



Township of Bloomfield
Department of Health & Human Services
Public Health Report
2023



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Greetings

Dear Residents,

Bloomfield Department of Health & Human Services (BDHHS) is pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report. This overview summarizes our efforts to prevent disease and promote physical and mental well-being in order to ensure the highest quality of life for the residents we serve. As we turned the page from 2020-2021, it was clear that the mission of the pandemic response was shifting. In addition to investigating cases, advising schools and care facilities on infection control measures, and tracing contacts, we undertook the enormous task of vaccinating our community. We worked hard to make sure vaccine was available to those most vulnerable to the virus' worst effects through educational campaigns, going door-to-door, and hosting community clinics. Our health education and nursing staff spent countless hours answering questions to help people understand the important role of vaccines in protecting everyone young and old. Our social workers provided mental health support, helped residents with unemployment claims, helped residents struggling with food insecurities, and assisted residents who were at risk of homelessness. And, just when we began to feel an underlying sense of comfort in the low levels of transmission and high levels of community vaccination, the unprecedented spike of cases driven by the Omicron variant struck our communities hard.

While COVID-19 continued to monopolize a great portion of our staff's time and efforts, we maintained the services that keep our community safe in many other ways. Our inspectors were out in town ensuring the safety of food being prepared in our local restaurants. Our public health investigators responded to concerns from local community members. Our registrars ensured residents could obtain marriage licenses through virtual ceremonies, even when meeting in person was unsafe. Our health education team continued outreach on COVID and non-COVID topics alike through community coalition meetings and social media, including monthly Instagram Live sessions with local experts. Additionally, we were proud to announce the re-launch of the Healthy Homes Program, an initiative to assist residents in assessing the environmental hazards that might be found in their homes, like lead and asthma triggers. Finally, Bloomfield Human Services was featured in May 2021 issue of Focus Magazine by the National Association of Social Workers discussing the newly-launched CARE program in which social workers work directly with police in response to 911 calls involving mental health/social issues.

After nearly two years of operating under a public health emergency, we could not be more proud of the dedicated staff who work every day to further the well-being of Bloomfield residents.

KAREN LORE, MSW, LCSW, BCD
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & WELFARE

MIKE FITZPATRICK, MA, HO, REHS
HEALTH OFFICER

OUR APPROACH TO *Your Community's* **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Vision

Creating healthy communities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting the environment and preventing disease.

Mission

To prevent disease and promote physical and mental well-being through policy development, disease detection, prevention, education and enforcement; to do so in a culturally competent manner that ensures the highest quality of life for all of the residents served.

Core Values

Collaboration • Respect • Diversity • Excellence • Accountability •
Commitment • Integrity

Standard of Excellence

Accreditation

TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES HAS MAINTAINED ITS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD (PHAB).

AS AN ACCREDITED DEPARTMENT, WE WORK WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PARTNERS TO PLAN, IMPLEMENT AND EVALUATE EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY.

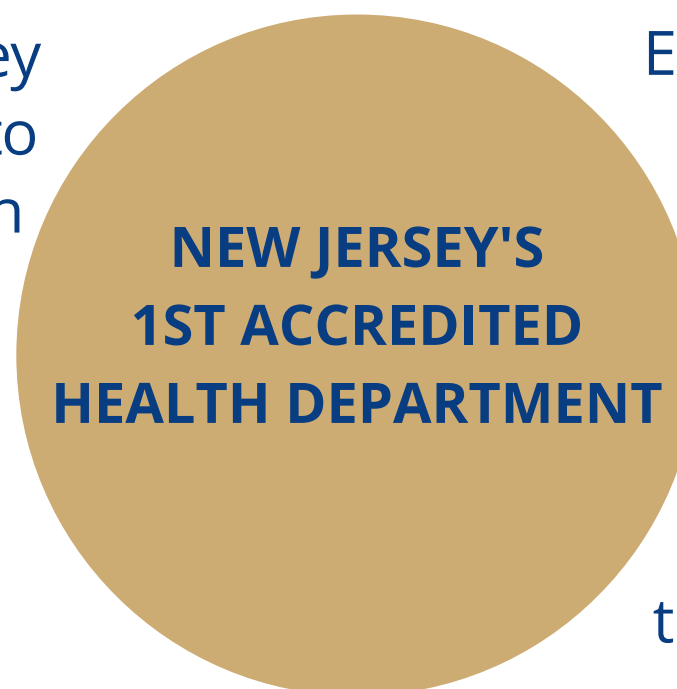
THIS ALLOWS FOR TIMELY MODIFICATIONS TO BE MADE TO SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO KEEP THEM EFFECTIVE IN MEETING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Benefits of Accreditation

MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION MEANS YOUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE TO EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF BLOOMFIELD.

