

NJ LOCAL APRIL 18-24 GOVERNMENT 2021 WEEK

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The Rockaway Township Division of Health oversees a broad scope of clinical, environmental, administrative and educational services. The Division, consisting of numerous full-time, part-time and contractual staff members, provides public and environmental health services to Rockaway Township, Jefferson Township, Butler Borough, the Borough of Victory Gardens and the Town of Boonton. The Division of Health is steward to many programs and activities that help assure the safety of the community, including environmental inspections and enforcement, communicable and chronic disease monitoring and prevention, clinical and educational programming and zoonotic disease control. Our Health Officer, Public Health Nurses, Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHSs), Animal Control Officers, Clerks, Health Educator, and contractual physicians and veterinarians work every day to help sustain and improve the health of our residents and the environment by adhering to State and local regulations, and by incorporating best practices into the provision of services like health screenings, clinics, environmental investigations, rabies control, childhood and adult immunizations and much more.

Never before has the Division of Health been as challenged as during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 – 2021. The Division is staffed with two full-time and three part-time Public Health Nurses, all of whom have worked with the Health Officer around the clock for months on end to help control and mitigate effects of this global pandemic. Our nurses have investigated several thousand cases of COVID-19 in our five-town jurisdiction, and have worked directly with additional contract tracers, and county and State government, to provide direction regarding protocols for isolation and quarantine of sick and exposed residents, respectively. In addition, our nurses have worked closely with our area schools and daycare centers to keep students and educators safe, and to limit cases, outbreaks and closures.

Our Health Officer has also worked closely with the Division's REHSs to make sure that the Governor's many COVID-19 Executive Orders and Executive Directives are implemented and enforced as necessary. This includes, but is not limited to, regulations affecting retail food establishments, amusement/sports facilities, essential and non-essential businesses, day camps, recreational bathing facilities, tanning and body art facilities, childcare centers, gymnasias and other facilities.

The Division of Health is proud to serve residents of its five-town jurisdiction, and endeavors to provide Rockaway Township residents with quality, evidence-based public and environmental health services that empower the community to live healthier, safer lives while enjoying the Township's many recreational, shopping and dining options. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided the Division of Health,

like our community, with difficulty and adversity, but its staff has risen to the challenge with hard, uncompromising work and indomitable spirit.



Rockaway Township Division of Health staff at work during the 2019 Annual Senior Picnic.



Mayor Michael Puzio and Health Officer Peter Tabbot join Governor Phil Murphy in the opening of the Rockaway Township COVID-19 vaccination mega center.



Despite the pandemic, some business continued, and residents had the chance to vaccinate their pet at the Division of Health's free rabies clinic in November 2020.



The Division of Health holds two Township-wide Annual Clean Up Days, including one during the fall 2020, with another scheduled on April 24, 2021.