

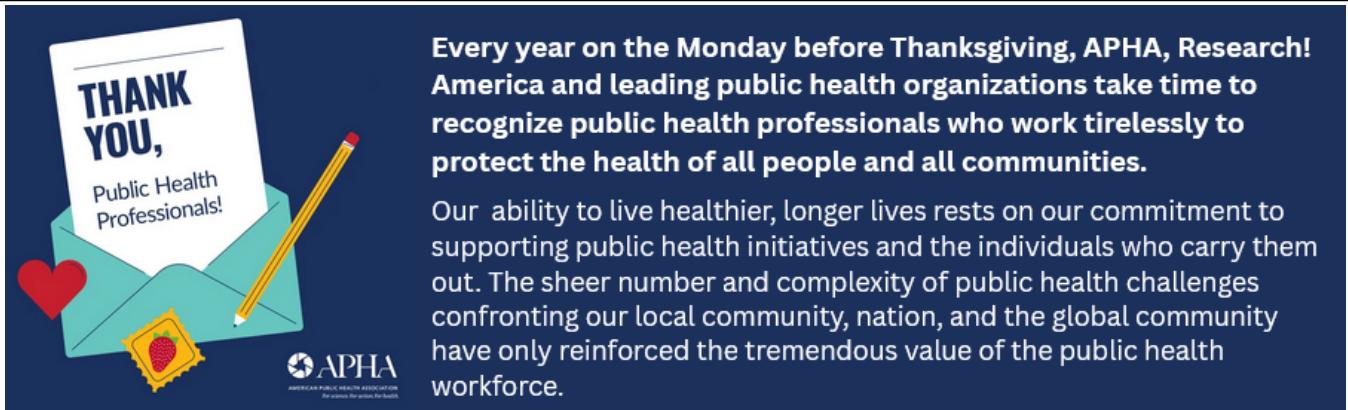


**Jessica Kristy, MPH**

**Director of Health**

**WINTER 2025**

**November | December**



## **Miscellaneous**

### Aging in Place in the Valley: Challenges, Barriers and Opportunities

On November 19, 2025, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) hosted a Community Learning Session on Aging in Place in the Valley: Challenges, Barriers and Opportunities at the Seymour Community Center. The well attended event was moderated by Sandra Arburr of VCF and included opening remarks by VCF's President and CEO, Sharon Closius and Representative Kara Rochelle. The evening included data sharing and highlighting both successes and gaps in programming for the older adults. NVHD's Director of Health, Jessica Kristy, and Health Educator, Lisa Trupp joined Mary McNelis, Director of Community Services, Town of Seymour, and David Morgan, President and CEO of TEAM, Inc. as panelists. We also provided 50+ attendees with Deterra medication disposal pouches and COVID-19 home test kits.



### Addressing Vaping & Vape Store Challenges

Naugatuck will be hosting a public presentation/training of sorts related to vape shops. It is being coordinated by DESPP and the panelists will include myself, Office of the Attorney General, DPH, DCP, DMHAS, and others. The piece they want me to speak about is an overview of local ordinances in towns and/or LHD that address vape stores. We had our first meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and will likely hold the event in late February/March.



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**CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)**

Positions held: Member; Elected to Board of Directors; Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair; Environmental Health Committee

The CADH Board meeting was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. I also attended the CADH Environmental Health Committee meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Our CADH Advocacy Committee will reconvene after the New Year as the legislative session will be convened on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Commissioner of DPH's Director of Health Meeting**

Statutorily required, and a good opportunity for directors to meet with DPH leadership, I attended the virtual Commissioner's Meeting for Directors of Health on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The agenda topics included an overview of the Northeast Public Health Collaborative and The Governors Public Health Alliance by Commissioner Juthani, an infectious disease update on the Respiratory Viral Disease Dashboard, Legionella, and Botulism by Dr. Lynn Sosa, and an update on WIC by Julie Vigil from the Office of Community, Family Health, & Prevention.