Collaborations with key community partners to enhance public health programs

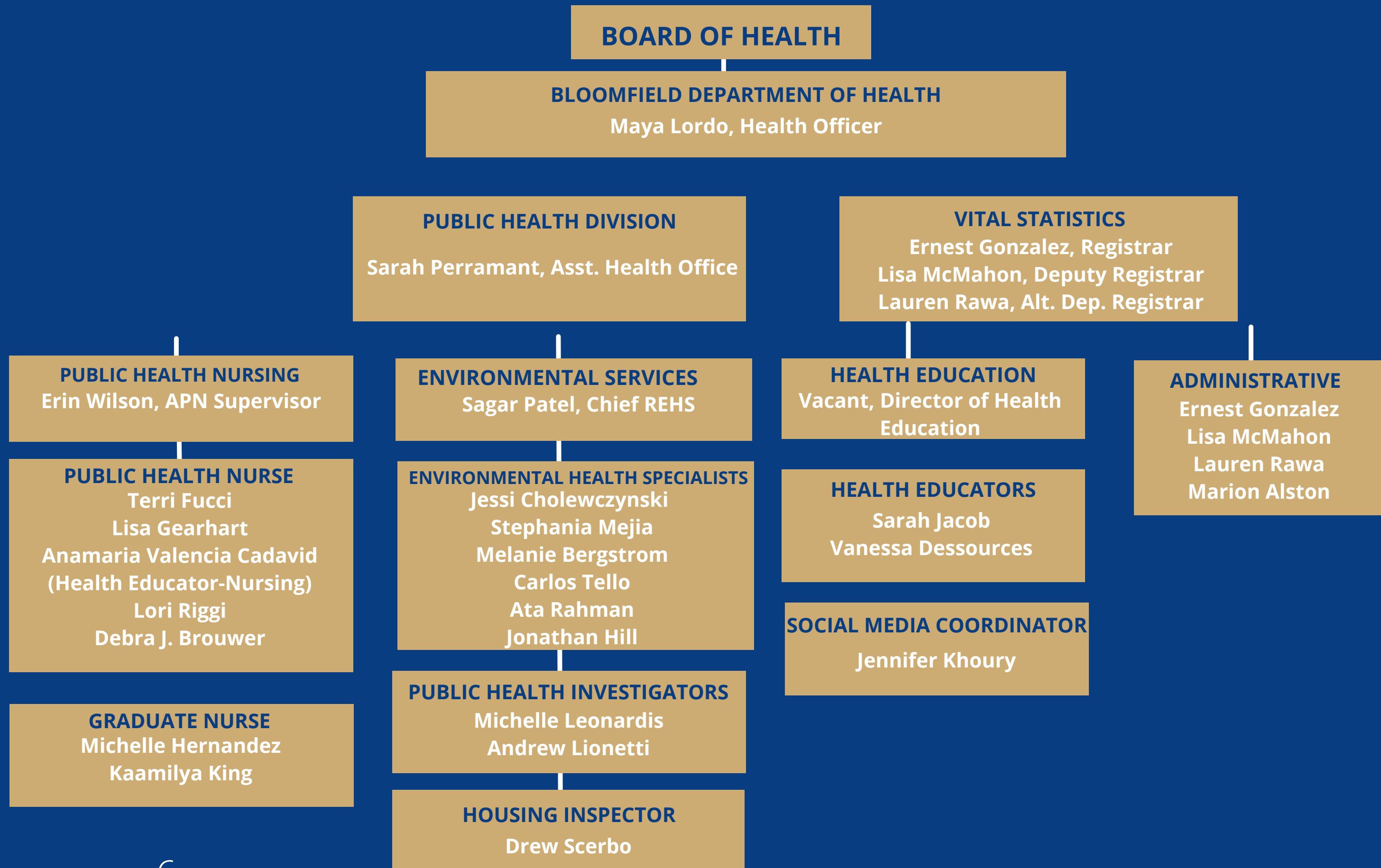
Improved methods to distribute materials & raise public health awareness



