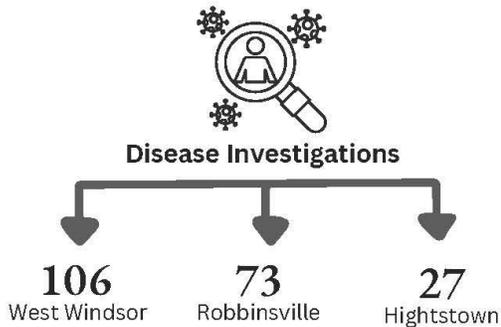
*Stop Diseases
Before It Spreads*



*Increase Our
Understanding Of
Disease*



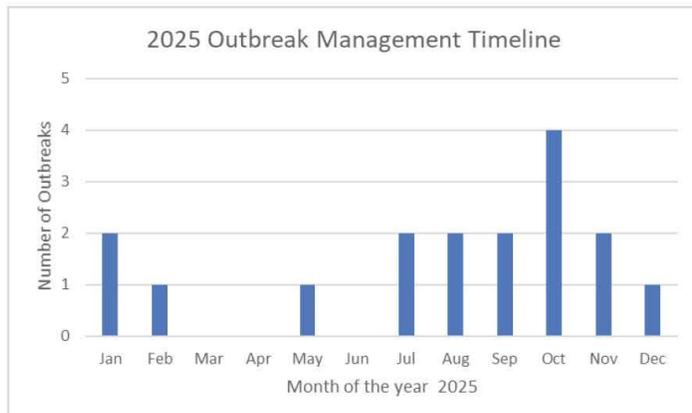
*Improve How We
Prevent and Control
Disease*



Disease Investigations 2025

Confirmed	51
Not A Case	60
Probable/Possible	91
Miscellaneous (Open/Out of Jurisdiction)	4
Total Investigations	206

Communicable Disease Outbreak Management



Outbreaks Categorized by Disease Type



Immunization Audits of Schools and Childcares

Annual immunization audits are conducted at educational institutions and childcare facilities to ensure compliance with mandated immunization requirements. During the audit process, a public health nurse provides assistance and guidance on state-mandated immunization requirements. Preschool, kindergarten, sixth grade, and high school student records in public and private schools are audited. The nurse works closely with facility directors and school nurses to ensure consistent implementation of these policies.

During the 2025 cycle, 33 public schools and child care centers were audited. Initial visits resulted in 100% compliance in 24% of the institutions. Follow-up audits resulted in 100% compliance in the remaining 76% of the institutions.

2025 Immunization Audits (# of audits conducted)

	HB	RV	WW
Childcare/Preschools	4	7	13
Kindergarten & 1 st grade	2	1	2
Grade 6	1	1	1
High Schools	3	1	1
Revisits	4	10	9

Child Health Clinic Services

The Child Health Clinic is a joint program supported by Hightstown Borough, East Windsor and West Windsor Townships. Uninsured children, infant through 18 years of age, are eligible to attend. The clinic successfully relocated to the Grace Norton Rogers school in 2025. Public health nurses from the municipal health departments staff the clinic. The clinic provides vaccinations to infants through school-aged children and facilitates referrals to preventative services. Referrals are made to medical clinics and supportive resources, such as the Zufall Health Center, Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC), blood lead testing, dental visits and vision/hearing screenings.

Robbinsville residents are served by the Hamilton Township child health clinic through a separate shared services contract and families receive similar services.

Child Health Clinics Trends

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
# of Clinics	22	29	11	9	6
Patient Visits	135	172	52	31	10

Childhood Lead Poisoning

All children under six (6) years of age should be screened at least twice for elevated blood lead, preferably at ages one (1) and two (2). Testing can be coordinated through the federally qualified health centers (FQHC) for uninsured children. Lead poisoning prevention materials are distributed to the general community through a variety of channels to raise awareness regarding the potential exposures in homes, consumer goods and the environment. Families of children identified as having elevated blood lead levels of equal to or more than 3.5 microgram/Dl are counseled by a public health nurse case manager. Environmental intervention is initiated when the blood lead reference value (BLRV) result is: two confirmed venous results of 5-9 µg/dL, 1-4 months apart; OR a single, confirmed venous result of ≥10 µg/dL. Cases which warrant environmental hazard investigation are investigated by a staff REHS specially trained and certified as a lead inspection/risk assessor. Nurse case management services are provided by a specialized registered nurse through a shared services agreement between West Windsor Health Department and the City of Trenton Health Department. Grant funding supports a portion of this service. The township nurse monitors the cases on the daily basis to ensure the follow up is as per the protocol.

West Windsor Health Department will offer lead testing of consumer items at **no cost**. Residents may bring children's toys, jewelry, kitchenware, spices, etc. **Limit to 3 items. [Click here](#) or scan below to pre-register.**

Health education and promotion materials are distributed through multiple venues to promote lead awareness and safe practice. In 2025, the REHS LI/RA team offered 2 sessions open to residents free of charge for consumer goods testing.

2025 Nurse Case Management for Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Children:

Case Status/Town	Hightstown	West Windsor	Robbinsville
Pending	0	1	0
Open	2	12	2
Closed	1	11	10
Total	3	24	12

Environmental Investigations Initiated 3
 Environmental Home Inspections /Visits 2

In 2025, 0 cases of reported elevated blood lead levels in children in Robbinsville or Hightstown required environmental inspection by LI/RA team.

Prenatal/Postpartum Referrals

The Health Department occasionally receives referrals from medical professionals, individuals, concerning high risk mothers and children within our communities in need of prenatal and postpartum services. The public health nurse provides education to parents about the physical, nutritional and cognitive development of infants and plays an important referral role in connecting families to address gaps in health and social services.

