
Borough of Ringwood
Annual Report
2020



FEBRUARY 2021

RINGWOOD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

60 Margaret King Ave, Ringwood, NJ 07456

www.ringwoodnj.net

Kathleen Skrobala, Health Officer

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MISSION

The mission of the Ringwood Health Department is to create a culture of health for everyone that lives, works or plays in Ringwood. We accomplish this by providing environmental stewardship, valuable health services, partnerships for health promotion, and emergency preparedness.

SERVICES OFFERED

The health department offers the services of a licensed health officer (HO), registered environmental health specialist (REHS), public health nurse supervisor and public health nurses (PHN), certified health education specialist (CHES), board-certified pediatrician (MD), certified municipal registrar (CMR), and animal control officer (ACO). To keep costs down, Ringwood utilizes shared services agreements for some of the services provided.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Ringwood Board of Health (BOH) is comprised of dedicated men and women, often with advanced degrees, that bring their passion and expertise to help steer programs and policies that impact the health of this beautiful community. The BOH reviews public health trends, discusses issues and events that happen on a local, state-wide and national level, while assessing best practices to guide the health department in meeting the 10 essential public health services.

When I first moved to Ringwood 17 years ago I could not believe my good fortune in landing in a town that I love so much. Its natural beauty, outdoor recreation opportunities, the kindness of my neighbors and community spirit have made Ringwood a very special place for me and my family. In this past year. I have come to admire and love Ringwood even more. This terrible pandemic has disrupted all our lives. More than many towns, Ringwood has been proactive in planning and transparent in providing information about the toll of the pandemic. The people in the Ringwood Health Department worked day and night to control this dreadful disease in our town. People in the town have been considerate in protecting their neighbors and helpful with contact tracers. This response is very much a tribute to the citizens, the Borough officials, the Health Department and Board of Health. Eventually the pandemic will be behind us, but the Ringwood Health Department and volunteers on the Board of Health will continue to make Ringwood a safe and healthy environment for all of us. I am very proud to be able to call Ringwood, "my home".

Sarah Lenington, Ringwood Board of Health

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems



RINGWOOD AT A GLANCE

Square Miles	27.4
Number of Households	4,200 (approximate)
Population (2010 census)	12,228
Population Density	446 people/square mile
Gender	Male 50.07% Female 49.93%
Age	<18 years 24.7% 18-24 years 7% 24-44 years 23.7% 45-64 years 33.1% >65 years 11.3%
Race	White 92.48% 2 or More Races 1.88% Asian 1.74% Black or African American 1.36% Native American 1.24% Other 1.2%

Community Health Needs Assessment

Ringwood participated in the *Passaic County Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan for 2019* through the North Jersey Health Collaborative.

The *top 5 health issues* identified are:

- *Access to Healthy Foods and Physical Activity**
- *Access to Healthcare**
- *Chronic Disease**
- *End-of-Life Care**
- *Mental Health and Substance Misuse**

A complete report can be found at:

<http://www.njhealthmatters.org/tiles/index/display?alias=passaicabout>

2020 STAFF DIRECTORY

<i>STAFF</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
Kathleen Skrobala, RN, BSN, MA, HO Health Officer	973-962-7079 x122 kskrobala@ringwoodnj.net
Donna Ruccione, REHS Registered Environmental Health Specialist	973-962-7079 x124 druccione@ringwoodnj.net
Jeannette Davison, RN, BSN, MSN, APN Public Health Nurse Supervisor	973-962-7079 x126 jdavison@ringwoodnj.net
Laurel Kidd, CMR Certified Municipal Registrar	973-962-7037 x106 lkidd@ringwoodnj.net
Doreen Bracken Health Department Administrative Assistant	973-962-7079 x125 dbracken@ringwoodnj.net
Aurea DeLeon, CHES Certified Health Education Specialist Chilton Medical Center	973-831-5455 Aurea.DeLeon@AtlanticHealth.org
Lisa Perry, ACO, ACI Animal Control Officer Bloomingdale Animal Control Services	973-838-8959 lperry@bloomingdalenj.net