Extended & more effective reach into the community

Receipt of more grants to benefit the community we serve

Organizational Chart



Communities We Serve:

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

1 MUNICIPAL PLAZA, ROOM 111
BLOOMFIELD, NJ 07003
P: (973) 680-4024

CALDWELL BOROUGH

1 PROVOST SQUARE
CALDWELL, NJ 07006
P: (973) 226-6100

CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

58 MEYERSVILLE ROAD
CHATHAM, NJ 07928
P: (973) 635-4600

CRANFORD TOWNSHIP

8 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE
CRANFORD, NJ 07016
P: (908) 709-7238

GLEN RIDGE BOROUGH

825 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
GLEN RIDGE, NJ 07028
P: (973) 748-8400

LINCOLN PARK BOROUGH

34 CHAPIL HILL ROAD
LINCOLN PARK, NJ 07035
P: (973) 694-6100

MADISON BOROUGH

28 WALNUT STREET
MADISON, NJ 07940
P: (973) 593-3079

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOROUGH

400 BOULEVARD
MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ 07046
P: (973) 334-3131

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

100 MOUNTAIN ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081
P: (973) 912-2269

2021 Key Accomplishments

We strive to improve programs, community outreach, quality of life for our community. We are proud of the services offered and the positive impact the Township of Bloomfield Department of Health & Human Services has on the community.

\$4.6K+ | Value of food gift cards distributed to residents

\$691K | Total grant funding awarded

15 | Lead Home Visits

601 | Facilities inspected

2,013 | Charts audited for immunization compliance

151 | Resident surveys collected & analyzed to inform Bloomfield's Community Health Assessment

PHAB

- Completed application for re-accreditation
- Created & submitted 181 documents

2021 Key Accomplishments

769

Families serviced through Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway

138

Children registered for the annual National Council of Jewish Women Back2School event

