



2023 Annual Report



The Contractual Health Agency serving...
Bernards Township
Bernardsville Borough
Chester Borough
Long Hill Township
Mendham Borough
Peapack & Gladstone Borough

2023 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ANNUAL REPORT TABLE OF CONTENTS

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A Letter from the Health Officer:

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

I am pleased to share the Bernards Township Health Department's **2023 Annual Report** with our communities. The work we do in Public Health is challenging, complex, and ever-changing with a constant responsibility of protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities. It is my hope that these pages will capture the essence of the work performed by our talented staff. We are grateful to our community partners and to all residents of Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Peapack and Gladstone Borough (Somerset County) and Chester Borough, Mendham Borough, and Long Hill Township (Morris County). Our goal is to provide the best public health services and protect the health of the residents we serve.

This past year has been full of grant applications, and we are reaping the rewards from our diligent work. The Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity program, COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding program, and the Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure program have provided greater capacity in terms of staffing, national accreditation, outbreak preparedness, response capacity and more. Our department also received a state-funded Project Firstline Grant that was intended to educate community partners in infection control and prevention. In addition, we received the first installment of the Opioid settlement money geared towards youth services, substance misuse and mental health. Other grant programs include radon testing and the City Dashboard, which showcases local data intended to advance health equity. These funds have streamlined our ability to provide effective prevention programs.

All environmental services were in full gear with many lead cases that needed immediate attention and follow-up. The environmental staff completed all inspections of over 425 food establishments and other inspections outlined in this report. Health Education also provided an array of fabulous nutrition, heart-healthy and chronic disease programs. It has been a great year with an excellent team of fine professionals.

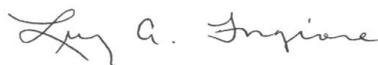
We are happy to share the exciting work we are doing. It has been a balancing act of leaving the large volume of COVID-19 work behind while embracing the many public health needs of our communities. In December, we renewed all five (5) Interlocal Public Health Services contracts for an additional three years and contracted with a new Public Health Visiting Nursing services agency, Community VNA in Somerville.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart and with great joy that I formally write to inform you of my retirement. After 41 wonderful years with the Bernards Township Health Department, I have decided to begin a new adventure in my life. My last day will be March 31, 2024. I loved my life's work and had the pleasure of working with so many talented people throughout the years. I've had the privilege of living in Bernards Township and raising two wonderful young men. This was truly my dream job. I was afforded the opportunities to excel and have many incredible experiences.

Every day was a new day serving our communities, helping so many people while learning so much. Who would have thought that the last few years of my career would have been the ultimate experience, "a global pandemic". I am proud of the fine work my department and I accomplished for all six (6) municipalities within our jurisdiction.

I am grateful for the 41 years of public service and feel honored to have served Bernards Township and the five contracting municipalities. I will look fondly on the support and kindness I received from the Board of Health members and especially Dr. John Salaki, BOH President, Bernards Township Committee, administration, and coworkers.

Best, in gratitude,



Lucy A. Forgione, MS, HO, MCHES – Health Officer/Director of Health/Registrar of Vital Statistics
Health Educator/Youth Services Coordinator



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide competent, professional, and efficient public health and environmental services to the residents of our community. Through the delivery of the state-mandated “Chapter 52: Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in NJ” and the ordinances and policies of the Board of Health, we promote the public’s health by using health education, disease prevention, environmental enforcement, and inspection activities.

2023 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

John Salaki, MD	President
Karen Ellis	Vice President
Pat Crane	Member
Kelly Brown, DVM	Member
Matthew Majewski	Member
Dr. Shilpa Clott	Member
Jennifer Asay	Township Committee Liaison
Paula J. DeBona, Esq.	Board Attorney

2023 HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Lucy A. Forgione	Health Officer/Director of Health/Registrar of Vital Statistics/Health Educator/Youth Services Coordinator
Tricia Cowell	Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Nancy Dowd	Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Sybil Rainey	P/T Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Jaclyn Handwerger	Registered Environmental Health Specialist/COVID-19 Generalist
Deirdre Vogel	Administrative Assistant/Deputy Board of Health Secretary, Registrar
Margaret Keegan (started 1/23)	Administrative Associate/Alternate Deputy Registrar
Michelle Santoro	Animal Control Officer/ Humane Law Enforcement Officer
Kate Ferratti, Jody Austin-Dominguez, Katie Morales Patricia Segal	Assistant Animal Control Officers
Kaitlin Cartoccio	Health Educator/Community Program Coordinator/ Municipal Alliance Grant Coordinator
Andrea Huber (started 5/23)	Health Educator/Youth Services Assistant, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Riya Patel	Local Health Outreach Coordinator/Grant Manager
Maria Novoa Besteiro (left 7/23)	Public Health Nurse
Robyn Postighone (started 12/27)	Public Health Nurse



2023 CONTRACTUAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

2023 Bernardsville Borough Board of Health	
Leonard Friedman, DMD	President
Angela Calzetta	Regular Member
James Sasso	Regular Member
Brian Wallace, DC	Regular Member
Lennie Ambelang	Regular Member
Rhonda Simoff	Regular Member
Francine Dello Russo	Regular Member & Recording Secretary
Al Riberio	Council Liaison

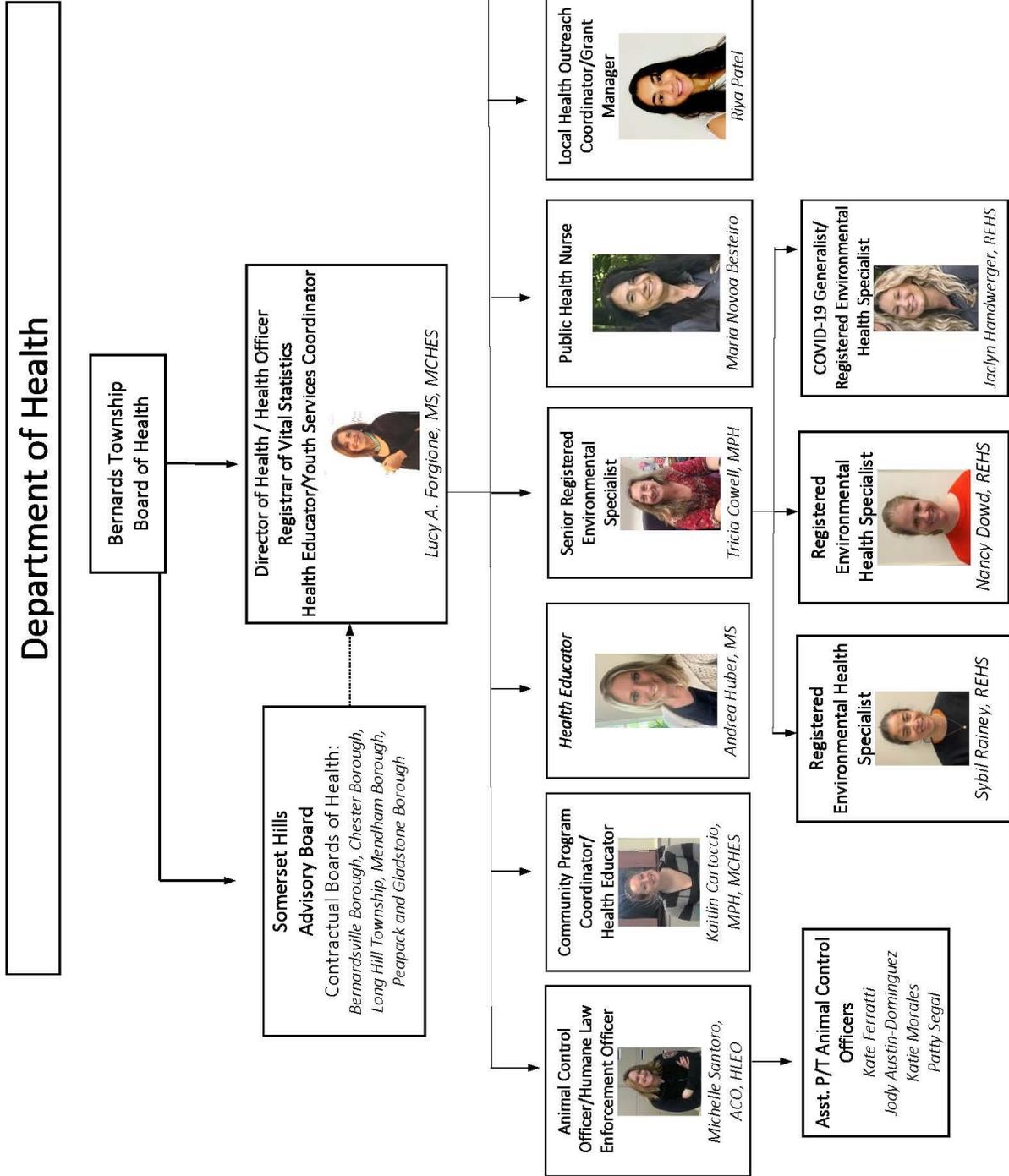
2023 Chester Borough Board of Health	
Eileen Callaghan-Manning	President
Elisa Stelwagon-Buckley	Vice President
Eileen Carey Brown	Regular Member
Mary Beth Infante	Regular Member
Thomas Germinario, Esq	BOH Attorney
Dena Dziergoski	BOH Secretary

