



Clinton County Health Department

133 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901-2926

“Working Together for a Healthier Community”

www.health.clintoncountyny.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Administration Division

Phone: (518) 565-4840

Fax: (518) 565-4717

News Release

Date: March 12, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Clinton County Health Department Receives Health Department Clinical Services Accreditation

Clinton County, NY, March 12, 2024. On January 31, 2024, the Compliance Team (TCT), a nationally recognized healthcare accreditation organization approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced the award of Exemplary Provider® status to the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD). This recognition follows the successful completion of TCT’s Health Department Clinical Services Accreditation program.

Debra Tackett, MSN, RN, Director of Health Care Services, expressed her satisfaction with the achievement, stating, "The Health Care Services staff is proud to have attained accreditation in Health Department Clinical Services from The Compliance Team. This accomplishment validates our team’s dedicated efforts and reinforces our commitment to quality measures and evidence-based practices, thus enhancing our preparedness for future healthcare crises."

Tackett further emphasized, "the clinical services accreditation complements our existing accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This milestone assures residents and referral sources in Clinton County that the CCHD not only meets but surpasses industry healthcare quality standards. It underscores our dedication to implementing best practices and upholding elevated standards of care."

Sandra Canally, RN, Founder and CEO of The Compliance Team, commended the Health Care Services team of Clinton County for their proactive approach in embracing this program and acknowledging the importance of third-party, quality validation at the individual patient level. "We take pride in welcoming them as a new Exemplary Provider®," she stated.

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News Release

Date: March 21, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Healthy Neighborhoods Program to Target Town of Saranac Residents

Saranac, NY, March 21, 2024. The Clinton County Health Department’s (CCHD) Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) will be conducting door-to-door outreach in the Town of Saranac. HNP staff will provide brief, in-home surveys to identify health and safety concerns and provide appropriate home safety education and products at no cost to the families that participate.

“These visits are designed to assess health and safety topics in the home. Once safety concerns have been identified, staff will educate residents on those identified issues and provide appropriate home safety products, such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers,” explained Maryann Barto, Public Health Educator.

During the home visit, HNP staff will discuss fire safety and determine the best way to reduce household accidents. Education also includes: indoor air quality, carbon monoxide poisoning, lead poisoning and other household health and safety topics. When appropriate, HNP will also cover asthma prevention tactics in order to reduce airway irritants in the home and infant safety concerns. Information about community resources and referrals to other programs will also be made available during these visits.

The Town of Saranac will be the focus region for April-June. However, participation in the Healthy Neighborhoods Program is **free and open to all Clinton County residents**. Residents who are interested in participating in the program can contact HNP at (518) 565-4870 or www.clintonhealth.org/healthyneighborhoods to schedule a visit.

“This is a great opportunity for our residents to receive education and free products provided by CCHD. We encourage all residents to sign-up for this program and schedule an appointment with our staff,” added Ms. Barto. “We strive to help families have the safest home possible.”

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News Release

Date: May 6, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Clinton County Health Department to hold Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Peru, NY, May 6, 2024, the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) is hosting a free Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets. The New York State law requires pets to have their first rabies vaccination by four months of age. Pets may be vaccinated as early as three months of age.

The event will be held on **May 16, 2024** from **6pm to 8:30pm** at the **Peru Volunteer Fire Department building located at 753 Bear Swamp Road, Peru, NY**. Interested residents should bring their pets on a leash or in a secure carrier. Pets that have received a previous rabies vaccination are eligible to receive a three-year certificate. Please bring your pet’s most recent rabies vaccination records (previous certificate), otherwise, a one-year certificate will be provided.

CCHD asks those planning to attend the clinic to:

- **Pre-register for the event** at www.clintonhealth.org/rabiesclinics. Residents can call CCHD at 518-565-4870 for assistance with the registration process.
- There is a limit of **3** animals per household.
- Remain in your car until your appointment time.

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans and pets. Rabies is most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. Rabies can be prevented by vaccinating your pets. As a precaution, never pick up wildlife, including stray animals, and wear thick protective gloves when handling these animals. If you are bitten (teeth breaking the skin) by an animal, including domestic animals, seek medical attention and notify the CCHD.