2020 RINGWOOD BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

<i>MEMBER</i>	<i>TERM EXPIRES</i>
Donna Kirby, Chairperson	12/31/2020
Verne Taukus, Vice Chairperson	12/31/2021
Alan Fedeli	12/31/2020
Melinda Leone	12/31/2022
Sarah Lenington	12/31/2020
Kimberly Maher	12/31/2020
Dr. Melissa Scollan-Koliopoulos	12/31/2021

2020 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)

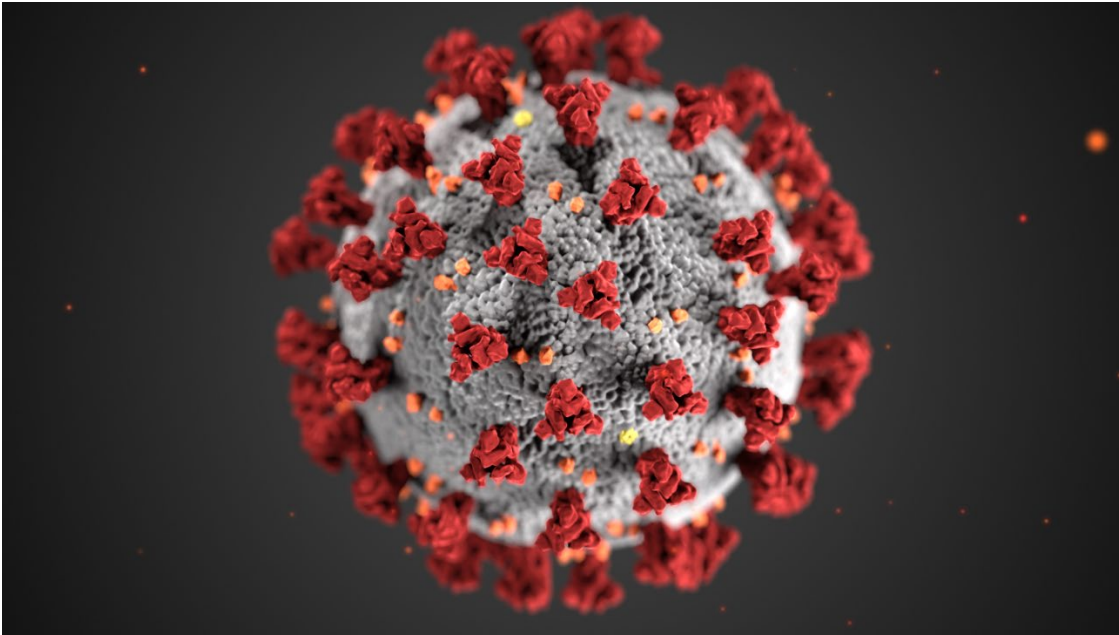
Health Officer

Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Public Health Nurse Supervisor & Public Health Nurses	Registrar of Vital Statistics	Health Department Administrative Assistant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Surveillance ● Sewage Disposal ● Potable Water Supply ● Site Plan Review ● Insect & Rodent Control ● Lake & Stream ● Pollution Control ● Camp Inspections ● Public Bathing ● Nuisance Investigations ● Solid Waste Investigations ● Air Pollution Control ● Noise Control ● Ragweed & Poison Ivy ● School Inspections ● Food Handlers' Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Health Clinic ● Maternal & Child Health ● Hypertension Screenings ● TB Control ● Communicable Disease Investigations ● Lead Screening ● Vaccinations ● SMAC Clinic ● Health Education ● Stroke Screening ● Hearing/Vision Screening ● Home Visits ● Cancer Screenings ● Wellness Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vital Statistics ● Birth Certificates ● Death Certificates ● Marriage Licenses ● Certified Copies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OPRA Requests ● Document Scanning ● Dog/Cat Licenses ● Collect and Process Fees ● Permit Applications ● Dog/Cat Bite Notifications ● Septic Logs ● Schedule Test Holes ● Answer Phones ● File