2023 Long Hill Township Board of Health	
Matthew Dorsi	President
Scott Lavender	Regular Member
Guy Piserchia	Regular Member
Brendan Rae	Regular Member
Victor Verlezza	Regular Member
Megan Phillips	BOH Secretary

2023 Mendham Borough Board of Health	
Marilyn Althoff, MD	President
John Nosta	Vice President
Laura Gill	Regular Member
Laura Montenegro	Regular Member
Ted Rostiac	Regular Member
Melissa Young	Alternate - 1
Ed Brooks	Alternate - 2
Lauren McBride	BOH Secretary

2023 Peapack & Gladstone Borough Board of Health	
Jill Weible	President
Mark Corigliano	Regular Member
Amy Dietrich	Regular Member
Donald Lemma	Regular Member
Jamie Murphy	Regular Member
Eric L. Quartello	Regular Member
John Sweeney	Regular Member
Nancy Bretzger	BOH Secretary





2023 REVENUE BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2023 REVENUE BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT	
Interlocal Public Health Services Contracts	\$296,037.54
Program Fees Collected (Clinics/Screenings)	\$770.00
Environmental Fees Collected	\$44,620.00
Vital Statistics Fees Collected	\$12,517.00
Animal Control Fees Collected	\$49,186.00
<i>Subtotal = \$403,130.54</i>	
PREVENTION GRANTS 2023	
Municipal Alliance Grant	\$10,107.42
DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant	\$4,231.44
Youth Services Commission Annual Grant	\$5,000.00
Youth Services Commission Competitive Grants	\$4,000.00
Opioid Settlement Funds	\$13,330.53
<i>Subtotal = \$36,669.39</i>	
NJDOH/NJACCHO GRANTS	
Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity (Jul '22 - Jun '23)	\$274,735.00
Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity (Jul '23 - Jun '24)	\$495,411.00
COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding (Jul '21 - Jun '24)	\$120,000.00
Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure (Oct '22 - Jun '24)	\$632,102.00
Project Firstline Train the Trainer (Jan '23 - Apr '24)	\$10,000
<i>Subtotal: \$1,532,248</i>	
Total Grants and Fees Collected: \$1,972,047.93	



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP		
PLAN REVIEWS	BT	TOTAL Municipalities
Septic System plans (new, alterations, repairs, abandonment)	13	77
Soil log inspections for septic systems suitability (new, alterations, subdivisions)	6	51
Septic "As-Built" Plan Review	5	30
Other Plan Reviews (Board of Adjustment-additions, pool locations, site-plans, variance)	11	28
Client/Professional Meetings	7	33
INSPECTIONS	BT	TOTAL Municipalities
ABC license checks	0	15
Cross-Connections	0	7
Kennel/Pet Shop	0	9
Lead (Pb) Inspections for children at risk	1/42	3/57
CDRSS lead investigations and case follow-up	Daily	
Public Health complaints with follow-ups/re-checks	22	63
Rabies Control; Dog/Cat bite investigations; testing of wild animals in contact with humans or animals and follow-ups	23	48
Radon Kits	32	68

INSPECTIONS	BT	TOTAL Municipalities
Recreational Bathing	47	64
Retail Food Establishments: Chapter 24 (includes plan reviews, pre-opening, semi-annual, follow-up, re-inspections)	147	427
Retail Food Establishment Temporary- # Events/ # Vendors	5/19	20/112
Septic Inspections including new, alterations, repairs, & abandonment	68	345
Well Inspections (includes installations of casing, pitless adaptors, well abandonments, PWTA reports)	3	18
Youth Camps	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in Board of Health Meetings. • Ensured that all environmental inspections, and food inspections were completed. • Managed statistics for monthly Health Officer's Report. • Participated in <i>Local Emergency Planning Committee</i> (LEPC). • Collected environmental fees for BT, BV, and PG • Managed system for issuing permits for soil logs, septic system, and wells for (BT, BV, LH, PG). • Managed Food Establishment licensing system (BT, BV, PG, LH). • Sent Food Establishing licensing letters for LH. • Inquiries: OPRA requests regarding location; type of septic system; well water questions; inspection reports for realty transfers. 		



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Marriages in Bernards Township	195
Marriage License Applications Completed	94
Certified Marriage Certificates Issued	490
Deaths in Bernards Township	176
Deaths in Lyons Veterans Administration Hospital	48
Certified Death Certificates Issued	77
Birth Certificates Issued	4
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED:	\$12,517.00



	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO) HUMANE OFFICER (HLEO)	
Donation Campaign	Donations for pet adoptions was included on Pet License application, displayed on front office desk, included in newsletter, and displayed at free Rabies Shot Clinics.	\$3,516.35
Bernards Twp Rabies Control		
	10-day quarantine	12
	Bats found in homes and tested	2
	Dogs and Cats in contact with Wildlife: 45-day quarantine	3
	Rabies Testing: - / + Result	4
Bernards Township Pet Licensing	New Dogs Registered	253
	Dogs Licensed	1,983
	Cats Licensed	340
	Dogs License Fees	\$45,465.00
	Cats License Fees	\$3,721.00
Adoption Program Bernards Twp/ Peapack & Gladstone	Dogs and cats that are running freely and for whom no owner is found are captured, kenneled, given a health check, and advertised for adoption.	4 dogs 17 cats/kittens

Animal Control Continued

RABIES CLINICS:

JANUARY 14, 2023

138 DOGS, 35 CATS – 173 TOTAL

NOVEMBER 11, 2023

77 DOGS, 26 CATS – 103 TOTAL



ADOPTED THROUGH BERNARDS TWP ANIMAL CONTROL

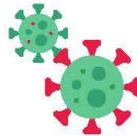


Public Health in Action

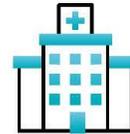
2023



**COVID-19
Vaccinations:**
179



**COVID-19
Cases:**
687-Confirmed
390-Probable



**COVID-19 Testing
& Vaccine Clinics:**
37



**Homebound
COVID-19
Vaccinations:**
20



**Flu Shots
Administered:**
120



**Communicable
Disease Reports:**
738-Confirmed
505-Probable



**Cancer Screening
Services:**
6



**Septic
Inspections:**
345



**Food Service
Inspections:**
427



**Recreational
Bathing
Inspections:**
64



**Health Education
Programs:**
11



**Rabies Control/
Animal Bite
Investigations:**
48



**Radon Tests
Distributed:**
68



**Zufall Health
Clinic Visits:**
24

HEALTH MATTERS E-NEWSLETTER

LINKS TO HEALTH MATTERS ISSUES

- [January 2023](#)
- [February 2023](#)
- [March 2023](#)
- [April 2023](#)
- [May 2023](#)
- [June 2023](#)
- [July 2023](#)
- [August 2023](#)
- [September 2023](#)
- [October 2023](#)
- [November 2023](#)
- [December 2023](#)

January 2023



HEALTH MATTERS
Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

Protect Your Pets!
FREE Rabies Vaccine Clinic
Sat, Jan 14th 10 am - 12 pm
Bernards Township Pet Owners Click Here for More!