**Statewide DPH & Local Health Meetings**

I continue to attend the monthly meeting held for local health and DPH staff (co-hosted by CADH). NVHD staff also attend if their schedule permits. The December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting acknowledged retiring and incoming Health Directors and included updates from the following DPH program offices: Infectious Disease, Lead Hazard Reduction and Control, Food Protection Program, 5-Year Mortality Data, and the Office of Local Health Administration.

**Epidemiology**

During the months of November and December, Melanie and I continued working with the Department of Public Health and CDC on an investigation related to an isolated community outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, which is a type of pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria. It is contracted by inhaling water mist containing the bacteria and is not spread from person to person. Carissa and Nurse Kristie also assisted in the investigation, helping with case interviews and attending meetings. Austin assisted Melanie with water sample collections during one of the site visits. Thank you, team! Fortunately, no *Legionella* was detected in the water samples, and the investigation has since concluded with the facility recommended to establish a water management plan. In February, I will be joining the DPH team in presentations to the state internal infectious disease team and to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health.

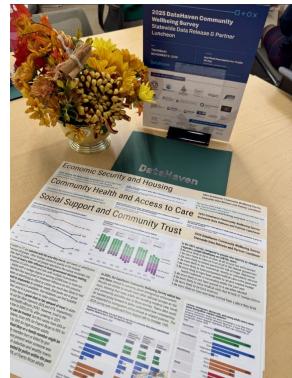
On Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, DPH held a meeting for Directors of Health to brief us on the Measles case identified among a CT resident. The meeting also included important contact exposure surveillance instructions and expectations. Fortunately, there was just 1 case and contact exposure monitoring has concluded. For context of the scope, 23 local health jurisdictions had residents who were exposed to the case at one of three locations. The follow up surveillance work required notifications, contact tracing, obtaining proof of vaccination, immunity, or attestation of immunity, and monitoring individuals every other day until their 21-day isolation period concluded. Thank you to Carissa and Kristie for assisting me. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, I hosted an internal staff briefing on Measles for the community health and preparedness staff. I attended several evening meetings held by CT DPH requiring LHD's to provide status updates.





### DataHaven

DataHaven CEO, Mark Abraham, and staff brought together cross-sector colleagues for the 2025 Statewide Data Release & Partner Luncheon on November 6, 2025, in Hartford. The event, attended by civic leaders, health professionals, and nonprofit partners, featured presentations from DataHaven as well as remarks by Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam and Jay Williams of the Hartford Foundation. Check out DataHaven reports, including town-specific reports and community health needs assessments, at [www.ctdatahaven.org](http://www.ctdatahaven.org).



### Workforce Development

Lisa continues to chair the NVHD Workforce Development Committee. Staff continue to work on completing the required two online training courses this quarter. We had 94% compliance with our mandatory online training program.

I attended a key stakeholder Public Health Training Academy of Connecticut (PHTAC) meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The December meeting was cancelled. The PHTAC Food Safety Training Plan Subcommittee to assist in the development and implementation in December was also postponed.

### Air Quality and Climate Change

Grant: EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant

Status: Contract is fully executed!

Vanessa, Public Health Specialist, and John, Chief Sanitarian will be the program staff on this initiative but Carissa, Melanie and I will still participate and have oversight. We had a partner meeting with DPH, UConn, and Yale on November 25<sup>th</sup>. DPH needs to go through the procurement process of purchasing and acquiring the air quality monitoring sensors which will then need to be calibrated by Yale, which will take about a month once in possession. In the meantime, we will begin planning for host site recruitment and planning an Earth Day Event this Spring.

### Naugatuck Valley Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Program

Grant: Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A)

Status: Year 3 Sub-contract Executed with New Haven Health Department

I have shared the second full-time Overdose Prevention Navigator posting with the Directors of West Haven, Milford, and Orange. We had a few meetings and began interviewing candidates.