“This is a great opportunity to save your pet’s life and prevent the spread of rabies”, states Amanda Masten, Senior Sanitarian for CCHD’s Division of Environmental Health & Safety. “This is an opportunity you don’t want to miss.” Donations are accepted and appreciated. CCHD has scheduled five additional Rabies Vaccination Clinics at the following locations:

- 7/18/24 – Dannemora Fire Department
- 8/8/24 – Beekmantown Highway Garage
- 9/24/24 – Rouses Point Volunteer Fire Department
- 10/8/24 – Ellenburg Depot Fire Department
- 12/3/24 – City of Plattsburgh Public Works



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For more information, including future clinic dates, visit www.clintonhealth.org/rabiesclinics or follow our social media pages. For more information on the rabies virus, visit the Center for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>.

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News Release

Date: May 31, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Neighboring County Reports Five Positive Rabies Specimens This Year: Clinton County Residents Urged to Remain Vigilant

Clinton County, NY, May 31, 2024. Essex County, which borders Clinton County to the south, has reported five confirmed cases of rabies in wildlife this year. Rabies is a deadly viral disease that is transmitted through the saliva of infected animals. Though no cases have been identified in Clinton County this year, the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) felt it appropriate to alert our residents of precautions to take.

Amanda Masten, a Senior Public Health Sanitarian at CCHD emphasizes the importance of remaining vigilant and taking necessary precautions. “Usually, rabies is spread through an animal bite; however it can also happen when infected saliva gets into an open cut, your eyes, nose or mouth,” explained Ms. Masten. “Once symptoms manifest, rabies is almost always fatal. This is why prevention measures are crucial.”

CCHD advises all residents to follow these precautions:

- **Ensure Pets Are Vaccinated:** Ensure that all pets, including dogs, cats, and domesticated livestock, are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. Vaccination not only safeguards pets but also acts as a barrier against rabies transmission to humans. CCHD offers free rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats and ferrets. A full schedule of upcoming clinics can be found at www.clintonhealth.org/rabiesclinics.
- **Avoid Strange-Acting Wildlife:** Exercise caution around wildlife, particularly if they exhibit abnormal or aggressive behavior. Do not approach or attempt to handle wild animals, even if they are injured. Teach children to do the same.
- **Report Suspected Cases:** If you encounter a wild animal displaying unusual behavior such as aggression, disorientation, or excessive drooling, promptly notify local animal control or the health department.

By following these straightforward yet crucial precautions, residents can help reduce the risk of rabies transmission and protect the health and well-being of their families and pets. Additional information, including future Rabies Vaccination Clinic dates, can be found in CCHD’s *North Country Health Effect* available at http://www.clintonhealth.org/nc_healtheffect/Rabies.pdf and the latest edition of CCHD’s *Talking Health Blog* available at <https://cchdtalkinghealth.blogspot.com/>.

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News Release

Date: June 24, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Healthy Neighborhoods Program to Target Town of Ausable Residents

Town of Ausable, June 24, 2024 The Clinton County Health Department’s (CCHD) Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) will be conducting door-to-door outreach in the Town of Ausable. HNP staff will provide brief, in-home surveys to identify health and safety concerns and provide appropriate home safety education and products at no cost to the families that participate.

“These visits are designed to assess health and safety topics in the home. Once safety concerns have been identified, staff will educate residents on those identified issues and provide appropriate home safety products, such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers,” explained Maryann Barto, Public Health Educator.

During the home visit, HNP staff will discuss fire safety and determine the best way to reduce household accidents. Education also includes: indoor air quality, carbon monoxide poisoning, lead poisoning and other household health and safety topics. When appropriate, HNP will also cover asthma prevention tactics in order to reduce airway irritants in the home and infant safety concerns. Information about community resources and referrals to other programs will also be made available during these visits.

The Town of Ausable will be the focus region for July-September. However, participation in the Healthy Neighborhoods Program is **free and open to all Clinton County residents**. Residents who are interested in participating in the program can contact HNP at (518) 565-4870 or <https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/healthyneighborhoods> to schedule a visit.