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS
FREE Rabies Vaccine Clinic
January is Radon Action Awareness Month
QPR - Suicide Prevention Training
Ryan's Story - Presentation for Parents
Local COVID-19 Info
BTHD Facebook

QPR Question Persuade Refer
Suicide Prevention Training
In-Person
Wed, Jan 18th 10am-12 pm
Bernards Twp Library
Virtual
Tue, Jan 24th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Via Zoom
Click here to register and view flyers

WE ARE HIRING!
Part Time Administrative Associate/Alternate Deputy Registrar
• Civil Service/Non-Civil Service
• Civil Service/Non-Civil Service
• Click on "Employment Opportunities"
• Learn more about the Administrative Associate/Alternate Deputy Registrar position at the website below:
Click here for upcoming January/February Health Department Programs
Find us on Facebook

January is National Radon Action Month
Test your home. Protect your health.
EPA epa.gov/radon
Learn More About Radon Here

Local COVID-19 Updates
Click here to read

STAY CONNECTED
To sign up or make any changes to receiving Bernards Township updates, log in at smart911.com. For support with the Smart911 system such as a forgotten username or password, visit the Smart911 support page.

Bernards Township Health Department
262 South Finley Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone: (908) 204-3070
Fax: (908) 204-3075
Email: health@bernards.org
Website: www.bernardshealth.org

February 2023



HEALTH MATTERS
Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

RACE TO BE HUMAN
Race to Be Human: Virtual Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion
Feb 16th - 7 pm - VIRTUAL
View Flyer and Register Here

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS
Race to Be Human - Documentary Screening
QPR Suicide Prevention Training
Heart Healthy Programs for February
Bernards Township Car & Dog License Renewal
Upcoming BTHD Programs
BTHD Facebook
Local COVID-19 Updates

QPR Question Persuade Refer
Suicide Prevention Training
Virtual
Wed, Feb 22nd 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Via Zoom
Click here to register and view flyer

ABOUT US
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Local COVID-19 Updates
Click here to read

Celebrate Heart Health Month
Control Gratuito de la Presion Arterial
FREE Blood Pressure Screening
Sabado 4 de Febrero
10:00 - 11:30 am
St Bernards Church View Flyer
The Doctor is In: Women & Stroke
Thursday, February 9th
7 - 8:30 pm
Bernards Town Hall View Flyer
Staying Young At Heart
Thursday, February 16th
6 - 7:30 pm
BT Library View Flyer

Bernards Township Pet Owners!
Avoid the late fee. License your pet before February 28th

Click here for upcoming February Health Department Programs

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March 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

33 Annual Twilight Challenge 5K

Help Prevent Substance Misuse in Bernards Township
Sunday, June 4, 2023

Twilight Challenge Early Bird Registration Open!
5K Registration \$20 until March 31st
[Register Online](#) [Paper Registration](#)

What Does Ending the Public Health Emergency Actually Mean?
[Learn More Here](#)

Keep a lookout for the BTHD Annual Report being posted 3/15 on our website!

Local COVID-19 Updates
[Click here to read](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

33rd Annual Pleasant Valley Twilight Challenge 5K Race
Early Bird Registration
QPR Suicide Prevention Training
Save the Date: Building a Healthy Kitchen
Look Out for the BTHD Annual Report
Free Radon Kits
Upcoming BTHD Programs
BTHD Facebook
Local COVID-19 Updates

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Save the Date
Building a Healthy Kitchen
Thurs., Apr 27th
6-7:30 pm
Bernards Township Library

QPR Question Persuade Refer
Suicide Prevention Training
Virtual
Wed., April 26th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Via Zoom
[Click here to register and view flyer](#)

Find us on Facebook
Bernards Township Health Department
[Follow the Bernards Township Health Department on Facebook](#)
[Click here for upcoming Health Department Programs](#)

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Email: health@bernards.org Website: www.bernardshealth.org

April 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

BUILDING A HEALTHY KITCHEN

Thursday, April 27
6:00-7:30 pm
Bernards Township Library
32 S. Maple Ave, Basking Ridge
Registration Required: Call 908-204-3070 to register
[Click here to view full flyer](#)

QPR Question Persuade Refer
Suicide Prevention Training
Virtual
Wed., April 26th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Via Zoom
[Click here to register and view flyer](#)

[Click here for upcoming Health Department Programs](#)

DEA Rx Takeback Day
Sat, Apr 22nd 10 am - 2 pm
Dispose of your unused and expired medications safely at participating locations
[Learn more here](#)

Local COVID-19 Updates
[Click here to read](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

Building a Healthy Kitchen
QPR Suicide Prevention Training
DEA Rx Takeback Day
Dispelling Bear Myths
Twilight Challenge 5K Race Registration
Up for Adoption: BeBe
BTHD Animal Control Patch Fundraiser
BTHD 2022 Annual Report
Upcoming BTHD Programs
Local COVID-19 Updates

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Dispelling Bear Myths
By Bernards Township Animal Control Officer, Michelle Santoro [READ HERE](#)

33 Annual Twilight Challenge 5K
Help Prevent Substance Misuse in Bernards Township
Sunday, June 4, 2023
Registration is Open!
[Register Online](#) [Paper Registration](#)

Animal Control Patch Fundraiser
Buy a patch to support Bernards Township Animal Control. [Learn more here](#)

Bernards Township Health Department 2022 Annual Report
[Click here to read](#)

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Website: www.bernardshealth.org

May 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

Celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month
Become Mental Health First Aid Certified!

YOUTH Mental Health First Aid
For adults working with youth 12 -18
Thurs., May 11
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
9 Church St. Bernardsville, NJ
[REGISTER FOR FREE](#)

ADULT Mental Health First Aid
For adults who work with other adults 18+
Thurs., May 18
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Bernards Twp Library
32 S Maple Ave, Basking Ridge, NJ
[REGISTER FOR FREE](#)

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month
[Click to learn more about Lyme Disease basics and visit \[www.lymedisease.org\]\(http://www.lymedisease.org\) for more information](#)

Local COVID-19 Updates
[Click here to read](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

Adult Mental Health First Aid
Youth Mental Health First Aid
Twilight Challenge 5K Race
A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems
Lyme Disease Awareness Month
Up for Adoption: Meet Ray!
BTHD Animal Control Patch Fundraiser
Upcoming BTHD Programs
Local COVID-19 Updates

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Hi, I'm Ray! Up for Adoption
[LEARN MORE ABOUT RAY](#)

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Help Prevent Substance Misuse in Bernards Township
Sunday, June 4, 2023
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[Register Online](#) [Paper Registration](#)

[Click here for upcoming Health Department Programs](#)

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June 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

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33 Annual Twilight Challenge 5K
Help Prevent Substance Misuse in Bernards Township
Sunday, June 4, 2023
Registration is Open!
[Register Online](#) [Paper Registration](#)

Recipe of the Month:
Watermelon Feta Salad
[Click Here](#)

The Snake Shakes
Learn more about these slithery friends [here](#)

Grilling & Food Safety
[Click Here](#)

Local COVID-19 Updates
[Click here to read](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

Twilight Challenge 5K Registration
Recipe of the Month: Watermelon Feta Salad
The Snake Shakes
Grilling and Food Safety
Protect Yourself from Mosquitoes this Summer
FREE Radon Test Kits
Upcoming BTHD Programs
Local COVID-19 Updates

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Happy 1 Year to the NEW HEALTH MATTERS!