Austin and I continue to attend the New Haven OD2A meetings as well as the statewide OD2A meetings held by DPH.

We continue to include a standing feature section of NVHD's newsletter which is distributed to hundreds of residents as well as businesses, libraries, senior centers, town halls, and more. We have been sharing the End Stigma campaign posts to NVHD's social media pages which include Instagram, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. We are currently working on adding the campaign information, videos and direct link to [endstigmact.org](http://endstigmact.org) from NVHD.org substance use section of the website (re-launching soon!).

During the months of November and December, Austin's outreach efforts were expanded significantly in response to colder temperatures. He conducted additional street outreach to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability were informed about available shelter options, and harm reduction supplies, as well as giving NVHD cold weather kits which include blankets, hand and foot warmers, and other safety supplies to help individuals stay



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warm and protected during extreme cold. Additional outreach was performed at Derby, Ansonia, and Beacon Falls CT Foodshare distribution events, the Valley Social Club, Spooner House Shelter, the Salvation Army, and various street outreach hot spots. Engagement with community members also allowed for brief check-ins, resource sharing, and relationship-building with individuals accessing services.

Austin attended the Region 5 Suicide Advisory Board meeting in November which supported ongoing coordination around suicide prevention/postvention strategies, sharing local trends, and aligning outreach messaging with regional goals. He also continued involvement in the Region 5 “Breathe Easy” work group which remains a priority. The team contributing to efforts aimed at reducing youth smoking, vaping, and inhalant use through community education, environmental strategies, and school-based prevention planning.

Austin participated at a community health fair hosted by Griffin Hospital. At this event, he provided overdose prevention materials, including information on recognizing overdose symptoms and administering naloxone. Educational materials on safe medication storage and disposal were distributed, along with broader health department resources. This event provided an opportunity to engage families, older adults, and other community members in conversations about substance use prevention and general wellness.

Austin is co-chairing Naugatuck Valley Community Health Improvement Plan's Mental and Behavioral Health Committee. The committee includes area providers, prevention specialists, R2 and R5 RBHAO's, recovery partners, and more.

**Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)**

I attended the Town of Seymour Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

NVHD welcomes Emilia Griceviciute, MPH, as the new Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator! Emilia earned her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Bridgeport, has previously interned with NVHD, and this summer completed a prestigious international summer program in Lithuania!



She has been completing onboarding and training. She has already completed the following FEMA trainings: IS-100.C: Introduction to Incident Command System, IS-2905: Coordinating Health and Social Services Recovery, IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System, IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, IS-800.D: National Response Framework, An Introduction, and IS-360: Preparing for Mass Casualty Incidents: A Guide for Schools, Higher Education, and Houses of Worship. She has also completed the following trainings on CT Train: Public Health System Overview (Organization and Financing of Public Health) Part 1, Public Media Data for Public Health, Adaptive Leadership: Strategies for Public Health, and Risk Communication in Public Health Emergencies.

She has been working on updating and editing the Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP) to familiarize herself with our response plan(s), ensure it is current with the latest information, and to include what the CT DPH is looking for. The CT DPH is requesting our latest PHERP to provide technical assistance in local and regional Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) planning efforts, and to ensure that our plan has the readiness for all-hazard emergency preparedness.





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She has begun doing an inventory of NVHD's PHEP and MRC supplies to familiarize herself with our current materials and stock, and see what we may need to change, discard, or add.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, she attended the Trinity Church Food Pantry Event with Vanessa and Austin. She distributed PHEP related information to those who stopped by the table, such as, family emergency communication plans and emergency supply lists, pamphlets about why preparing makes sense and how to get ready now, and booklets regarding what to do with and for food and water in an emergency.

**ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services, Chair**

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF #8 meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Region 2 ESF #8 meeting was held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. I attended the Region 2 REPT meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Weekend and After-Hours Response:** The major water main break in Waterbury in December required a lot of mutual aid response. Because the two hospitals were impacted and water was cut off to the entire city, there were several aspects of the response that were public health focused. My Region 5 ESF Co-Chair helped secure portable sinks from facilities in Region 1. The Region 5 PHEP Coordinator and ESF 8 Support and I surveyed and put MRC volunteers on standby for water distribution events. We have continued to hear presentations from our Waterbury colleagues about other public health challenges and successes during the response and will utilize their After-Action Report as a learning opportunity tool.

**Medical Reserve Corps**

NVMRC participated in a training held by the Seymour Ambulance Association at their training center which included presentations on Stop the Bleed and Narcan and Opioids in partnership with BHcare's Alliance for Prevention & Wellness and NVHD on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 6:00pm. NVMRC was able to supply free Narcan, Stop the Bleed Kits, and COVID-19 Test Kits to participants.

Emilia attended the New England MRC Regional (Region 1) meetings on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. The meetings provided weekly updates regarding important information, MRC expectations, and upcoming trainings. I provided her an MRC orientation on December 18<sup>th</sup> which also reviewed responsibilities and expectations, the order of tasks when an emergency occurs, and familiarizing her what the MRC capabilities are. On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, she had a New Leader MRC Orientation with the Federal Regional Liaison Region 1 leader, Jennifer Frenette.

**CT Healthcare Coalition (HCC)**

Public Health Representative & Voting Member; Elected to the Executive Committee

**Statewide Training and Exercise Workgroup (STEW)**

Emilia attended the December 10<sup>th</sup> virtual STEW meeting with me.

**NACCHO Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)**

Connecticut Representative

I attended the PPAG meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> which included a NACCHO Government Affairs update, a recap of the 2025 Annual DPHP Meeting, 2026 Preparedness Summit Abstracts and Logistics, and general PPAG updates. There was no December meeting.





### Surveillance & Outbreak Response

If you need a COVID-19 home test kit, please arrange pick up or delivery with Paulina by calling 203-881-3255 x 118 or emailing [pcherkasov@nvhd.org](mailto:pcherkasov@nvhd.org).

The following update is provided by Paulina:

There was an increased effort in COVID-19 test kit distribution ahead of Thanksgiving, with holiday-centered messaging re: spread of respiratory viruses at gatherings. A flyer was posted on social media and shared with community partners. NVHD staff delivered bulk orders of test kits to over 20 community partners, in addition to distributing tests at outreach events. Paulina has continued to update respiratory virus outreach material, which NVHD staff distributes at community outreach events.

In response to unverified claims circulating in national media regarding deaths caused by children's COVID-19 vaccines, Paulina began working on an informational social media post and/or bulletin including facts about the COVID vaccine, updated guidance from the state of CT re: childhood vaccines, and debunking of any unverified claims made by the FDA.

Due to a spike in reported norovirus and flu cases in Valley schools, Paulina created informational guidance for both diseases. Norovirus information and guidance was shared on social media; flu guidance to follow. Information will also be shared with daycare partners. Vanessa has been assisting with providing the outreach materials and COVID-19 test kits to several organizations in November and December.

**Table 1. COVID-19 Adults Case Statistics (18+)**

	October	November	December
Total Cases & Contacts Managed*	65	37	175
Consultations with Residents	2	2	2

**Table 2. COVID-19 Youth and Teen (0-17) Case Statistics**

	October	November	December
Total Cases & Contacts Managed*	7	9	31
Consultations with Residents	0	0	0

*\*Please note that "Total Cases & Contacts Managed" also includes reports of self-tests originating from various sources such as self-reports, schools, childcare centers, congregate living facilities, etc. and as such do not always come with contact information and/or do not always warrant further follow-up by NVHD staff.*



## COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Carissa Caserta, MPH

WINTER 2025

November | December

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### **Miscellaneous**

Lisa, Vanessa and I attended the DPH Radon Annual meeting which was the kickoff to National Radon Action Month, which is in January. There were several presentations related to radon education and how other health departments distributed their radon test kits. We have received 100 test kits that will be provided to residents in January.

