



STAMFORD MAYOR
MICHAEL A. PAVIA

In keeping with this issue's "Health" theme, I welcome the opportunity to share with your readers some information on the wonderful work of our City's Health Department and the great staff who provide an array of services to protect and improve the safety, health, and well-being of our residents. Leadership, management, and skill are qualifications that are extremely important in public service; Stamford is proud to have such leaders in the areas of health and safety that are well qualified, possess excellent credentials and bring a vast amount of experience to our community.

Newly appointed Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare, Stamford's Bobby Valentine, was welcomed to my administration in January. As Director of Public Safety, he will manage the Police Department, Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services and Health & Welfare. "I am very proud to have the opportunity to work with this remarkable team of professionals to help make Stamford a model for the rest of our great country," shared Director Valentine.

The City of Stamford's Department of Health and Social Services, is led by Director Anne Fountain, MPH. The Department is responsible for enforcing local ordinances, state public health codes, state statutes, and federal laws, as well as promoting healthy behaviors, wellness, and disease prevention. Anne and her staff carry out daily administrative duties and clinical programs, some of which are shown below.

Dr. Henry H. Yoon serves as School Medical Advisor and Physician of Records. He works as the liaison between the Health Department, the medical community, and the City's school boards. Dr. Yoon is also a resource and consultant in the planning and implementation of health education and curriculum.

Additionally, we are fortunate to have dedicated Health, Police, and Fire Commissions who serve our City in an advisory capacity and assist in maintaining and improving policies and standards for the betterment of Stamford.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Pavia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A. Pavia
Mayor

City of Stamford Department of Health & Social Services

There are several divisions dedicated to providing public health services including the Environmental Health, Public Health Nursing and Dental Health, HIV Prevention, Mobile Medical Program, Laboratory, W.I.C. (Women, Infants and Children) Program, and Social Services.

The Environmental Health Division provides many mandated services to safeguard citizens, including inspections of food establishments,

septic systems, schools and daycare centers, refuse trucks, weights and measures and providing housing code enforcement. The division is respon-

sible for plan reviews of food establishments, salons, septic systems, and residential dwelling units. The staff is very active in childhood asthma prevention providing outreach to high risk children, and follow-up investigation in homes of children with high lead levels. The division also responds to many housing complaints including bed bug infestation, illegal housing

and heating issues. The Department provides mosquito control in the late summer months to reduce the risk of vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The Environmental Health division in coordination with the Laboratory division, and other City Departments has responded to the North Stamford private wells impacted by pesticides. Staff is currently collecting water samples for the City's random fifty well testing program, collecting data and answering inquiries from the public.

The Public Health Nursing and Dental Health Division includes community nursing, school health nursing, and dental health. The City of Stamford offers the public free clinics to test, diagnose and treat sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV screening and testing. The division also provides well child clinic, providing physical exams, nutritional guidance, vaccinations and parenting information for children. The adult and pediatric Tuberculosis (TB) clinics provide free screening, testing, and treatment for TB. Travel clinic, provides vaccines that are required for travel. The nurses are also responsible to respond to sheltering needs and emergency clinic needs of the community. The School Nursing program covers the needs of children in all the Stamford schools, pre-kindergarten through high school. In an effort to better meet the oral health needs of children in Stamford, the Department has hygienists that provide education and dental care throughout the Stamford public, private, and magnet schools. The Department offers dental clinics at six schools in Stamford, open to all children in Stamford. The program also provides a school-based dental sealant program, to prevent dental caries, to all school aged chil-

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dren in Stamford, free of cost.

The Department also offers HIV prevention services to the public, free of charge. The HIV Prevention Division provides counseling, screening, and testing services for the public. Staff provides these services throughout the community. The division has a mobile community outreach program to educate residents and reach "at risk" individuals.

The Department's Laboratory provides environmental testing for all types of water, i.e., well water, bathing water, pond and lake water. The division also provides testing for lead levels in blood, and on-site testing at our STD clinics. Staff offers other services for the public including insect identification (i.e., bed bugs, ticks, etc.), works with the Connecticut Agricultural Station to have ticks tested for tick-borne diseases. The Laboratory also provides receipt and shipment of animals for rabies testing at the State laboratory. All laboratory results submitted to the Department of Health and Social Services is collected and recorded by the Laboratory staff.

The Stamford Department of Health and Social Services is also committed to being prepared to respond to any public health emergency, collaborating with other divisions and agencies to open emergency shelters, cooling centers and warming centers for the community when necessary. The City of Stamford has a website dedicated to emergency preparedness, www.bepreparedstamford.org, which provides information on individual and family emergency planning, preparing an emergency kit, and information on

all types of emergencies. The Department has started a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) for the City of Stamford to assist the community with public health emergencies such as mass dispensing of medications, mass vaccination clinics, or shelter operations. The City is looking for both medical and non-medical volunteers. The Department created a webpage for the MRC (www.StamfordMRC.org).

The Department offers preventative services. The Mobile Medical Program provides public health education, as well as medical and dental screening to the Stamford community. The Department participates and sponsors many community health fairs throughout the year. The Department oversees the State W.I.C. (Women, Infants, and Children) program in Stamford, Norwalk and Greenwich, providing nutritional counseling and services to "at risk" pregnant women and children under the age of five. The City's Social Services Program provides information and referrals as needed by residents. The division provides assistance with acquiring health insurance for low income families. This division also provides assistance with mandated relocation services and rent rebate services for seniors in the community.

The City of Stamford is committed to addressing the public health needs of the community through the provision of these services. For more information, please visit the City of Stamford website and click on the Health Department's webpage (www.cityofstamford.org).