“This is a great opportunity for our residents to receive education and free products provided by CCHD. We encourage all residents to sign-up for this program and schedule an appointment with our staff,” added Ms. Barto. “We strive to help families have the safest home possible.”

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News Release

Date: June 27, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Lactation Accommodations at State University of New York Plattsburgh

Plattsburgh, NY, June 27, 2024. In March 2024, State University of New York (SUNY) Plattsburgh became the first university to receive Clinton County Health Department’s (CCHD) *Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding, and Lactation Friendly Workplace* designation. SUNY Plattsburgh is one of the region’s largest employers and is home to over 4,400 students.

In June 2023, and again on June 19, 2024, New York State expanded the accommodations for those choosing to pump human milk in the workplace. NYS Department of Labor’s Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace now requires that all employers must:

1. Provide a safe and private pumping space that includes seating, access to running water, electricity, and in close proximity to the work space.
2. Provide 30 minutes of paid break time, separate from any existing meal or paid break time, as often as an employee reasonably needs to express breast milk.
3. Develop and implement a written lactation policy that ensures employee rights will not be infringed upon if they choose to pump and/or feed their child/ren in the workplace.
4. Distribute the written lactation policy to each employee upon hire, as well as to employees who are returning to work after the birth of a child.

CCHD’s *Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding, and Lactation Friendly New York* (BFF-NY) grant collaborated with SUNY Plattsburgh to ensure these accommodations were extended to their faculty, staff and student body. SUNY Plattsburgh worked with various groups throughout campus to establish and adopt an inclusive lactation accommodation policy in accordance with the labor law.

Through the collaborative effort, three private lactation rooms have been established across the SUNY Plattsburgh campus with more to launch in the coming months. Current lactation spaces are located within Redcay, Sibley Hall, and Angell College Center. With funding from BFF-NY, each space has been furnished with:

- Comfortable seating,
- A small table to place a pump on,
- A hospital-grade chest/breast pump,
- Mini-refrigerator for safe storage of expressed milk,
- Educational materials, and
- Calming elements such as sound machines, canvas art work and dim lighting.

According to Allison Heard, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, “The opportunity to collaborate with the Clinton County Health Department has allowed our campus to expand the resources that



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are available to students, employees, and visitors to our campus. We realize that there is no one definition for what a student or an employee looks like. As such, we must be inclusive and willing to embrace our community and those who put their trust in SUNY Plattsburgh. We want students, employees, and visitors to campus to feel welcome on campus and to feel like they belong. When these things align, our campus community becomes a natural extension of other people’s happy spaces. The Clinton County Health Department has helped us create some of those spaces on campus through the collaboration with their Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding, and Lactation Friendly New York (BFF-NY) grant. We look forward to our continued partnership and future collaborations.”

If you would like to create a lactation room at your worksite please contact Health Planning and Promotion at 518-565-4993. For more information about your rights as an employee to express milk in the workplace, visit <https://dol.ny.gov/breast-milk-expression-workplace>

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News Release

Date: July 16, 2024
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Clinton County Health Department to hold Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Dannemora, NY, July 16, 2024, the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) is hosting a free Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets. New York State law requires pets to have their first rabies vaccination by four months of age. Pets may be vaccinated as early as three months of age.

The event will be held on July 18, 2024 from 6pm to 8:30pm at the Dannemora Volunteer Fire Department building located at 167 Emmons St, Saranac, NY. Interested residents should bring their pets on a leash or in a secure carrier. Pets that have received a previous rabies vaccination are eligible to receive a three-year certificate. Please bring your pet’s most recent rabies vaccination records (previous certificate), otherwise, a one-year certificate will be provided.

CCHD asks those planning to attend the clinic to:

- Pre-register for the event at <https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/rabiesclinics>. Residents can call CCHD at 518-565-4870 for assistance with the registration process.
- There is a limit of 3 animals per household.
- Remain in your car until your appointment time.

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans and pets. Rabies is most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. Rabies can be prevented by vaccinating your pets. As a precaution, never pick up wildlife, including stray animals, and wear thick protective gloves when handling these animals. If you are bitten (teeth breaking the skin) by an animal, including domestic animals, seek medical attention and notify the CCHD.