Lisa and I attended TEAM, Inc.'s Annual Meeting in December which was their 60<sup>th</sup> celebration. At this celebration, there were over 100 Valley partners that worked with TEAM at some point. TEAM shared the hundreds of families they have assisted with childcare, housing, food, electricity support and more. There were a few families/residents there that shared their stories of how TEAM helped them. Lastly, there was a presentation about their CEO, David Morgan, who will be leaving TEAM in January. He will be starting an exciting opportunity as a Deputy Commissioner with the State in early childhood, but a huge loss for the Valley! David was such a great partner and advocate for the Valley people!

As previously reported, NVHD provided contact monitoring to those exposed to CT's first Measles case in several years. Contact monitoring involved following residents who either were not vaccinated or could not provide documentation of vaccination. Every other day these residents were contacted by me or Kristie and asked if they had any symptoms. All of this information was documented and luckily our residents stayed healthy during their monitoring period.

### **Valley Council for Health & Human Services (VCHHS)**

Lisa and I attended the monthly VCHHS meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The November meeting included a presentation by Adam's house in Shelton, which is an excellent facility for families who have experienced loss. There are therapists, art classes, and resources for children and parents who lost a loved one. The December meeting included a presentation about Griffin Health's new EMPATH Unit. This is an extension of the emergency room for all behavioral health patients. There was a large need for more behavioral health services, and this unit will evaluate any patients in need and help provide any resources needed. At this meeting, we also said farewell to David Morgan who was the CEO of TEAM, Inc. At the end of each meeting there is always partner sharing where we are made aware of training, events and resources happening in the Valley.

### **Valley Council Executive Committee**

At the November 12<sup>th</sup> Valley Council Executive Committee meeting, which I'm a member of, we reviewed the budget for 2026. The Council employees have expanded from one person to three this past year, with hopes of growing in 2026. A grant coordinator has been hired to help expand the Council employees as well as grow the programs and resources.

### **Community Care Hub Committee**

Lisa and I are also members of the Hub committee, which is a committee trying to move along the new initiative of building a Community Care Hub. Part of this work is designing a social determinants survey that will be given to those in need. That survey has been voted on and completed. The Hub is in the pilot phase and has a working referral database which is called Unite Us. This committee hopes to grow the use of Unite Us and increase referrals for housing, food, behavioral health, etc.

### **Food Committee**

Lisa, Jess and I attended the first meeting for a Food Security Committee, which will focus on pulling together all the resources regarding food access in the Valley. There are several committees already working on this topic, so the goal of this committee to bring all those groups/resources together and not duplicate efforts.



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### Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Me, Jess, and Lisa are members of the CHIP Steering Committee along with Myra O. (Griffin Health Services) and Beth C. (Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center). We will continue to meet as we finalize the document and implementation plan in January. The draft work plan has been approved by Griffin's Board, so we are just working on refining the specific measurable goals and objectives. The priority areas of the 2025-2028 Naugatuck Valley Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) have been refined to: Access to Care and other Social Needs (Co-Chaired by Myra and Aneta Guliuzza of Griffin); Enhance Mental and Behavioral Health (Co-Chaired by Lisa and Austin); and Improve Awareness, Access to, and Uptake of Healthy Food & Nutrition Programming/Services (Co-Chaired by Jess and Beth). Additional NVHD staff will participate as subcommittee members, and we encourage the Board to consider joining if interested as well (thanks to those who have joined!).

### Community Health Programs

Community Health Staff met and planned all programs for 2026 to ensure we are meeting the goals of our Preventative Health Strategies at Work in CT Community Block grant contract. Our January newsletter has quite a few programs advertised that you can view.