1,100

Family Meal Bags distributed

233

Immunizations administered

537

Marriage/Civil Union Licenses issued

190

Lead cases managed

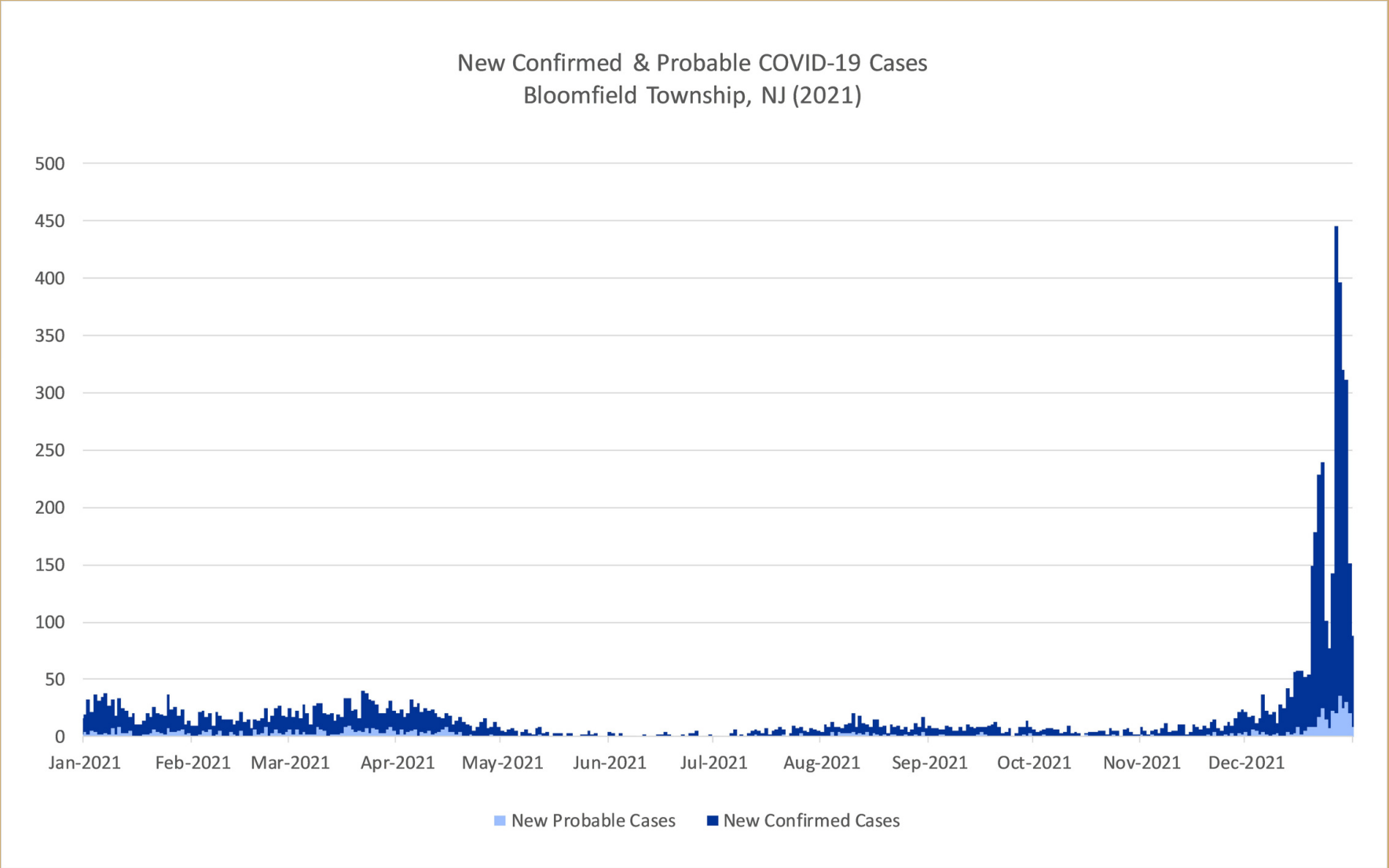
COVID-19 Statistics

1,735+ | Hours dedicated to COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing

71 | COVID-19 case investigations linked to 8 outbreaks

35 | Schools receiving technical assistance to navigate rapidly changing COVID-19 guidelines

284 | COVID vaccines administered



6,072 | COVID case investigations

1,400+ | COVID close contacts reached out to for case investigations

2021 Revenue

The Township of Bloomfield Department of Health & Human Services revenue is outlined below by category.

	2021	2020
ENVIRONMENTAL	\$ 71,797.50	\$ 84,087.50
HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
NURSING	\$ 2,605.00	\$ 4,973.88
VITAL STATISTICS	\$ 18,672.00	\$ 28,086.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENTS	\$ 584,970.12	\$ 486,716.16
GRANTS	\$ 691,255.00	\$ 594,491.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,465,674.62	\$1,213,354.54

Environmental

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, HOMES, SCHOOLS, PLACES OF WORSHIP, PUBLIC POOLS AND RECREATIONAL CENTERS, RESTAURANTS AND RETAIL SHOPS SAFE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM ALSO INVESTIGATES AND RESOLVES PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE COMPLAINTS THAT IMPACT COMMUNITY-WIDE QUALITY OF LIFE CONCERNS.

- CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING
- EQUIPMENT / FACILITY PLAN REVIEW
- FOODBORNE ILLNESS
- FOOD HANDLER TRAINING
- FOOD SAFETY TRAINING
- HEAT COMPLAINTS
- MOLD & WATER SAMPLING
- PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE
- QUALITY OF LIFE INSPECTIONS
- RODENT CONTROL
- UNFIT BUILDINGS

2,456

INITIAL COMPLAINTS/ RE-INSPECTIONS

601

FACILITIES INSPECTED

879

FOOD/ WATER SAMPLES REVIEWED
FOR CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

386

COURT SUMMONSES ISSUED

303

SECTION 8 INSPECTIONS

\$50K

CHARGED IN COURT FINES

2021 KEY PROGRAMS

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM HAS FOCUSED ON CREATING PROACTIVE PROGRAMS TO
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH REDUCING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE**

GREEN & HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE

Implemented the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative; BDHHS inspectors completed 55 home assessments during which issues such as pests, moisture intrusion, deteriorated paint, air quality, and fire safety were addressed. On assessment completion, residents were provided with a free cleaning kit which included tools needed to keep their home healthy such as recipe cards for making green cleaning products, dusting tools, rubber gloves, sponges, etc.