“This is a great opportunity to save your pet’s life and prevent the spread of rabies”, states Amanda Masten, Senior Sanitarian for CCHD’s Division of Environmental Health & Safety. “This is an opportunity you don’t want to miss.” Donations are accepted and appreciated. CCHD has scheduled four (4) additional Rabies Vaccination Clinics at the following locations:

8/8/24 – Beekmantown Highway Garage
9/24/24 – Rouses Point Volunteer Fire Department
10/8/24 – Ellenburg Depot Fire Department
12/3/24 – City of Plattsburgh Public Works

For more information, including future clinic dates, visit <https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/rabiesclinics> or follow our social media pages. For more information on the rabies virus, visit https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/nc_healtheffect/rabies.pdf.



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The Wild Center Showcases Mamava Pod

Tupper Lake, NY, July 17, 2024. The Wild Center in Tupper Lake, NY became the first establishment in upstate New York to install a free-standing Mamava Lactation Pod. The ADA compatible pod, installed in collaboration with the Clinton County Health Department’s (CCHD) *Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding and Lactation Friendly, NY* (BFF-NY) grant, provides chest/breastfeeding parents with a private, clean, and comfortable space to pump or nurse their babies.

Staff at The Wild Center identified the best placement for the lactation pod, ensuring an easily accessible location for staff and visitors to utilize. The pod is conveniently located directly off the main entrance.

According to Hillarie Logan-Dechene, Deputy Director of The Wild Center, "Supporting the needs of families is a core value of The Wild Center, and we are very grateful to Clinton County Health Department’s Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding and Lactation Friendly New York grant for making it possible for us to have a Mamava Pod. Not only did the CCHD team help us with the pod and equipment, but they also helped us refine our Family Friendly Lactation policy. We really feel great knowing that both our staff and our visitors have a proper - and very cool looking - lactation space."

Mamava pods are accessed through the free Mamava app, which helps parents find lactation spaces – not just Mamava pods – wherever they go. The app opens the pod and allows parents to customize the lighting and airflow, as well as listen to soothing sounds. The pod features seven-foot solid walls, easy-to-clean surfaces, comfortable benches, ventilation fans, a locking door, and complete wheelchair accessibility.

Sascha Mayer, Co-founder and Chief Experience Officer at Mamava shares, "We are thrilled to see a Mamava lactation pod find a home at The Wild Center. This placement signifies a commitment to supporting chest/breastfeeding and creating inclusive, welcoming spaces for families."

If you are interested in making your worksite or community space more breastfeeding, chestfeeding and lactation friendly, please contact Health Planning and Promotion at 518-565-4993. To learn more about The Wild Center, visit www.wildcenter.org. For more information about Mamava pods or to download the free app, visit www.mamava.com.

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News Release

Date: August 1, 2024
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Contact: 518-565-4840

Clinton County Health Department to hold Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Beekmantown, NY, August 1, 2024, the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) is hosting a free Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets. New York State law requires pets to have their first rabies vaccination by four months of age. Pets may be vaccinated as early as three months of age.

The event will be held on **August 8, 2024** from **6pm to 8:30pm** at the **Beekmantown Highway Garage building located at 599 Spellman Rd, West Chazy, NY**. Interested residents should bring their pets on a leash or in a secure carrier. Pets that have received a previous rabies vaccination are eligible to receive a three-year certificate. Please bring your pet’s most recent rabies vaccination records (previous certificate), otherwise, a one-year certificate will be provided.

CCHD asks those planning to attend the clinic to:

- Pre-register for the event at <https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/rabiesclinics>. Residents can call CCHD at 518-565-4870 for assistance with the registration process.
- There is a limit of **3** animals per household.
- Remain in your car until your appointment time.

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans and pets. Rabies is most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. Rabies can be prevented by vaccinating your pets. As a precaution, never pick up wildlife, including stray animals, and wear thick protective gloves when handling these animals. If you are bitten (teeth breaking the skin) by an animal, including domestic animals, seek medical attention and notify the CCHD.