The Preventive Health Strategies at Work in Connecticut Communities Block Grant, which runs on a October 1 – September 30 timeline, wrapped up the first quarter report (10/1-12/31). The report is completed and will be submitted in January 2026.

Lisa also was a panelist at the Aging in Place, Valley Community Foundation community conversation, at Seymour Community Center on November 19th. This event had an excellent turnout, and our community programs were promoted.

### LiveWell Programs

LiveWell with Chronic Disease started on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Hutt Housing in Naugatuck taught by Lisa and Kristie with 10 participants and concluded on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a great program, and we hope to do more programs at Hutt!

We will be starting a LiveWell with Chronic Pain program in Ansonia in January.

Kristie also provided Freestyle Libre (glucose monitoring) education to a resident who attended one of our LiveWell with Diabetes programs who called and asked for some further assistance.

### A Matter of Balance (MOB)

We will be starting a MOB class in Shelton in January. Kristie visited Quinnipiac Valley Health District's Matter of Balance program in Woodbridge as a guest presenter teaching how to get up from a fall and providing fall statistics.

### Mental and Behavioral Health Programs

NVHD was selected to take part in the NACCHO Suicide Prevention Community of Practice, a nationwide workgroup to help local health departments share best and learn common language around suicide prevention. The selection was based on our current work in the community, certifications held by staff to provide mental health and suicide prevention programs and our partnerships in the Naugatuck Valley. Lisa completed the required training module, and the monthly meetings begin on January 27<sup>th</sup>.





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### Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Lisa facilitated Mental Health First Aid on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with Liz DeMerchant from Meriden Health Department. This has been a great partnership!

### Suicide Prevention and Postvention

Lisa attended two Regional Suicide Advisory Board meetings: one for Region 2 and one for Region 5. A common focus in addition to proliferation of suicide prevention programs in the regions, is on preventing access to lethal means and increasing access to gun locks through the National Shooting Sport Foundation's (NSSF) firearm safety program called Project Childsafe.

Lisa and Jess attended the DPH meeting for Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) in CT meeting for local health departments/districts with suicide prevention programs funded by either the CT DPH Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) or the Public Health Approach to Comprehensive Suicide Prevention in Connecticut grant. The November meeting was held Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-2:30pm due to Thanksgiving, and will be held on Thursday's moving forward. Lisa will continue to attend and report out on our activities at this meeting.

Lisa will be teaching a virtual QPR training on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Cz4V0hx5Sni1h0f09vyuvw#/registration>

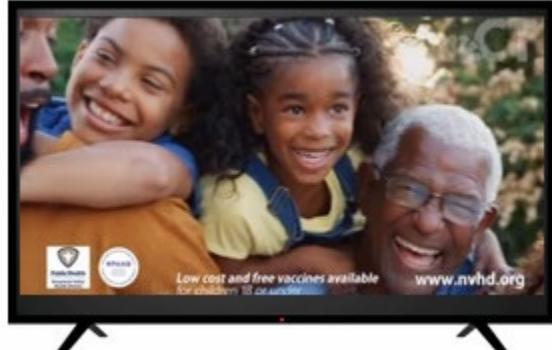
### Immunization Grants & Clinical Services

#### Re-Enrollment of Childhood Vaccine Program

At the end of November/early December, we must re-enroll in our vaccine program that we are a part of with DPH. This program allows us to give children in need of all their vaccines for free. This process includes Kristie and I completing a training from CDC and completing a few forms that include our vaccine statistics. The final step is to have our Medical Director sign off. That was completed and accepted by the CT DPH. As part of the CVP program, we need to have an inspection of our clinic and vaccine records reviewed to ensure we are following all the requirements. I can assure you that we are! That inspection will be in January and include an education presentation related to the vaccine program.

### Media/Marketing

Our flu vaccine commercial ran on NBC CT, Peacock and Telemundo through the end of December. Vanessa, Jess and I worked with NBC to create the final commercial in our contract that will be played during the Olympics in February 2026. This spot will be a general NVHD commercial, showcasing some of the things we do (outside of vaccine). This will bring great visibility.