SHARED SERVICES

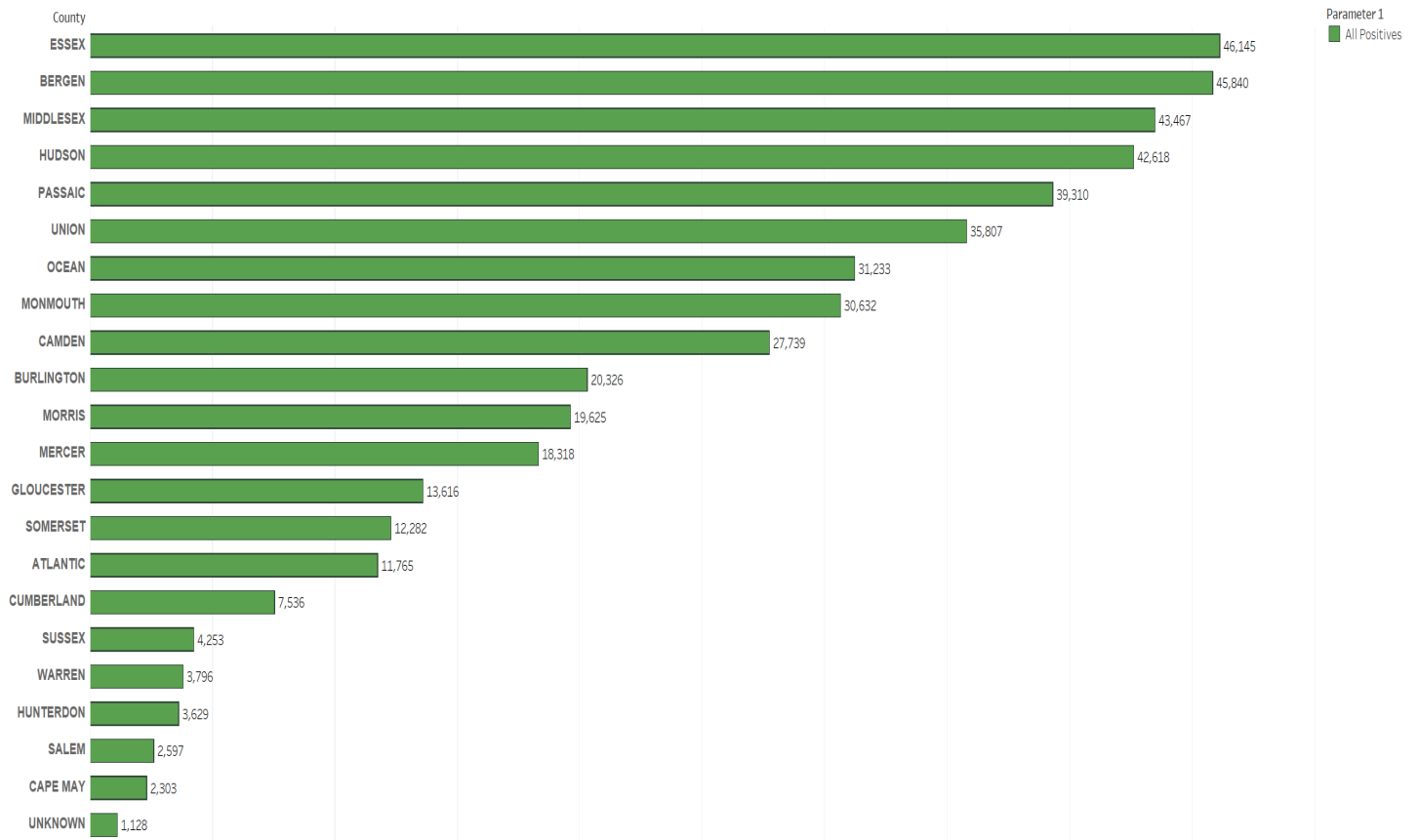
Health Education	Animal Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wellness Challenge ● Cardiovascular <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cancer ● Diabetes ● Vaping ● Stigma-Free ● School Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rabies Control ● Rabies Clinics ● Dog/Cat Licensing ● Dog/Cat Canvassing ● Animal Shelter ● Wildlife Management ● Quarantine

SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic

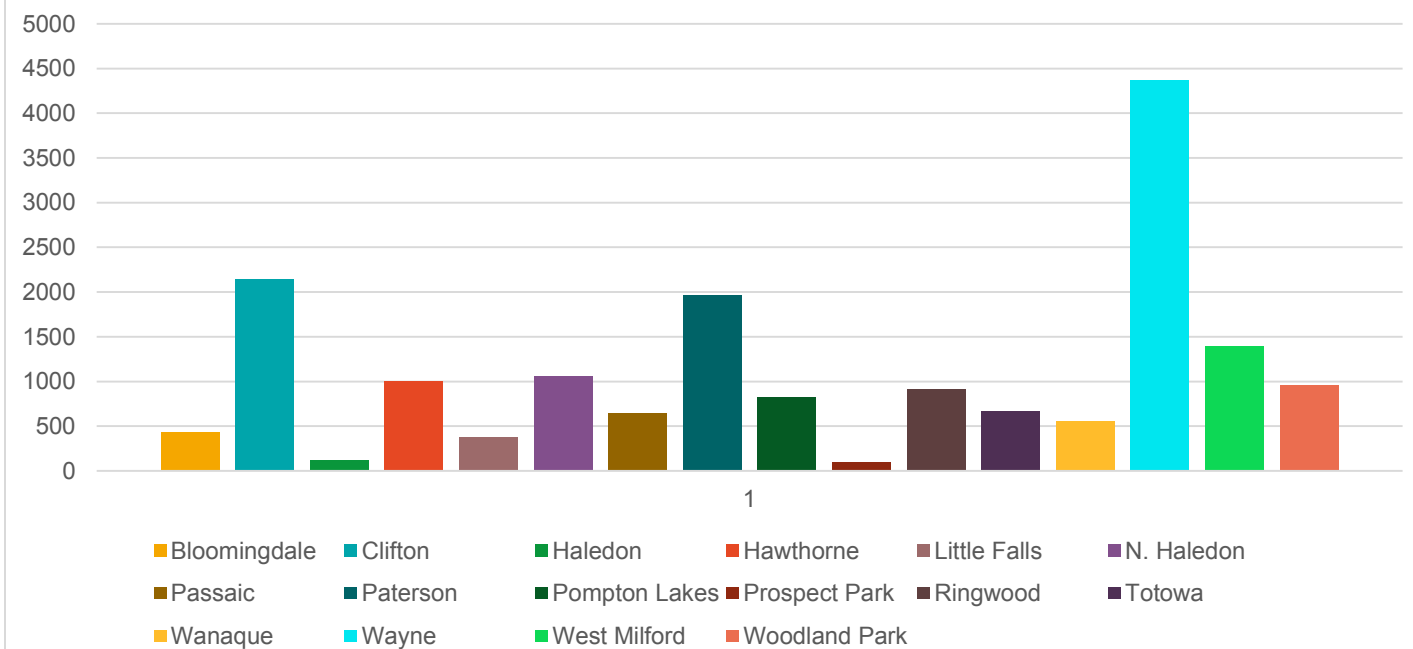


Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that typically cause mild respiratory infections like the common cold, but also more severe (and potentially deadly) infections. They are zoonotic diseases, meaning they are transmitted from animals to people. Coronaviruses are named after the Latin word corona, meaning "crown" or "halo," because they have "crown-like spikes on their surface," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The novel coronavirus responsible for this outbreak is known as SARS-CoV-2. The illness caused by the virus is called COVID-19. Common signs of coronavirus infection include runny nose, cough, fever, sore throat, and shortness of breath. COVID-19 can cause a wide range of signs and symptoms at varying levels of severity. The most common are fever, dry cough, and tiredness. Other symptoms include shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle aches, chills, sore throat, headache or chest pain. Other symptoms that aren't as common include: gastrointestinal symptoms, new loss of smell or taste, skin changes (like lesions), confusion, and eye problems. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was a 35 year old male in Seattle on January 20th. March 3rd marked the first New Jersey case. It wasn't long before Ringwood had its first case on March 17th. Since that time, Ringwood has had 561 cases and lost 7 residents to COVID-19 in 2020. Case investigation and contact tracing was coordinated by the Public Health Nurse Supervisor. Testing was performed in Ringwood and throughout the county to help stop the spread. Like many communities we mourn the loss of our neighbors and friends, and recognize the valiant effort of those on the front lines...in hospitals, long term care facilities, doctors' offices, food stores and schools, and as a community, supporting one another in any way we could.

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases by County



At Home Tests by Municipality (12/28/2020)



GRANTS

The Borough of Ringwood has been the recipient of several grants during 2019/2020:

- 1) New Jersey Highlands Council Environmental and Economic Sustainability Grant provided \$91,555 for a Watershed-Based Assessment of the lakes. This 2020 analysis was performed by Princeton Hydro, LLC, and included identifying factors contributing to eutrophication and water quality impairments, and recommendations for watershed management measures.