“This is a great opportunity to save your pet’s life and prevent the spread of rabies”, states Amanda Masten, Senior Sanitarian for CCHD’s Division of Environmental Health & Safety. “This is an opportunity you don’t want to miss.” Donations are accepted and appreciated. CCHD has scheduled four (3) additional Rabies Vaccination Clinics at the following locations:

- 9/24/24 – Rouses Point Volunteer Fire Department
- 10/8/24 – Ellenburg Depot Fire Department
- 12/3/24 – City of Plattsburgh Public Works

For more information, including future clinic dates, visit <https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/rabiesclinics> or follow our social media pages. For more information on the rabies virus, visit https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/nc_healtheffect/rabies.pdf.



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Horse Identified with Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Clinton County

Clinton County, August 21, 2024. The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) has been notified that a horse in Mooers has tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE, Triple E) virus. The animal was unvaccinated. The EEE virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and can infect people, horses and other mammals, some birds, reptiles and amphibians. This very rare but serious virus can cause inflammation of the brain, also known as encephalitis.

So far this summer, one horse tested positive for EEE in Washington County and three have tested positive in St. Lawrence County. In the United States, an average of 11 human cases of EEE are reported annually. In New York State, there have been eight human disease cases between 2003-2022. These cases occurred in Oswego and Onondaga counties. There have been no human cases reported in NYS in 2024.

EEE can cause various symptoms, such as fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, behavioral changes, drowsiness, or coma. If you are under 15 or over 50, you are more likely to develop a severe form of EEE. The best way to prevent EEE is to protect yourself from mosquito bites. There are no medications to prevent or treat EEE virus infections in humans.

EEE vaccination is very effective at preventing clinical disease in horses. Vaccination needs to be repeated at minimum on an annual basis; consult with your veterinarian regarding boosters. To reduce exposure to mosquitoes for horses: eliminate any standing water (mosquito habitat) and place fans inside where the horses rest, limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk, and use equine approved mosquito repellent.

Take the following steps to protect yourself:

- Cover your skin as completely as possible when outside when mosquitoes are present and active. Wear long sleeves, pants and socks.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 and follow label directions. Do not apply repellent directly on children; instead apply it to your own hands and then rub it onto your child. Avoid applying to your face and wash your skin and clothing thoroughly after coming indoors.
- Make sure there are screens in your home’s windows and doors. Make sure the screens are free of rips, tears and holes.
- Eliminate all standing water on or around your home and property where mosquitoes can breed. Make sure your roof gutters drain correctly and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall. Remove or turn over any items that may hold stagnant water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Clear vegetation and waste from the edge of ponds.



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In response to this public health concern, the Clinton County Health Department is collaborating with the Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District to provide free mosquito dunks to county residents. These mosquito dunks offer an effective method for controlling mosquito populations by preventing mosquito larvae from developing into adult mosquitoes. They are non-chemical and are also effective against blackfly larvae, making them safe for use in backyard ponds, fountains, and other water features where fish, frogs, tadpoles, and other aquatic life reside.

Mosquito dunks will be available for distribution at the following locations and times:

Clinton County Health Department
133 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District
6064 Route 22, Suite 1, Plattsburgh
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

They are free for all Clinton County residents on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

For more information on EEE, please call CCHD at 518-565-4848 or visit:

CCHD North Country Health Effect:
https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/nc_healtheffect/Mosquitoes.pdf

New York State Department of Health's website:
https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/eastern_equine_encephalitis/fact_sheet.htm

Center for Disease Control website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html#:~:text=EEE%20virus%20is%20a%20rare,survivors%20have%20ongoing%20neurologic%20problems.>

U.S. Department of Agriculture's website:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine/eee-wee-vee>

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Clinton County Health Department

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Administration Division

Phone: (518) 565-4840

Fax: (518) 565-4717

News Release

Date: September 20, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Clinton County Health Department Awarded \$200,000 in Grant Funding

Plattsburgh, NY, September 20, 2024. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) awarded the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) a two-year, \$200,000 grant to reduce food waste throughout Clinton County. CCHD will be expanding upon its *Eat Smart, Waste Less Clinton County* project (2019-2022) and plans to:

- Provide outreach and education on home-based food waste reduction strategies;
- Partner with small businesses to establish and implement food waste reduction and recycling policies and practices; and
- Increase the number and accessibility of food waste drop-off sites and tools/resources for waste management.