### Clinical Services

Kristie provided 17 child vaccines in November at the office and 2 homebound residents in Naugatuck and Seymour. We hosted 1 flu clinic in November at the Shelton Senior Center and have given a total of 852 flu vaccines by the end of November. We still have a few dozen vaccines left and are open for any walk ins.





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Kristie provided 8 child vaccines in December in the office and 3 homebound residents in Ansonia. We hosted 3 flu clinics in December and have given a total of 868 flu vaccines by the end of December. Kristie, Vanessa and Lisa held evening clinics for families in need at NVHD.

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant Program

Elizabeth conducted 4 in-person Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) visits and 1 in-person full site visits for pediatric practices in November. She conducted 1 in-person full site visit in Ansonia for a school-based health center and completed 2 outreach activities at WIC and Derby Neck Library in December.

Tuberculosis

Kristie is providing Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for 1 new TB patient. DOT is a strategy where a trained healthcare worker or designated person watches a patient swallow each dose of medication to ensure they take it correctly.

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) & Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI-AR)

NACCHO, in collaboration with CDC's Project Firstline, released new resources to strengthen Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training developed and designed to empower local health department (LHD) staff to deliver effective infection prevention and control (IPC) education to healthcare facility partners in their communities. Jess is currently working on completing the two self-paced courses which are IPC Fundamentals of Infection Control and Principles of Adult Learning.

Outreach Events

<b>CT Foodshare</b> Beacon Falls Derby Shelton	Vanessa and Austin continue to attend the bi-weekly food distribution events, where they provided the community with health education materials.
<b>Griffin Car Seat Safety Check</b> Tabling	Vanessa continues to attend the Car Seat Safety Check events hosted by Griffin. She brings resources and provides them to families. The November event was the last and busiest of 2025 with 18 appointments.
<b>Salvation Army</b>	Vanessa attended the Salvation Army for the Thanksgiving good giveaway.
<b>The Blessing Pantry at Trinity Church</b>	Vanessa, Austin, and Emilia attended the food giveaway this month to reconnect with community members.
<b>Other</b>	Vanessa provided outreach materials and COVID-19 test kits to several organizations in November and December.





**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
**Melanie Dokla, BS, RS**  
**WINTER 2025**  
**November | December**

### **Food Service Establishments**

Food service renewal applications were sent out mid-November. There were 648 renewal applications sent out to existing establishments, permits expire December 31, 2025. Establishments failing to renew their permits by the expiration date will be subject to a \$20 fee per day until January 8, 2026. On January 9<sup>th</sup> those outstanding establishments will be ordered to close.

The first mass broadcast phone call was sent out via NVHD's call-down system to all food service establishments on December 12<sup>th</sup> reminding them of the renewal application mailing sent in November and the December deadline. Reminder phone calls were sent out via the same system on December 29<sup>th</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, January 6<sup>th</sup> and "live" phone calls will be made to the outstanding establishments on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

As of January 6, 2026, there are several establishments (85) that have not renewed their food service permit.

Glenda Buenaventura, per diem food inspector, continues to assist in conducting food service inspection after hours and on the weekend up to 20 hours a week. We appreciate her assistance.

Staff continue to conduct plan views and inspections for food service establishments that are new or changing ownership.

Micheal Delossantos is scheduled to take the Registered Sanitarian (RS) exam on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Body Care**

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

### **Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (SSDS)**

Staff continue to conduct SSDS inspections, B-100 visits, soil testing, B-100 plan reviews, new SSDS plans reviews, and issue permits to construct/discharge.

Congratulations to Registered Sanitarian and Housing Code Enforcement Officer, Amy Durand, MPH, who passed the Subsurface Sewage Disposal System (SSDS) Phase II course. She is now qualified to investigate, inspect, and approve all plans for subsurface sewage disposal systems (SSDS), including those prepared by a Professional Engineer.