Fight the Bite All Summer!
Learn how to protect yourself from mosquitoes [here](#)

CHECK YOUR HOME FOR RADON
FREE RADON TESTING KITS AVAILABLE NOW
FOR RESIDENTS OF CONTRACTUAL TOWNS ONLY
ONE KIT PER HOUSEHOLD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
PICK UP AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

[Click here for upcoming Health Department Programs](#)

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July 2023

JULY 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

Recipe of the Month:

Red, White and Blue Smoothie

[Click Here](#)

Firework Safety Tips

[Click Here](#)

Do This, NOT That

[Click Here for upcoming Health Department Programs](#)

Preventing Heat Related Illness

[Click Here for upcoming Health Department Programs](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

- Upcoming BTHD Programs
- Recipe of the Month
- Firework Safety
- Preventing Heat Related Illness
- Fox Facts
- Fun in the Sun
- Healthy Eats, Happy Kids
- Skin Cancer Screening
- National Night Out

ABOUT US

The Bernards Township Health Department is the contractual health agency serving Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Chester Borough, Long Hill Township, Mendham Borough and Peapack & Gladstone Boroughs.

STAY CONNECTED

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Fox Facts

Learn more about our furry friends [here](#)

Fun In The Sun

You can still have fun in the sun with these safety tips [Click Here](#)

2023 Skin Cancer Screening

Tuesday, July 25
1:00 - 5:00 pm

All the Following Village Wellness Centers
2023 Skin Cancer Screening
Call 908-204-3070 to schedule
Appointment Required

Healthy Eats, Happy Kids!

The Bernards Township Department presents
Healthy Eats, Happy Kids!
Healthy kids are the future!
Call 908-204-3070 to schedule
Appointment Required

Bernards Township Health Department | 282 South Finley Avenue | Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 | Phone: (908) 204-3070 | Fax: (908) 204-3075 | Website: [www.bernardshealth.org](#)

Follow the BTHD on Facebook | Email: health@bernards.org

August 2023

AUGUST 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

National Night Out 2023

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 @ 6:30PM
BERNARDS TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE COLLEGE LANE
BASKING RIDGE, NJ

Recipe of the Month

Healthy Camp Oatmeal

[Click Here](#)

Keep Calm and Camp on

[Click Here for Camping Safety Tips](#)

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THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

- Upcoming BTHD Programs
- National Night Out
- Recipe of the Month
- Camping Safety Tips
- Scrap the Trap
- Eat Smart to Play Hard
- Morris County NJCEED Screenings

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Scrap the Trap

[Click Here](#)

EAT SMART TO PLAY HARD

AUGUST 10TH
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TO REGISTER:
Call 908-204-3070 or email health@bernards.org

Upcoming Morris County NJCEED Screenings

Free cancer screenings for people without health insurance

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

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September 2023

SEPTEMBER 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

Recipe of the Month

Sheet Pan Meatloaf and Vegetables

[Click Here](#)

Back-to-School Nutrition Tips

[Click Here](#)

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THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

- Upcoming BTHD Programs
- Recipe of the Month
- Back-to-School Nutrition for Busy Families Event
- Back-to-School Nutrition Tips
- QPR Training
- I Found a Stray Dog, What do I do?
- Morris County NJCEED Screenings

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QPR Question Persuade Refer

Suicide Prevention Training

Thurs, Oct 19th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
OR
Thurs, Nov 9th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Via Zoom

[Click here to register and view flyer](#)

Keep a lookout for October Flu clinic dates

I Found a Stray Dog, What Do I Do?

[Learn more on what to do here](#)

Upcoming Morris County NJCEED Screenings

Free cancer screenings for people without health insurance

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

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October 2023

OCTOBER 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

Recipe of the Month

Healthy Pumpkin Bread

[Click Here](#)

FLU SEASON

Flu Season Approaches... Don't Forget Your Flu Shot!

BTHD Flu Clinic Schedule

Coping With the Loss of a Pet

[Click Here](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

- Upcoming BTHD Programs
- Recipe of the Month
- Flu Clinics
- Coping With the Loss of a Pet
- QPR-Suicide Prevention Training
- Know Your Breasts: Early Detection is Key
- 2022 PRIDE Drug Education Survey Results

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Via Zoom

[Click here to register and view flyer](#)

KNOW YOUR BREASTS: EARLY DETECTION IS KEY

When October 19th from 5:00-8:00pm
Where: Chester Library
500 West Main St.
Chester, NJ 07715

Bernardsville Resident: Call 908-204-3070 or email health@bernards.org to register

2022 PRIDE Drug Education Survey Results

BTSD Summary Report

Visit [www.bernardsalliance.org](#) and click "Surveys" to view school specific and detailed survey results

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November 2023

NOVEMBER 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

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Recipe of the Month

Creamy Chicken Noodle Soup with Rotisserie Chicken

[Click Here](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

- Upcoming BTHD Programs
- Recipe of the Month
- Free Rabies Vaccine Clinics
- Fend Off Holiday Stress
- QPR Suicide Prevention Training
- Holiday Healthier
- Public Health Nurse Job Opportunity
- Free Radon Test Kits

QPR Persuade Refer

Suicide Prevention Training

Virtual

Thurs, Oct 19th 6:30 - 8:30 pm

OR

Thurs, Nov 9th 6:30 - 8:30 pm

via Zoom

[Click here to register and view flyer](#)

FREE RABIES VACCINE CLINICS

Sat., Nov. 11, 2023	10 am - 12 pm
Sat. Jan. 13, 2024	10am - 12pm

Bernards Township Public Works Garage
277 S. Maple Avenue,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

No Appointments Necessary

HOLIDAY HEALTHIER

Nourish Your Season

DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023
TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: BERNARDS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
211 MAPLE AVE, BASKING RIDGE

Registration Required
Call 908.234.3308 or email info@bernardshealth.org

Monthly Newsletter from the Bernards Township Health Department

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WE ARE HIRING

[Click Here](#)

Recipe of the Month

Roasted Root Vegetable Stuffing

[Click Here](#)

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH MATTERS

- Recipe of the Month
- Rabies Vaccine Clinics
- BT Dog & Cat Licensing
- Screenagers
- BTHD is Hiring
- Canine Respiratory Alert
- 5 Healthy Habits

Save the Date:

SCREEN AGERS NEXT CHAPTER

UNCOVERING SKILLS FOR STRESS RESILIENCE

Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion

Thursday, January 25, 2024

6:30 pm Ridge PAC

RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS

FREE

Sat. Nov. 11, 2023	10 am - 12 pm
Sat. Jan. 13, 2024	10 am - 12 pm

Bernards Township Public Works Garage
277 S. Maple Avenue,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

No Appointments Necessary

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WE ARE HIRING!