“A family of four throws away an average of \$1,500 worth of food each year and local data tells us that more than 9 in 10 Clinton County residents think reducing food waste was important,” explained Cody Douglas, Public Health Educator in CCHD’s Division of Health Planning & Promotion. “By encouraging food waste reduction strategies, CCHD is working to put money back in the pockets of Clinton County families, improve food security, and reduce Clinton County’s carbon footprint.”

In January 2022, New York State passed the *New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law* which requires businesses and institutions that generate an annual average of two tons of wasted food per week to:

- Donate excess edible food; and
- Recycle all remaining food scraps if they are within 25 miles of an organics recycler (composting facility, anaerobic digester, etc.).

In Clinton County, there are currently two organics recyclers – Casella and River Valley Regeneratives LLC (RiVR). “We have had the pleasure of working with the Clinton County Health Department in the past and look forward to supporting this next campaign to help residents and communities reduce disposal costs, increase local food opportunities, save landfill space, and improve soil health,” expressed Jennifer Perry, Owner/Operator of RiVR and Organics Recycling Coordinator at Adirondack North Country Association.

Casella’s Clinton County Solid Waste & Recycling Facility General Manager Sean Lukas stated, “We are impressed with the forward-thinking and practical approach that the Clinton County Health Department has utilized to engage with the community and become more sustainable. Our goals remain aligned, and with this new grant, we look forward to continuing to preserve natural resources and utilizing waste streams for a higher and better use.”

-more-



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If you would like to participate with *Eat Smart, Waste Less Clinton County* or are interested in learning how you can reduce food waste, call 518-565-4993 or visit CCHD on the web at <https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/foodwastereduction/>.

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Fax: (518) 565-4717

News Release

Date: September 24, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Clinton County Reports First Human Case of West Nile Virus of 2024

Clinton County, September 24, 2024. The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) today is reporting one case of West Nile virus, the first case reported this season in Clinton County.

The individual, who is over the age of 50 and resides in the Town of Chazy, began experiencing symptoms consistent with West Nile virus on September 1, and was subsequently hospitalized. They are now recovering.

“Though mosquitoes usually are considered a nuisance or a pest, they occasionally can transmit viruses to people and animals,” explained Nichole Louis, Director of Health Care Services at CCHD. “In Clinton County, the mosquito-borne illnesses we can encounter are Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE, Triple E) and West Nile virus (WNV).”

Both EEE and WNV are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Along with this case of WNV, Clinton County has previously reported one EEE case identified in a horse. No human cases of EEE have been identified in Clinton County.

Most people infected with EEE or WNV develop mild symptoms or do not develop any signs or symptoms. If illness develops, symptoms usually occur 3-15 days after the bite from an infected mosquito. Symptoms of EEE and WNV can be similar, but EEE is a much more serious illness in people who develop severe disease and much more likely to result in death. People with mild cases of mosquito-borne illness may develop fever, headache, body aches and occasionally a skin rash or swollen glands (lymph nodes). People with severe cases of EEE or WNV usually have a sudden onset of headache, high fever, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, altered mental status, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or the membranes of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) or coma.

Individuals under the age of 15, over 50 years of age and those with chronic illness or compromised immune systems are at most risk for severe infection. Clinton County residents are urged to take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, especially during mosquito season, which extends through November.

Take the following steps to protect yourself:

- Cover your skin as completely as possible when outside when mosquitoes are present and active. Wear long sleeves, pants and socks.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 and follow label directions. Do not apply repellent directly on children; instead apply it to your own hands and then rub it onto your child. Avoid applying to your face and wash your skin and clothing thoroughly after coming indoors.



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- Make sure there are screens in your home’s windows and doors. Make sure the screens are free of rips, tears and holes.
- Eliminate all standing water on or around your home and property where mosquitoes can breed. Make sure your roof gutters drain correctly and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall. Remove or turn over any items that may hold stagnant water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Clear vegetation and waste from the edge of ponds.