### **Public Pool/Spa**

Staff completed routine inspections for indoors pools. NVHD currently permits 16 indoor pools and spas.

### **Housing Complaints**

As the temperature becomes cooler the department is receiving more housing complaints regarding no heat, no hot water and/or heat that does not reach the required 65°F (Connecticut General State Statues Section 19a-109).

### **Lead Education & Action Program (LEAP)**

We continue to see an increase in elevated blood lead (EBLL)cases, which require a comprehensive lead inspection. If the residence is a multifamily dwelling the other units are required to be tested if there is a child under the age of six.

Lead abatement plans submitted by lead abatement contractors are reviewed and property owners are issued written orders from this office. Once the project has received approval and work is completed, a final inspection is conducted to ensure work was done as specified in the plan.

Vanessa has been assisting the environmental team with a few lead inspections, especially those where translation is needed. She completed the lead assessor's training and will be helping when needed. She completed one lead inspection in Ansonia in November and two inspections in December in Shelton and Naugatuck.

Lisa continues to provide lead case management to children with a blood lead level over a 3.5. As of the end of December, she is currently monitoring 46 cases throughout the Valley.

#### **Lead Stats - November**

Open environmental lead cases (properties)	21
New environmental	1
Active case management (children)	54
New case management	-

#### **Lead Stats - December**

Open environmental lead cases (properties)	22
New environmental	1
Active case management (children)	46
New case management	-



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## Miscellaneous

November 7, 2025 was officially recognized by Governor Lamont as **Environmental Health Professionals Day!** The request to the Governor's office to have a day of recognition for Environmental Health Professionals in Connecticut was submitted by Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA).



Pictured left to right:

Environmental Health Administrative Assistant, Judi Waleski, Housing Code Enforcement Officer/Registered Sanitarian, Amy Durand, Assistant Director of Environmental Health Services and Registered Sanitarian, Melanie Dokla, Housing Code Enforcement Officer/ Registered Sanitarian, Amanda Ruchin, Head Sanitarian, John Mucha, and Sanitarian, Michael Delossantos.



**State of Connecticut**

## By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an **Official Statement**

WHEREAS, Connecticut's environmental health professionals play a core function in the improvement of public health through preventive measures and management of the environment; and

WHEREAS, environmental health professionals understand the connection between public health and the management of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the practice of environmental health is critical to the creation and maintenance of healthy communities throughout Connecticut, through services such as food safety, the protection of water quality, communicable disease control, vector management, emergency management and disaster preparedness; and

WHEREAS, environmental health professionals apply science and evidence-based expertise to mitigate known or potential problems, and this practiced application of knowledge gained through many years of diligent study often results in the avoidance of significant health hazards; and

WHEREAS, environmental health professionals respond to natural disasters and human-made emergencies and work with other professionals specializing in public health, emergency management, public safety and health care to assist Connecticut communities in crisis; and

WHEREAS, the absence of disease and injury, which is often taken for granted, indicates the success of Environmental Health Professionals; and

WHEREAS, the environmental health professionals in addition to their regular job duties worked tirelessly helping their communities through the vaccination stage and into recovery and community resilience to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the environmental health workforce in Connecticut is recognized as vital to protecting the health and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 Connecticut Environmental Health Association was recognized for 70 years of Promoting Environmental Health in Connecticut; now

THEFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the day of Friday, November 7, 2025, to be

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DAY**

in the State of Connecticut.



*Ned Lamont*  
GOVERNOR



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Naugatuck Valley  
Health District**

Board of Directors  
Monthly Public Health Report: November & December 2025

**After-Hours Emergency Responses**

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	12/30/2025	Don Raphael's, Naugatuck	FSE closure
2.	12/31/2025	262 Elizabeth Street, Derby	No heat (Housing)