Click job title to learn more:
[Assistant Animal Control Officer](#)

Bernards Township Dog and Cat Licenses

Renew today! Licenses expires Jan 31, 2024

More information [here](#)

[Click here for upcoming Health Department Programs](#)

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Reports of Increased Canine Respiratory Illness in United States

[Click here](#)

5 Healthy Habits for December

[Click here](#)

5

Bernards Township Health Department

262 South Finley Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Phone: (908) 204-3070
Fax: (908) 204-3075

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December 2023

DECEMBER 2023

HEALTH MATTERS

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Recipe of the Month

Roasted Root Vegetable Stuffing

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Bernards Township HEALTH Department
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

15

COMMUNICABLE/CHRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

ZUFALL HEALTH-2023 REPORT

Sexually Transmitted Illness (STI) SCREENING AND TREATMENT SERVICES

<u>STI TYPE</u>	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED		NUMBER OF CLIENTS DIAGNOSED AND TREATED		NUMBER OF PREVENTIVELY TREATED CONTACTS	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
SYPHILLIS	0	3	0	0	0	0
GONORRHEA	1	3	0	0	0	0
CHLAMYDIA	1	3	0	0	0	0
PID	0	0	0	0	0	0
HERPES	0	0	0	0	0	0
HPV/VW	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRICHOMONIASIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MONILIASIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUBIC LICE/SCABIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
UTI	2	1	0	0	0	0
HIV	0	5	0	0	0	0
TOTAL NUMBER	4	15	0	0	0	0

PREGNANCY TESTS 2023

Number of Pregnancy Tests Performed	Number of Positive Pregnancy Tests
2	0

CANCER SCREENING SERVICES 2023	
SCREENING TYPE	NUMBER SCREENED
BREAST EXAMS (ages 15-34)	0
BREAST EXAMS (age 35-64)	0
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 15-34)	0
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 35-64)	0
COLORECTAL EXAMS (ages >40)	6
PROSTATE EXAMS (ages > 50)	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF SCREENINGS	6

***All clients who are screened for STIs and cancer are also provided with health education.**

SCREENING TYPE	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTOR	22
DIABETES	2

ZUFALL HEALTH TOTAL PATIENTS	TOTAL VISITS
24	24

2023 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

(P = Probable Case)

Disease	BT	BV	CB	LH	MB	PG	TOTAL 2023
P = Probable Case							
Amoebiasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Babesiosis	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
Botulism - Infant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	2 5P	0 2P	0	0 1P	0 2P	0	2 10P
Chikungunya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COVID-19	385 184P	76 23P	39 19P	105 41P	45 98P	37 25P	687 390P
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasma Phagocytophilum (Previously HGE)	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Erlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Erlichia Chaffeensis (Previously HME)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Haemophilus Influenzae	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - Acute	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Hepatitis B - Chronic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - Acute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - Chronic	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Influenza, Human Isolates - Type A H3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza, Human Isolates - Type A H1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Disease	BT	BV	CB	LH	MB	PG	TOTAL 2023
Influenza, Human Isolates Type 2009 H1N1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates - Type A (Subtyping not done)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates, Type A H3 (Subtyping not done)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Human Isolates Type B (Subtyping not done)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legionellosis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	1 40P	0 19P	2 6P	7 8P	0 12P	0 19P	9 104P
Meningococcal Disease (Neisseria Meningitidis)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis - Non-Typhoid	5	1	1	1	1	2	11
Shiga Toxin Producing E. Coli (STEC-NON O157-H7)	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Shigellosis- NON O157:H7	0 1P	0	0	0	0	0	0 1P
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Streptococcus Pyogenes (GAS) Without Toxic Shock Syndrome	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varicella	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vibrio Infection (Other than V Cholera SPP)	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
West Nile Virus (WNV)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	409 230P	83 44P	43 25P	117 50P	47 110P	40 44P	738 505P

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATION HOURS
Atlantic Health Visiting Nurses Association (VNA)**

Town	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Per Town
Bernards Township	7	10	0	0	17
Bernardsville Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Chester Borough	0	1	0	6	7
Long Hill Township	2	0	4	0	6
Mendham Borough	2	1	0	0	3
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	2	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	13	12	4	6	35

VNA OFFICE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Hypertension screening and health counseling at the Visiting Nurse Association office on Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 am and Monday - Thursday from 3:30 to 4:00 pm

Town	# Residents	# of Hours Total
Bernards Township	0	0

SENIOR CITIZEN HOME VISITS

TOWN	Number of Visits	Hours
Bernards Township	6	9
Bernardsville Borough	0	0
Chester Borough	0	0
Long Hill Township	3	4.5
Mendham Borough	0	0
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	1	1.5
TOTAL HOME VISITS FOR 2023	10	15

**These numbers reflect only COVID-19/Flu vaccinations given to the homebound*



SENIOR CITIZEN HEALTH MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATION

2023	New Patients	Return Patients	TOTAL Patients	Hours
Bernards Township/ Bernardsville Borough	17	249	266	31
Chester Borough	7	67	74	20
Long Hill Township	6	80	86	24.5
Mendham Borough	3	22	25	8
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	2	34	36	8.75
TOTAL	35	452	487	92.25

SCHOOL AUDITS

State-mandated immunization program school audits completed.

Town	# Schools Audited	Hours
Bernards Township	24	120
Bernardsville Borough	7	32
Chester Borough	1	5
Long Hill Township	8	40
Mendham Borough	2	10
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	1	5
TOTAL	43	212



2023 CLINICS AND SCREENINGS – NON COVID-19

Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators
Skin Cancer Screening	July 25 th	32	Dr. Elizabeth Quigley
Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics	Oct 11 th <i>St James Church</i>	75	Atlantic Health Visiting Nurses Association
	Oct 12 th <i>Garabrant Center</i>	5	
	Oct 20 th <i>PG Mun Gym</i>	17	
	Oct 26 th <i>B'Ville Library</i>	17	
	Homebound Visits	5	

2023 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators
The Doctor is In: Women and Stroke	February 9, 2023	17	Dr. Boccia Liang
Staying Young at Heart	February 16, 2023	16	Elisa England RD, Ellen Petrosino RD - Nourish and Thrive Nutrition Center
Building a Healthy Kitchen: with Elisa England RD and Ellen Petrosino RD	April 27, 2023	18	Elisa England RD, Ellen Petrosino RD - Nourish and Thrive Nutrition Center
Health & Safety Days - Day 1	July 14, 2023	100	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel
Healthy Eats, Happy Kids	July 17, 2023	13	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel
Health & Safety Days - Day 2	July 21, 2023	100	Andrea Huber, Jaclyn Handwerger
Health & Safety Days - Day 3	July 21, 2023	100	Andrea/Jackie
MyPlate	August 9, 2023	32	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel



Eat Smart to Play Hard	August 10, 2023	15	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel
Back to School Nutrition	September 12, 2023	17	Elisa England, Ellen Petrosino
Calci-Yum	October 8, 2023	9	Andrea Huber, Riya Patel
Know Your Breasts: Early Detection is Key	October 11, 2023	5	Dr. Linda Aboody – Memorial Sloan Kettering
Holiday Healthier	November 2, 2023	7	Elisa England RD, Ellen Petrosino RD - Nourish and Thrive Nutrition Center

RISK COMMUNICATION & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

- Utilized the RAVE Alert system to send out emergency health updates.
- Updated all emergency rosters and databases for six (6) towns.
- Updated Bernards Township Health Department Call Roster for After Hours and Weekend Emergencies.
- Continued to update BT Health Department Social Service Resource pages as needed.
- Continued to update information sheets for communications/shelters for six (6) towns.