“In response to this public health concern, we have collaborated with the Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District to offer free mosquito dunks to county residents,” added Ms. Louis.

These mosquito dunks offer an effective method for controlling mosquito populations by preventing mosquito larvae from developing into adult mosquitoes. They are non-chemical and are also effective against blackfly larvae, making them safe for use in backyard ponds, fountains, and other water features where fish, frogs, tadpoles, and other aquatic life reside.

Mosquito dunks will be available for distribution at the following locations and times:

Clinton County Health Department
 133 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District
 6064 Route 22, Suite 1, Plattsburgh
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

They are free for all Clinton County residents on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, please call CCHD at 518-565-4848 or visit:

CCHD North Country Health Effect:
https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/nc_healtheffect/Mosquitoes.pdf

New York State Department of Health’s website:
https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west_nile_virus/

Center for Disease Control website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/about/about-mosquito-bites.html>

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s website:
<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/archive/tag/mosquitoes>

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Environmental Health & Safety Division

Phone: (518) 565-4870

Fax: (518) 565-4843

News Release

Date: September 30, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Healthy Neighborhoods Program to Target Town of Mooers Residents

Town of Mooers, September 30, 2024 The Clinton County Health Department’s (CCHD) Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) will be conducting door-to-door outreach in the Town of Mooers. HNP staff will provide brief, in-home surveys to identify health and safety concerns and provide appropriate home safety education and products at no cost to the families that participate.

“These visits are designed to assess health and safety topics in the home. Once safety concerns have been identified, staff will educate residents on those identified issues and provide appropriate home safety products, such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers,” explained Rachel Pierce, Public Health Sanitarian.

During the home visit, HNP staff will discuss fire safety and determine the best way to reduce household accidents. Education also includes: indoor air quality, carbon monoxide poisoning, lead poisoning and other household health and safety topics. When appropriate, HNP will also cover asthma prevention tactics in order to reduce airway irritants in the home and infant safety concerns. Information about community resources and referrals to other programs will also be made available during these visits.

The Town of Mooers will be the focus region for October-December; however, participation in the Healthy Neighborhoods Program is **free and open to all Clinton County residents**. Residents who are interested in participating in the program can contact HNP at (518) 565-4870 or www.health.clintoncountyny.gov/healthyneighborhoods to schedule a visit.

“This is a great opportunity for our residents to receive education and free products provided by CCHD. We encourage all residents to sign-up for this program and schedule an appointment with our staff,” added Ms. Pierce. “We strive to help families have the safest home possible.”

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Fax: (518) 565-4717

News Release

Date: October 8, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Clinton County Reports Second Case of West Nile Virus

Clinton County, October 8, 2024. The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) today is reporting an additional case of West Nile virus, the second case reported this season in Clinton County.

The individual, who is under the age of 50 and resides in Plattsburgh, began experiencing symptoms consistent with West Nile virus on September 18, and was subsequently hospitalized. They are now recovering.

“Our second resident to test positive for West Nile virus should be a reminder to our residents that mosquitoes can transmit viruses to people and animals,” explained Nichole Louis, Director of Health Care Services at CCHD. “Preventing bites is the best way for residents to take action. Protect yourself and your family by covering your body with clothing and EPA-registered repellants, keeping working screens in your home’s windows and doors and eliminating standing water around your home.”

In Clinton County, the mosquito-borne illnesses of concern are Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE, Triple E) and West Nile virus (WNV). Both EEE and WNV are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Clinton County has now confirmed two (2) cases of WNV in residents and one (1) case of EEE case identified in a horse. No human cases of EEE have been identified in Clinton County.

Most people infected with EEE or WNV develop mild symptoms or do not develop any signs or symptoms. If illness develops, symptoms usually occur 3-15 days after the bite from an infected mosquito. Symptoms of EEE and WNV can be similar, but EEE is a much more serious illness in people who develop severe disease and much more likely to result in death. People with mild cases of mosquito-borne illness may develop fever, headache, body aches and occasionally a skin rash or swollen glands (lymph nodes). People with severe cases of EEE or WNV usually have a sudden onset of headache, high fever, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, altered mental status, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or the membranes of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) or coma.