Adult Health

The senior centers serve as the focal point for adult health services and offer an array of health screenings, lectures, wellness programs and health-related resources utilizing a variety of partners. Health Department staff consult with senior center management and assist in linking the centers with new and updated health resources and opportunities for expanded services for residents. Linking the Centers with programs offered by partner services is a focus for the Health Department's outreach team.

Hypertension Screening

The public health nurse offers screenings and education outreach to residents and employees at various sites throughout the three communities. Efforts are made to locate screening at easily accessible locations and times.

2025 Quick Stats: 29 events scheduled/219 individuals screened

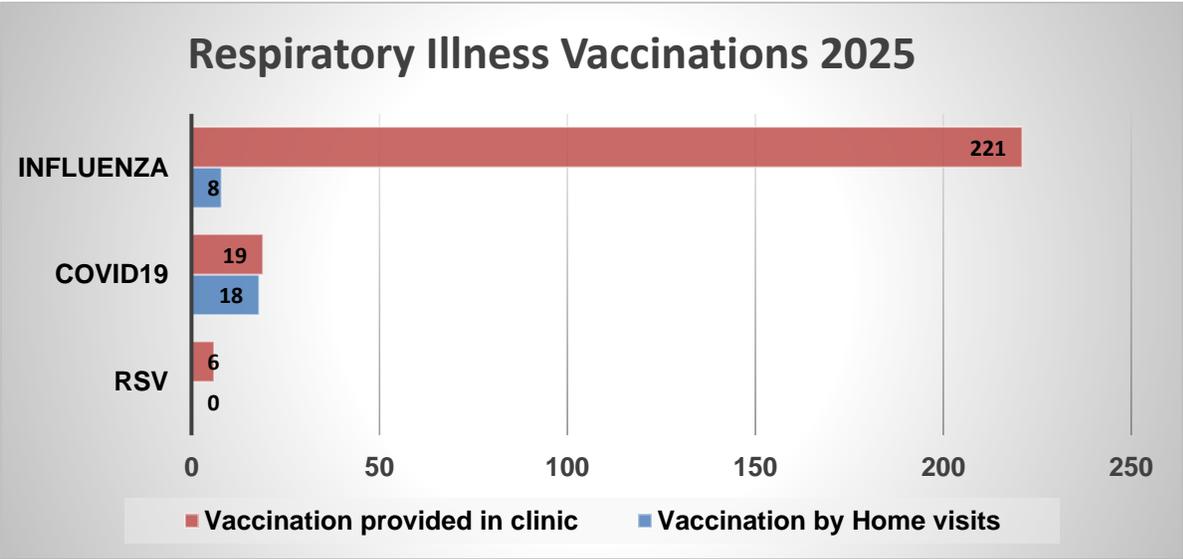


**West Windsor Health Department received the
New Jersey Department of Health
2024-2025 Influenza Honor Roll
Top Honors!**

Vaccination Clinics 2025 – Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV

In 2025, the Health Department continued to partner with local pharmacies to offer vaccination clinics at senior centers, housing complexes and local community sites. In addition to the adult population, these partner clinics were open to children 3 years of age and older. Changes in available funding streams in early 2025 interrupted availability of additional vaccine programs previously available to the community.

The local health department continued to facilitate conversations between longterm care centers and local providers to encourage onsite clinics for their residents and staff in efforts to prevent illness in a population with potentially severe health consequences.



Flu Clinic Trends

Flu Clinics Year	# of Clinics	Total Vaccinations Administered
2025	6	221
2024	16	344
2023	11	426
2022	10	550
2021	13	221

- 2025 Homebound visits = the public nurse provided 8 influenza vaccinations

COVID-19 Clinic Trends

COVID-19 Clinics Year	# of Clinics	Homebound Visits	Total Vaccinations Administered
2025	1	18	37
2024	14	9	80
2023	19	12	348
2022	143	72	3,254
2021*	162	78	7,110

* Reported stats do not reflect the resources invested January 2021 – March 2021 in the numerous clinics conducted in partnership with local health departments across the county at MCCC and additional municipal locations.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar of Vital Statistics maintains records of all the marriages, domestic partnerships, civil unions, births and deaths within the community. Each community appoints a separate Vital Statistics Registrar and Deputy Registrar. Each Registrar is required to attend formal training, pass a certification exam and maintain continuing education credits. Robbinsville and Hightstown have appointed the Office of the Clerk to perform this function. The Health Department is responsible for vital statistic services in West Windsor. The high number of death certificates issued in Hightstown is reflective of presence of two funeral homes located in the community.

issued in 2025

	HT	RV	WW
Marriage License Applications	35	42	98
Certified Copies of Vital Records (Births & Marriages)	991	162	232
Deaths		45	

Overview of Goals and Objectives for 2026

- ✓ Align local departmental health promotion efforts with the community health improvement plans developed in participation in the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership and Penn Medicine Princeton planning efforts.
- ✓ Health promotion events and programs will reflect alignment with the statewide Mayors' Wellness Campaign (MWC) when appropriate. Outreach staff will document activities offered throughout 2026 and encourage Township divisions and committees to utilize MWC resources.
- ✓ Evaluate routine office processes and identify potential strategies to improve the customer experience such as implementing remote payment options for licensing.
- ✓ Identify and operationalize software to electronically record inspections for the retail food and public recreational bathing programs.
- ✓ Continuous Quality Improvement project: Increase community compliance with pet licensing requirements through promotion and education.
- ✓ Explore available grant funding options and maintain past success in implementing grant-funded programs.