COVID-19 MANAGEMENT & MITIGATION MONTH BY MONTH

**occurred every month*

January

- The Local Health Outreach Coordinator (LHOC) continued to work to identify the vulnerable populations in our jurisdictions and identify gaps to help address the needs of COVID-19 positive and exposed persons:
 - Coordinated homebound vaccinations for individuals who are bedridden and/or disabled
 - Continued to catalog a list of available resources to help vulnerable populations access critical resources such as social services, mental health services, and general healthcare. Also included access to resources like food banks, mental health services, visiting nurses, telehealth solutions, and other community programs
 - Prioritized COVID-19 response initiatives such as weekly COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics
 - Regularly monitored COVID-19 related data received through testing and contact tracing
 - Worked with other local health department LHOCs in NJ to create collaborative opportunities and resources through monthly meetings
 - Collaborated with local faith-based organizations to implement COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics in underserved communities, as well as preventative health initiatives

- **Vaccination Efforts**
 - Vaccine clinics were conducted throughout January at Saint James Church.
 - The Health Department offered Pediatric Pfizer (5-11) Bivalent Boosters, Pfizer Bivalent Boosters for 12+ and Moderna Bivalent Boosters for 18+.
 - Staff responsibilities for vaccination clinics were continuously discussed as vaccine supply and demand change.
 - Clinic supplies have been assessed and prepared to ensure we can continue vaccination efforts. The Public Health Nurse ordered supplies and maintained inventory.
 - Contacted volunteers as needed according to skills and vaccine demand. We have utilized licensed medical professional volunteers, as well as Spanish-speaking volunteers.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Received vaccine allocations as requested for Pfizer and Moderna bivalent boosters. • Monitored COVID daily reporting at local long-term care facilities. Acting as a liaison between the state and facilities as needed. • Weekly COVID-19 NJ Office of Local Public Health calls and distribution of new info to staff. • Stayed up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination process in New Jersey via weekly State-led vaccinator calls. • Followed up on contact tracing in CDRSS conducted by staff. Statistics compiled on COVID-19 infections.
<u>February</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations.
<u>March</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations. Additionally, 1 homebound vaccination was conducted by the Public Health Nurse, as well as 1 Pfizer Bivalent vaccination at St. Bernards Church in Bernardsville, NJ.
<u>April</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations.
<u>May</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering J&J, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations. Additionally, 8 homebound vaccinations were conducted by the Public Health Nurse.
<u>June</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, offering Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for adult and pediatric (5-11 yr. old) populations.
<u>July</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of July.
<u>August</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of October.
<u>September</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of September.
<u>October</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu clinics were held to decrease the incidence of respiratory illness in the Bernards Township area. • No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of October.
<u>November</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No COVID-19 vaccinations were offered during the month of November.
<u>December</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Health Nurse provided homebound COVID-19 vaccinations, solely offering Moderna for adults.



**The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)
Office of Local Public Health's (OLPH)
Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program**

- The Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program is a non-competitive grant funding opportunity offered to all eligible non-LINCS Agency local health departments (LHDs) to boost public health capacity during the COVID-19 response. Bernards Township Health Department was awarded **\$274,735** for the project period 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023, as well as an additional **\$495,411** for the project period 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024.
- Funding categories include:
 - a). Outbreak Preparedness (OP)** to strengthen outbreak preparedness/response capacity by reimbursing eligible COVID-19 and other infectious disease-related expenses - **\$21,606** (2022-2023), **\$30,008** (2023-2024)
 - b). Local Health Outreach Coordinator (LHOC)** to hire full-time personnel to assess, mitigate, and respond to populations disproportionately affected by the social and health impacts of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases - **\$123,529** (2022-2023), **\$183,822** (2023-2024)
 - c). Infectious Disease Preparedness Generalist (IDPG)** to hire full-time personnel to assist with outreach to populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, POD planning, logistics, testing, and contact tracing, etc. - **\$129,600** (2022-2023), **\$192,216** (2023-2024)
 - d). Public Health Accreditation (ACC)** to strengthen public health infrastructure and transform governmental public health by supporting LHDs seeking voluntary national public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). **\$89,365** (2023-2024)
- **LHOC Deliverables:**
 - Managed all program activities and finances of state-funded grants to comply with NJDOH requirements.
 - Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
 - Assisted the Chief Financial Officer in creating quarterly budget reports for state-funded grants.
 - Communicated with faith-based organizations to provide healthcare resources for underserved populations, specifically those with limited to no health insurance.



- Coordinated a homebound, vaccination program to allow bedridden and disabled community residents to access COVID-19/flu vaccines in their homes.
- Organized monthly meetings with other LHOCs to collaborate and discuss best practices to help serve at-risk populations in local communities.
- Worked closely with the NJDOH Program to manage state-funded grants.
- Maintained a vulnerable populations email distribution list to disseminate pertinent information to community partners regarding COVID-19 prevention, vaccination, testing, contact tracing, and social support messaging.
- Participated in monthly/quarterly meetings with local stakeholders including faith-based organizations, state/county health departments, LINCS Social Support Coordinators, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
- Provided testing and vaccination statistics to the County LINCS agency through weekly surveys.
- Utilized the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) to track and manage grant-related activities.
- Distributed COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits to local organizations including but not limited to libraries, senior living facilities, long-term care facilities, assisted-living facilities, daycares, schools, and faith-based organizations.
- Re-applied for additional funding from the Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity grant.

- **IDPG Deliverables:**

- Assisted the LHOC with coordination of COVID-19 vaccine and testing clinics.
- Assisted in the operation of weekly COVID-19 vaccine clinics sponsored by the Health Department until 06/2023.
- Assisted LTCs, Assisted Living, and schools with COVID-19 and other Communicable Disease Outbreaks.
- Assisted with vaccine delivery and refrigerator monitoring.
- Assisted the LHOC and Public Health Nurse with coordinating a homebound, vaccination program to allow bedridden and disabled community residents to access COVID-19 vaccines in their homes.
- Created signage for COVID-19 clinics in each of the 6 communities.
- Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
- Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
- Assisted COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit distribution to local organizations including but not limited to libraries, senior living facilities, long-term care

facilities, assisted-living facilities, daycares, schools, and faith-based organizations

- Provided tickborne disease educational material to the community through the Health Department website, social media, and rabies clinics.
- Posted tickborne awareness signs at local parks and distributed tick removal cards to the community.

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Office of Local Public Health's (OLPH) COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program

- **Grant period: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024**
- The COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program is a non-competitive grant funding opportunity offered to county and local health departments (LHDs) to support COVID-19 and other adult vaccination efforts among populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.
- This program provides funding to LHDs to integrate COVID-19 vaccination and education into existing LHD programs, continue to implement mobile/off-site COVID-19 vaccinations, and partner with trusted faith or community-based organizations to conduct vaccine educational outreach sessions to increase vaccine confidence in racial and ethnic minority groups.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of \$120,000 to hire a Public Health Nurse to expand vaccination efforts and fund any vaccine-related purchases.
- **Project Deliverables:**
 - Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
 - Participated in weekly evening and weekend vaccination clinics.
 - Worked with underserved populations and faith-based organizations to encourage vaccine uptake.
 - Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
 - Vaccinated individuals aged 5 years and older at weekly/monthly vaccination clinics.
 - Vaccinated homebound and disabled individuals.
 - Maintained inventory of clinical supplies necessary for vaccine clinics.
 - Partnered, planned, and implemented vaccination and other health-related screening activities with critical organizations including churches and FQHCs.
 - Partnered with trusted faith-based organizations to conduct educational sessions among racial and ethnic minority groups.

- Integrated COVID-19 vaccination and education into existing local health department programs.

New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials' (NJACCHO) Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant

- **Grant period: 10/1/2022-6/30/2024**
- The Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant offers funding to Local Health Departments to achieve a variety of programmatic goals to create long-term infrastructure improvements, while planning for health equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Bernards Township Health Department uses these funds to strengthen organizational capacity to drive progress on public health priorities and increase capacity across the department.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of \$632,102 for the project period 10/1/2022 – 6/30/2024.
- **Project Deliverables:**
- Strengthen organizational capacity to drive progress on public health priorities and increase capacity across the local health department.
- Create new hire positions to support grant-specific goals and initiatives.