TROPICAL STORM IDA

During the aftermath of tropical storm Ida, the Environmental Team canvassed hard hit neighborhoods and provided guidance to expediate repairs and find temporary solutions for residents, as well as FEMA application assistance. Affected restaurants were inspected and provided guidance on closure and food removal methods. Apartments and homes were inspected providing guidance on water intrusion concerns, mold, and uninhabitable residences.

Nursing

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO PATIENTS IN OUR CONVENIENTLY LOCATED OFFICES OR IN THE PATIENT'S HOME. OUR NURSES SERVE A VITAL ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE AND HELP TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY.

SCREENINGS

DUE TO ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, SCREENINGS FOR BLOOD PRESSURE AND DIABETES, AS WELL AS NURSING COLLABORATIVE EVENTS WITH PARTNERS WERE ON HOLD FOR 2021

IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE

2013 CHARTS AUDITED

- BLOOMFIELD CHILD CARE CENTERS
- BLOOMFIELD KINDERGARTENERS
- BLOOMFIELD 6TH GRADERS

131

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

233

IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED

284

COVID VACCINES ADMINISTERED

15

LEAD HOME VISITS

108

FLU VACCINES ADMINISTERED

49

TB SKIN TESTS ADMINISTERED/ READ

2021 KEY INITIATIVE

TO INCREASE UPTAKE OF HIGH-DOSE SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION BY THOSE 65 AND OLDER
(CONTINUED FROM 2020)

OBJECTIVE

Raise awareness among and educate residents aged 65 and older on the health benefits of high-dose flu vaccine.

Administer 100% of the high-dose flu vaccines through the seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program to people ≥ 65 years old.

ACTION

Ordered and received shipment of high-dose flu vaccinations.
Provided education about high-dose flu vaccine and its benefits at flu clinics.

RESULTS

Conducted six Flu Vaccine Clinics in Bloomfield community.
100% of high-dose vaccinations ordered through BDHHS Influenza Vaccine Program were administered without complications.

Human Services

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION IS THE TOWNSHIP'S OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES CENTER. OUR GOAL IS TO FOSTER A SENSE OF WELL-BEING AND WHOLENESS.



\$4,600+

VALUE OF FOOD GIFT CARDS DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS

221 & 116

SECTION 8: ANNUAL RENEWALS & INTERIM ADJUSTMENTS

1,100

FAMILY MEAL BAGS DISTRIBUTED

\$11,000

VALUE OF DONATIONS RAISED THROUGH DECEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAM TO ASSIST RESIDENTS

5,000

PAIRS OF SOCKS DISTRIBUTED

2021 KEY PROGRAMS

THE HUMAN SERVICES TEAM HAS IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE VIA PROMOTION OF HEALTH, SAFETY, WELL-BEING, AND RIGHTS OF PERSONS RECEIVING SERVICES

CREATING A RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT (CARE)

The CARE Program was implemented with a mission to provide support to Township patrol units and residents while responding to non-violent calls related to mental illness, homelessness, domestic violence, or issues around aging in place. Clinical consultation from mental health professionals, including de-escalation strategies, are provided during crisis intervention and resolution. Post-incident, ongoing case management, follow-up care, linkage to services and coordination with other service providers are made available.

HEALTHY MEAL IN A BOX

In collaboration with local schools, the library, and Toni's Kitchen, *Healthy Meal in a Box* was implemented. Recipes and meals - emphasizing healthy ingredients and eating - were distributed to residents struggling with food insecurities. Over 500 family members benefited from the program.

PUBLICATION

Human Services was featured in May 2021 issue of *Focus Magazine* by the National Association of Social Workers. The article entitled "Bloomfield Township: Transforming Human Service and Law Enforcement Collaboration" was authored by BDHHS Director Karen Lore and Director of Social Work Paula Peikes; discusses the role of social work in working directly with police in response to 911 calls involving behavioral/social issues.

Health Education

THE HEALTH EDUCATION TEAM IS YOUR WELLNESS AMBASSADOR! THIS TEAM IS FOCUSED ON ASSESSING NEEDS THROUGH DATA COLLECTION AND CREATING RELEVANT AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ADVOCATING HEALTHY LIFESTYLE HABITS, SO YOU CAN LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE!