- 2) Chilton Medical Center/Atlantic Health System awarded \$20,000 through the New Jersey Healthy Communities Network. This grant will be used over 2 years, and has partially funded the installation of exercise equipment at the Eleanor G. Hewitt (EGH) School that will be used by the community. A walking path is planned for 2021. Aeroponic Growing Towers and “The Walking Classroom” will be purchased and used by students at EGH to increase knowledge about healthy eating and active living.
- 3) The New Jersey Department of Health awarded approximately \$23,000 towards the COVID-19 pandemic response, which has included a tabletop preparedness exercise held on March 16th and case investigation/contact tracing efforts.
- 4) Chilton Medical Center provided a \$7,000 grant in 2019 for Stigma-Free initiatives, which has been carried through into 2020 with our Mental Health Mondays, More than Muscle and Youth Exercise programs during the summer.



HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

Health Education is provided under the guidance of the Public Health Nurse Supervisor. Programs and screenings are provided by the Ringwood Health Department, Chilton's Community Health Department and in collaboration with partners such as ShopRite, Ringwood Public Library and William Paterson University and Montclair State University interns. Starting in March our focus and efforts were directed towards a pandemic response.

ACTIVITY	# of SESSIONS	# of PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION
Dental Health Lesson	8	160	Center for Family Resources Christ the King Nursery Countryside Day Care Kradle 2 Kindergarten Skylands Learning Center
Germ Busters Lesson	8	160	Center for Family Resources Christ the King Nursey Countryside Day Care Skylands Learning Center Kradle 2 Kindergarten
Healthy Heart Lesson	1	25	Christ the King Nursery
Heart Health Day	1	25	Ringwood Library
Heart Health Day BP: Screening	1	17	Ringwood Library
Heart Health Day: Massage	1	10	Ringwood Library
Heart Health Day Stroke: Screening	1	17	Ringwood Library
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Fitness Boot Camp	4	22	Ringwood Boro Field
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Meditation	6	24	Ringwood Boro Field
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Mindfulness Walk	6	62	Ringwood Boro Field
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Tuesday Yoga	6	80	Ringwood Boro Field
Mud Cake & Cookie Recipe Demo	1	3	Virtual/Zoom
No-Cook Summer Sides Recipe Demo	1	3	Virtual/Zoom
Plant-Based Proteins Recipe Demo	1	4	Virtual/Zoom
Sangria Mocktail & Zoodle Salad Recipe Demo	1	3	Virtual/Zoom
Watermelon-Cucumber Salad Recipe Demo	1	4	Virtual/Zoom