Individuals under the age of 15, over 50 years of age and those with chronic illness or compromised immune systems are at most risk for severe infection. Clinton County residents are urged to take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, especially during mosquito season, which extends through November.

Take the following steps to protect yourself:

- Cover your skin as completely as possible when outside when mosquitoes are present and active. Wear long sleeves, pants and socks.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 and follow label directions. Do not apply repellent directly on children; instead apply it to your own hands and



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then rub it onto your child. Avoid applying to your face and wash your skin and clothing thoroughly after coming indoors.

- Make sure there are screens in your home’s windows and doors. Make sure the screens are free of rips, tears and holes.
- Eliminate all standing water on or around your home and property where mosquitoes can breed. Make sure your roof gutters drain correctly and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall. Remove or turn over any items that may hold stagnant water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Clear vegetation and waste from the edge of ponds.

“CCHD and Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District continue to offer free mosquito dunks to county residents,” added Ms. Louis.

These mosquito dunks offer an effective method for controlling mosquito populations by preventing mosquito larvae from developing into adult mosquitoes. They are non-chemical and are also effective against blackfly larvae, making them safe for use in backyard ponds, fountains, and other water features where fish, frogs, tadpoles, and other aquatic life reside. More information on these dunks can be found at <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/13035.pdf>.

Mosquito dunks will be available for distribution at the following locations and times:

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Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District
6064 Route 22, Suite 1, Plattsburgh
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

They are free for all Clinton County residents on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, please call CCHD at 518-565-4848 or visit:

CCHD North Country Health Effect:
https://health.clintoncountyny.gov/nc_healtheffect/Mosquitoes.pdf

New York State Department of Health’s website:
https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west_nile_virus/

Center for Disease Control website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/about/about-mosquito-bites.html>

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s website:
<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/archive/tag/mosquitoes>

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Fax: (518) 565-4717

News Release

Date: December 19, 2024
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

CCHD Asks Residents to Complete Health Survey

Clinton County, December 19, 2024. Through the end of February, the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) and the University of Vermont Health Network – Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH) are asking residents what they see as the most pressing health concerns in our community. Residents can take part by responding to the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHA2025.

The survey is one of the first steps in the year-long Community Health Assessment process. CCHD and UVHN-CVPH undertake a community health assessment every few years.

“A community health assessment is an opportunity to take a close look at our strengths and weaknesses when it comes to health, to acknowledge the progress we’ve been able to make collectively and to talk about what has prevented change,” stated Mandy Snay, Director of Health Planning & Promotion at CCHD. “The assessment tells our community’s health story while identifying the direction we want to go to make our programs, systems and approaches more accessible, equitable and aligned with residents’ needs.”

Residents are invited to participate in the process through a community survey. The survey asks residents to weigh in on health challenges for themselves and their families as well as what they see as health issues in the community. “To truly improve the health of our community, it’s important that we receive input from all stakeholders – the residents of our county. This Community Health Assessment will help collect valuable information and insight as we work in partnership with the Clinton County Health Department and other agencies to create a roadmap for a stronger North Country,” added Michelle LeBeau, Alice Hyde Medical Center & CVPH President.

For the first time in many years, NYSDOH is updating the Prevention Agenda, the State’s health improvement plan, to better align with social determinants of health, common factors like housing, education, and access to care, known to affect health outcomes. “This adds new excitement to our process and means resident and partner input is more important than ever as we identify health priorities and develop an improvement plan for the next three years,” added Ms. Snay.

The survey is anonymous and takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. It is available online and can be completed on a computer, tablet or phone. Residents can find the link to the survey on the Clinton County Health Department’s social media pages or on the Health Department website at health.clintoncountyny.gov. Paper copies of the survey are also available for those without access to the internet. For more information, please contact CCHD’s Division of Health Planning & Promotion at 518-565-4993.

CCHD will share the results directly with the community this summer and will use them to help identify health priorities in the 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan.



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