- CITY GREEN VEGGIE MOBILE
- COMMUNITY WALKING GROUPS
- NUTRITION EDUCATION
- PHAB RE-ACCREDITATION
- E-NEWSLETTERS

12

ENGLISH/SPANISH E-NEWSLETTERS

8

INSTAGRAM LIVE BROADCASTS

3

COVID VACCINE WEBINARS

83

COMMUNITY WALK & BIKE PARTICIPANTS

\$2,699

VALUE OF FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED
TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

2021 KEY PROGRAMS

THE HEALTH EDUCATION TEAM HAS CREATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND PROGRAMS
TO EMPOWER AND IMPROVE WELLNESS KNOWLEDGE

COMMUNITY WALK & BIKE PROGRAM

Implemented a Walk & Bike Program between April - June 2021. Over 40 community members registered to participate on launch day. The group, led by New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition consultant covered 1.7 miles in 45 minutes with continuous police escort, ensuring pedestrian safety throughout the walk. The 12-week program brought together a total of 83 walkers from all age groups.

BLOOMFIELD FARMERS MARKET

Coordinated 18 weeks of fresh and affordable produce via City Green's Veggie Mobile. A total of \$2,699 worth of fresh produce were distributed to low-income families through funds from Neighbor to Neighbor Network and Supplemental Nutrition Program. Distributed 136 bento boxes with instructions on how to pack healthy lunches) through the Healthy School Lunches Initiative. Additionally, 296 "outreach bags" were distributed among market attendees; these included COVID19, chronic disease, physical activity, and healthy eating materials.

Admininstrative Services & Vital Statistics

	2021	2020
MARRIAGE/ CIVIL UNION APPLICATIONS	338	298
MARRIAGE/ CIVIL UNION LICENSES ISSUED	334	255
MARRIAGE/ CIVIL UNION CERTIFICATES FILED	226	190
MARRIAGE/ CIVIL UNION CERTIFIED COPIES ISSUED	507	378
DISINTERMENT PERMIT ISSUED	1	1
DEATH CERTIFICATE CERTIFIED COPIES FILED WITH EDRS	757	1,912
DEATH CERTIFICATES FILED WITH EDRS	136	168
RESIDENT DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED	356	409
BLOOMFIELD BIRTH CERTIFIED COPIES ISSUED	11	3

OTHER SERVICES INCLUDE ASSISTANCE WITH PROCURING:

- BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- BOILER REGISTRATION
- BURIAL PERMIT
- DEATH CERTIFICATE
- FOOD LICENSES
- GENEALOGY SEARCH
- MARRAIGE/CIVIL UNION CERTIFICATES
- MARRIAGE/ CIVIL UNION LICENSES
- NON-FOOD LICENSES
- PROPERTY REGISTRATION
- VITAL STATISTICS CORRECTIONS

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

STATUS UPDATE

CHIP 2018-2023

PRIORITY AREA 1: ACCESS TO SCREENING & HEALTH CARE SERVICES

GOAL: TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SCREENINGS FOR BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES, & OTHER CONDITIONS

- ★ Due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all chronic disease screenings, as well as nursing collaborations with partners were on hold.
- ★ In lieu of screenings, electronic health education newsletters in English & Spanish languages were distributed to over 3,000 community members who are subscribed to BDHHS E-buzz. Topics included cardio-protective lifestyle modifications, how to read a nutrition label and tips to decrease salt intake, benefits of regular walking, tips for packing healthy school lunches, diabetes management, etc. Materials related to each topic was highlighted for the month on BDHHS Instagram and whenever possible, topic experts were brought onto IG Live for discussion and Q&A.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

STATUS UPDATE (CONT.)

CHIP 2018-2023

PRIORITY AREA 2: HEALTHY EATING & ACTIVE LIVING

GOAL: TO INCREASE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTHY EATING & ACTIVE LIVING

- ★ Implemented a Community Bike & Walk Program; the 12-week program brought together a total of 83 walkers from all age groups.
- ★ Coordinated City Green's Veggie Mobile in Bloomfield for 18 weeks during market season and saw the expansion of this program into the Bloomfield Farmers Market. BDHHS staff were present on-site to facilitate registration of eligible consumers for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

STATUS UPDATE (CONT.)