**2023 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS**

JANUARY	
Clinic Date	Daily Total
1/10	14
1/17	14
1/26	25
1/31	6
January Monthly Total	59

FEBRUARY	
Clinic Date	Daily Total
2/7	3
2/28	6
February Monthly Total	9

MARCH	
Clinic Date	Daily Total
3/7	5
3/14	7
3/28	5
3/30	1
March Monthly Total	18

APRIL	
Clinic Date	Daily Total
4/4	2
4/25	13
April Monthly Total	15

MAY	
Clinic Date	Daily Total
5/2	4
5/9	10
5/18	3
5/23	26
5/25	3
5/30	10
May Monthly Total	56

JUNE	
Clinic Date	Daily Total
6/6	5
6/13	2
6/20	2
6/27	3
June Monthly Total	12

TOTAL COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN 2023: 179
(including homebound vaccine doses)



**2023 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS**

**TOTAL COVID-19 TESTS
ADMINISTERED IN 2023: 63**

JANUARY	Total Tested	# Positive	% Positive
1/5	3	1	33%
1/12	5	0	0%
1/19	4	0	0%
1/26	5	1	20%
Total	17	2	12%

FEBRUARY	Total Tested	# Positive	% Positive
2/2	11	1	9%
2/9	4	0	0%
2/16	7	1	14%
2/23	5	1	20%
Total	27	3	11%

MARCH	Total Tested	# Positive	% Positive
3/2	4	1	25%
3/9	2	0	0%
3/16	4	0	0%
3/23	4	1	0%
3/20	2	0	0%
Total	16	2	12.5%

APRIL	Total Tested	# Positive	% Positive
4/6	3	0	0%
4/13	0	0	0%
4/20	0	0	0%
4/27	0	0	0%
Total	3	0	0%



MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE/YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

- 9 meetings were held. The Municipal Alliance meets monthly except for July & August. November was cancelled due to Election Day.
- New members welcomed: Kathleen Grochala and Jennifer Asay (Township Committee Liaison), Lily Wong (Citizen Representative), Ed Rubino (Citizen Representative), Andy Lee (Student Representative).

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE/YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

<p>QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training January 18th</p>  <p>The flyer for QPR Training features a central image of hands holding a heart. Text includes: 'Question. Persuade. Refer. (QPR) Training', 'The QPR mission is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. In three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. This virtual training is free to anyone who is 13+ years old that is interested in learning suicide prevention techniques.', 'February 22, 2023 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm', 'Click Here To Register (Registration ends on February 16th)', 'YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL', and a list of key components: 'How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal', 'How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide', 'The common causes of suicidal behavior', 'The warning signs of suicide', and 'How to get help for someone in crisis'. Logos for GCADA, EmPOWER Somerset, and Municipal Alliance are at the bottom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person QPR Training in partnership with EmPOWER Somerset. • The mission of QPR is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical, and proven suicide prevention training. In 3 steps anyone can learn to prevent suicide. • QPR covers: How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal; How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide; The common causes of suicidal behavior; The warning signs of suicide and How to get help for someone in crisis. • 11 people participated.
<p>ACES – Adverse Childhood Experiences Training February 15th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored by the Somerset County Municipal Alliances and CASA Shaw.
<p>RACE to be Human– Virtual Documentary Screening and Panel Presentation February 16th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual documentary screening and panel presentation. Presentation sponsored by the Somerset County Municipal Alliance network. • RACE to be Human is a documentary film addressing the impact of race and racism on mental health through the lens of students, experts, and educators as well as how to collectively move forward towards equality. • 200 people attended
<p>QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training February 22nd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual QPR training in partnership with EmPOWER Somerset

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 people participated
<p>National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week <i>March 20-26th</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted drug and alcohol facts daily on Facebook during the week.
<p>Spring DEA Takeback Day <i>April 22nd</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted in the Somerset Hills Area.
<p>Mental Health Awareness Month <i>May 2023</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted mental health awareness on Facebook, including mental health condition information, mental health statistics and links to local resources. • Held a QPR, Mental Health First Aid Training and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training in partnership with Community in Crisis and EmPOWER Somerset. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YMHFA – May 11th – 3 participants • MHFA – May 18th – 7 participants • QPR – May 25th – 10 participants
<p>Charter Day <i>May 20th</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Charter Day celebration in Bernards Township. • Municipal Alliance and REACH had a table to promote upcoming programs and provide information to residents.

<p>33rd Annual Pleasant Valley Twilight Challenge 5K <i>June 4th</i></p>  <p>The poster features a dark blue background with white stars. The text reads: '33rd Annual Twilight Challenge 5K', 'Help Prevent Substance Misuse in Bernards Township', and 'Sunday, June 4, 2023'. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of runners against a sunset background.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record-breaking number of runners at 217 registered runners, 10 Health Walkers, and 30 Lollipop Loop participants. • Continued partnership with Athletifreak to sponsor Lollipop Loop and awards. • Somerset County YMCA joined on Race Day to sponsor a post-race cool down. • Raised over \$5,000 in sponsorships and race day fees.
<p>National Night Out <i>August 1st</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Night Out is a community-police awareness raising event held annually. • Raises awareness about police programs like drug prevention, town watch, neighborhood watch, etc. • Partners included the Bernards Township Police Department, Fire Department, EMS.
<p>Movie Night with Parks and Recreation <i>August 8th</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative event with REACH and Bernards Township Parks and Recreation. • “Teen” aimed movie night – “Top Gun Maverick”. • Municipal Alliance information table. • Over 200 movie-goers.
<p>Suicide Prevention Week <i>September 8th</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided resources to students alongside Community in Crisis and Stigma Free Somerset County.
<p>QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training <i>October 19th</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual QPR training in partnership with EmPOWER Somerset • 14 people attended
<p>Fall DEA RX Takeback Day <i>October 28th</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted in the Somerset Hills Area.
<p>Pumpkin Smash Nov 4th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative program with the Bernards Township Health Department, Environmental Commission, and Agricultural Commission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 participants attended the event at Dogwood Farms to destroy old jack-lanterns safely. • Pumpkins were then fed to pigs at the farm to dispose of them in an environmentally friendly way.
<p>QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training <i>November 9th</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual QPR training in partnership with EmPOWER Somerset • 1 person participated.
<p>Great American Smokeout <i>November 16th</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness day held every third Thursday in November to encourage individuals to quit smoking or to form a plan to quit smoking. • Promoted NJ-based quitting resources on Facebook.



RIDGE EDUCATION ACTION & COMMUNITY HEALTH (REACH)

- Sponsored by Bernards Township Youth Services Commission
- Meets twice a month except for July and August.
- 5 seniors graduated from Ridge High School and REACH in June 2023.

REACH INITIATIVES

<p>Instagram</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued posts on healthy lifestyle activities, local programs including Municipal Alliance programming, mental health awareness, substance misuse prevention, and LMTI information.
<p>Healthy Activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted healthy activities, especially staying active, eating nutritious food, getting enough sleep, and spending time outside as the past few years of COVID had many people spending time inside. • Laser Tag and other kinds of active movement team bonding. • Pumpkin Painting – Spent time outside being creative and painting pumpkins as a group.
<p>Community Awareness</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the 24th Annual Somerset County Youth Council Conference: Choosing You – Healthy Vibes Only • Volunteered at Charter Day 5/20. • Volunteered at Twilight Challenge 5K 6/4. • Volunteered at National Night Out 8/1 • Volunteered at Back to School Nights 9/28 and 10/5. • Volunteered at the Pumpkin Smash – 11/4.

Youth Summit Day

April 2nd



- REACH helped at Youth Summit Day at William Annin Middle School.
- REACH performed their UBU skit which showcases different stereotypes and how to not judge a book by its cover and to be less judgmental of peers.
- This year staff from the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute came to Youth Summit Day to do workshops for the 8th graders on the themes of Diversity and Respect and Positively Me.
- REACH presented their workshop on REACH, mental health, substance misuse, natural highs, and how to handle high school.
- The day finished off with Kevin Wanzer presenting on how to “find the funny in life” and be a friend to one another.