CHIP 2018-2023

PRIORITY AREA 3: ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

GOAL: TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION & ASSESSMENTS

- ★ Implemented the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative; 143 Bloomfield residents registered for the program and as of December 2021, 55 home inspections have been completed.
- ★ December 2021 newsletter - in English & Spanish - covered Safe Toys & Gifts Awareness Month. Lead poisoning information was covered and BDHHS REHS Jessi Cholewczynski was the IG Live topic expert.
- ★ Distributed approximately 300 informational flyers and resources on Healthy Homes and lead safety through five tabling events such as Back2School, Farmers Market, Fiesta Latina, etc.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

STATUS UPDATE (CONT.)

CHIP 2018-2023

PRIORITY AREA 4: MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

GOAL: TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCES

- ★ Funded the purchase of 46 books/ up-to-date resources on the topics of mental health and substance abuse for residents' use via Bloomfield Public Library.
- ★ June 2021 newsletter - in English & Spanish - covered Minority Mental Health Awareness Month; highlighted services and linkages available through Human Services to address mental disorders and issues related to self-esteem, grief, aging, and family concerns.
- ★ Promoted mental health tools/ resources and webinars on BDHHS Instagram throughout the year; topics covered include online recovery support groups, sober apps, information on opioid epidemic, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Naloxone training, mental health and wellness, medication safety among seniors, vaping, etc.

BDHHS Community Partners

The Health and Human Services Department, together with its many volunteers, collaborates with the following community partners to provide comprehensive resident services.

ADAPT (Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Team)
Agape Worship Center
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Berkeley
Elementary School
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Bethel Church of Love & Praise
Bloomfield Children's Library
Bloomfield College
Bloomfield Division of Public Safety Bloomfield Fire
Department
Bloomfield High School
Bloomfield Middle School
Bloomfield Municipal Alliance Committee (BMAC)
Bloomfield Parks & Recreation Department Bloomfield
Presbyterian Church (Church on the Green)
Bloomfield Public Library
Brookdale Christian Church
Brookdale Elementary School
Brookdale Reformed Church
Caldwell University
Carteret Elementary School
Christian Faith Center Inc.
City Green
Clara Maass Medical Center
Community Blood Services
Demarest Elementary School
Early Childhood Center
Education Station Day Care Center
Elite Daycare Center
Essex County Division of Community Health Essex
County Division of Welfare
Essex-Newark Legal Services
Executive Baby
EZ Ride
Fairview School
Family Day Nursery

Felicity Tower
First Baptist Church
First Class Learning and Development Center
Foundations Prep School
Franklin School
First Baptist Church
Future Generation Early Learning Center Gentle
Hands Mobile Phlebotomy Service Glen Ridge
Senior/Community Center Heritage Village at
Bloomfield
Human Needs Food Pantry
ImmediCenter
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Isaiah House
Kiddie World
Kids Corner
Kinder Towers
KinderSmile Foundation
Korean United Presbyterian Church
Language Rhythm Academy
Looking Glass Children's Center
Magical Rainbow Day Care Center
Milestone Academy
Montclair Emergency Shelter for the Homeless
Mountainside Medical Center
My 1st Time Childcare Center
Newark Community Health Centers
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)/ Essex
Newark Emergency Services for Families Newark
Presbytery
New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition
New Jersey Department of Health, Division of
Family Health Services
New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids
Neighbor to Neighbor Network
New Light Baptist Church

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Oak View School
Olde Towne Optimal Health
Park United Methodist Church
Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey
Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern
New Jersey
Precious Moments Childcare & Learning Center, Inc.
Rainbow Montessori School
Red Carpet Kids Childcare
Rutgers Global Tuberculosis Institute
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Sacred Heart Church
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
Saint Valentine Church
Salvation Army
ShopRite of Brookdale
Shoresh Preschool
Simple Faith Church
Skyline Church
SNAP-Ed
Soldier On
Temple Ner Tamid
Temple of Radiant Light
Tiny Treasures
Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ (TFHNJ)
Toni's Kitchen
Trinitas Regional Medical Center
United Way of Bloomfield
University Hospital
Watsessing Elementary School
William Paterson University
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
YMCA of Montclair
YMCA of Montclair - Geyer Family Branch



We Are Here to Help!

Email: health@bloomfieldtwp.com

P: (973) 680-4024

F: (973) 680-4825



@BLOOMFIELDHDNJ



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