LMTI (LINDSEY MEYER TEEN INSTITUTE)

Summer Leadership Conference <i>Aug 21-25</i>		
	Applied	Attended
College Age TI Staff (CATS)	0	0
Youth Advisory Council (YAC)	7	7
Nominated 8th graders	45	5
Return Campers	-	3
Camp Topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowering New Jersey students to create positive change in their communities. Students heard from motivational speakers and participated in workshops to create an action plan to implement in Bernards Township. 	
REACH 2023-2024 Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross age teaching will be the focus of the 2023-2024 school year including involving the 8th grade students in discussion around events like Youth Summit Day 	
Fall Leadership Conference <i>Nov 10-12</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 REACH students attended the Fall Leadership Conference held at Camp Mason. Smaller more intimate student leadership conference also focused on empowering students to create change in their hometowns 	

GRAB AND GO TEEN OUTREACH

Grab and Go Teen Outreach



- Former Competitive Grant program sponsored by the Youth Services Commission, currently added to the Annual Grant - \$1,000
- Collaborated with the Bernards Township Library to sponsor DIY craft kits aimed at students in grades 7-12. COVID-19 pandemic caused a lot of isolation and boredom amongst teens. GNG aimed to stimulate teen’s minds in a healthy way with mindful and exciting crafts. Received the Competitive Grant for 2 years.
- Reformatted to give out 4 quarterly kits during the Bernards Township School District School Year: Back to School, Winter Break, Valentines Day, and AP Testing/Mental Health Awareness Month – extending into 2024.
- **Kits assembled:**
 - **December 2023** – Winter Break Wellness Kits – 50 kits assembled and picked up.

COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions)

Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions

- Competitive Grant program sponsored by the Youth Services Commission - \$4,000. This is Year 2 of the grant.
- The COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions) Program provides all elementary students in Bernards Township with the opportunity to learn how to cope with difficult emotions as well as the tools necessary to do so.
- COPE provides students with opportunities to learn how to identify and label their emotions as well as how to cope with these feelings.
- Through COPE, each classroom in grades kindergarten through fifth grade in Bernards Township gained access to a COPE kit. 144 kits total.
- Children have access to emotion cards that will assist in emotion identification and coping cards to assist in managing these emotions (i.e., take a deep breath, count to ten, draw a picture, use a fidget, go for a mindful walk in the hallway, think of a happy thought, etc.).
- This coping kit includes coping cards, coloring paper, crayons, and a variety of sensory tools to be used when a child is experiencing a heightened emotion within the classroom.
- COPE also provided each Elementary School Counselor with 40 new Social and Emotional Learning related books.
- In Year 2 the focus was to purchase curriculum off Teachers Pay Teachers to focus on the school counselors. Curriculum examples included grief counseling, problem solving and conflict resolution, diversity and tolerance, self-esteem, and cognitive behavioral therapy. -



GRANT AWARDS

Youth Services Commission: The Bernards Township Youth Services Commission was awarded the \$5,000 Annual Grant to fund REACH and Grab n Go Teen Outreach

Youth Services Commission Competitive Grant: Applied and received \$4,000 to fund COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions) kits to provide emotional stress relief and support to all elementary school students and provide SEL books to elementary school counselors.

2023 Municipal Alliance: Request for Funding Allocation (RFA) was submitted in December 2022 for FY 2023 \$10,089.19.

2024 Municipal Alliance: Request for Funding Allocation (RFA) was submitted in April 2023 for FY2024 for \$10,107.42.

2023 DMHAS Grant Funding: Request for Funding Allocation (RFA) was submitted in May 2022 for additional Municipal Alliance funding for \$3,702.50.

2024 DMHAS Grant Funding: Request for Funding Allocation (RFA) was submitted in April 2023 for FY 2024 for \$4,231.44

Opioid Settlement Funding: \$13,330.53 – Settlement funds from major pharmaceutical companies sent to state and local municipalities and used for programs that focus on treatment, prevention, and other strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.



2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS:

Kaitlin V. Cartoccio, MPH, MCHES, DRCC:

- Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) #19897
- Bernards Municipal Alliance
- Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC)
- Community in Crisis
- Safe Communities Coalition
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): Bernards Township
- Masters Public Health (MPH) - Rutgers University
- National Society for Public Health Educators (SOPHE)
- New Jersey SOPHE member and President Elect (2023)
- Rutgers Center For Executive Leadership In Government
- Dale Carnegie “Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading” 2022
- Dale Carnegie Certificate “High Impact Presentations” 2023
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

Tricia Cowell, Senior REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist License #B-102153
- Health Officer License #A-102153
- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #5256
- Awarded Mini Master of Public Administration through Rutgers Center for Executive Leadership in Government
- Master Public Health (MPH), Southern New Hampshire University
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): Bernardsville Borough, Long Hill Township, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough
- Bernardsville Borough and Chester Borough Boards of Health
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Notary Public
- Dale Carnegie “Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading” 2023
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

Nancy Dowd, REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-102051
- Pest Control License
- Mendham Borough Board of Health
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

Jaclyn Handwerger, REHS

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-173974
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Servsafe Food Protection Manager
- OSHA 10- Hour General Industry Safety and Health
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



Andrea Huber, MS

- Health Educator/Public Health Nutritionist
- Masters Nutrition and Food Science – Montclair State
- Didactic Program in Dietetics - Montclair State
- Dietetic Internship – Iowa State
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- New Jersey SOPHE member
- OSHA – 10 Hour General Industry Safety and Health
- Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

Margaret Keegan

- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #2531
- Registrars' Association of New Jersey
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

Maria Novoa Besteiro, BSN, RN

- Public Health Nurse

2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

Riya Patel

- Local Health Outreach Coordinator/Grant Manager
- Bachelor of Science in Public Health - The College of New Jersey
- NJACCHO Chronic Disease Workgroup – Member
- New Jersey SOPHE –Member
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified
- Dale Carnegie “Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading” 2023
- Dale Carnegie “Strictly Business Immersion” 2023
- Dale Carnegie “High Impact Presentations” 2023

Robyn Postighone, RN, MPA, MBA

- Just Culture Safety Culture Certified Trainer
- NJDOH/APIC Infectious Disease Certification
- Institute of Health (IHI) Open School: Model for Improvement, PDSA Cycles, Interpreting Data, Leading Quality Improvement, System-Wide Changes, Reliable Healthy Systems
- Lean Six Sigma Belt Certification

Sybil Rainey, REHS:

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-102197
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

Michelle Santoro, ACO, Humane Officer:

- Biology, Bachelor of Science
- Certified Animal Control Officer
- Humane Law Enforcement Officer
- FEMA Animals in Disaster IS-00010 & IS-00012
- FEMA Livestock in Disaster IS-00111.a
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



Deirdre Vogel, CMR, RMC:

- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #3534
- Registered Municipal Clerks Certification (RMC) # C-1555
- Bernards Township Board of Health Secretary
- Registrars’ Association of New Jersey
- Notary Public
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

2023 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

Lucy A. Forgione, MS, MCHES

- Licensed NJ Health Officer #A-482
- Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) #492
- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #1432
- Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse
- Community in Crisis
- NJ Association of County & City Health Officials (NJACCHO) Communicable Disease Committee, Program Committee
- William Paterson University Alumni School of Public Health Education Spotlight Fall 2021
- Healthier Somerset 2021 Award for Outstanding Community Service during COVID-19
- Greater Somerset Public Health Partnership, Member and Treasurer
- Somerset County Health Officers Association, Treasurer 2005-Present
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): All contractual towns
- Morris County Public Health Partnership
- Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition 2010-Present
- North Jersey Health Collaborative
- Registrars' Association of New Jersey
- Somerset County Human Services Advisory Council Member 2006 -Present
- Dale Carnegie "Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading" 2022
- Dale Carnegie "High Impact Presentations" 2023
- New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials Board of Directors & Executive Committee 2022-2024
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



**Bernards Township HEALTH Department
ANNUAL REPORT 2023**