STIGMA-FREE

The Borough of Ringwood was awarded a grant in 2019 from Chilton Medical Center to raise awareness and advertise valuable resources about Stigma-Free. The Stigma-Free initiative aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Individuals who are struggling with these disorders often do not seek treatment because of the shame they feel from themselves and others. By educating our community, people will seek the treatment they deserve. We hope to mobilize family, friends and neighbors to offer compassion and support. Because of the pandemic, we could not provide many of the programs and trainings that we would like, but transitioned to a virtual ***Mental Health Mondays** (relevant health topics at the Ringwood Library), **More than Muscle**, and **Youth Exercise Programs**. With stress, anxiety and depression caused by the pandemic, these programs improved mood, decreased anxiety, lowered stress levels and boosted self-esteem.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Public Health Nursing is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social and public health sciences. The Public Health Nurse Supervisor coordinates and provides services for all age groups in Ringwood. These services include health screenings, well-child check-ups, pediatric and adult immunizations, school immunization audits, communicable disease investigations, home visits to vulnerable individuals and emergency preparedness. A board-certified Pediatrician provides services for the Child Health Clinic, and per diem public health nurses and other health professionals aid the Public Health Supervisor in many screenings and clinics.

Public Health Nursing

Program	2019 # Sessions	2019 # Participants	2020 # Sessions	2020 # Participants
Child Health Clinic	8	39	6	21
Pediatric Immunizations	8	49		73
Blood Pressure Screening	7	25	2	20
Heart Health Screening	1	13	1	25
Know Your Numbers	4	137	1	39
Stroke Screening	1	12	1	17
Skin Cancer Screening	1	25	0	0
TB Screening		25		19
Adult Immunizations		178		175
School Immunization Audits	11		11	
Blood-Borne Pathogen Training	2	77	0	0
Home Visits		8		18
Communicable Disease Investigations		145		960
Referrals for Medical		7		4
Anti-Vaping Counseling		4	0	0
Mental Health 1 st Aide			1	23
Mental Health Mondays			4	19

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Environmental health is the branch of public health **concerned** with monitoring or mitigating those factors in the environment that affect human health and disease. All aspects of the natural and built environment are monitored by a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) that has gone through extensive training and licensure. Timely inspections of retail food establishments, septic systems, lakes, camps and public health nuisances are conducted. Local and state regulations, such as **Chapter 24** (N.J.A.C. 8:24) “*Sanitation in Retail Food Establishments and Food and Beverage Vending Machines*” are enforced. Environmental stewardship through education and grant activities help to maintain the pristine beauty of the New Jersey Highlands Region.

Retail Food Establishments

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
# of Licensed Food Establishments	48	51
# or Retail Food Establishment Plans Reviewed	1	1
# of Pre-Operational Inspections	1	1
# of Routine Inspections	96	67
# of Establishments Requiring Enforcement	0	0

Youth Camps

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
# or Pre-Operational Inspections	2	2
# of Routine Inspections	1	1
# of Emergency and Complaint-Related Inspections	0	0

Recreational Bathing

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
# of Licensed Seasonal Facilities	8	8
# of Pre-Operational Inspections	8	8
# of Routine Inspections	8	8
# of Non-Routine Inspections	8	8
# of Emergency and Complaint-Related Inspections	0	0
# of Lake Closures	0	0

Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
# of New System Permits Issued	1	1
# of Repair Permits Issued	73	94
# of Alteration Permits Issued	66	48
# of Systems in Ringwood	4200 (approx.)	4200 (approx.)
# of Noncompliant Systems Identified	19	15
# of Realty Transfer System Reports Reviewed	225	234



Public Health Nuisance Complaints

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
# of Complaints Received	50	22
# of Complaints Investigated	50	22
# of Complaints that Required Enforcement	30	14

Other Inspections

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
# of Beauty Salons Inspected	7	7
Kennels/Shelters		2

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Services are provided through a shared services agreement with the Borough of Bloomingdale. With the oversight of the Animal Control Officer (ACO), Lisa Perry, and her staff, they provide compassionate and competent services for domestic pets and wildlife. Services include support with animal licensing, canvassing and enforcement; rabies control through rabies vaccine clinics, enforcement of state and local laws, and investigation of suspected cases of rabies; responding to calls about strays or animals in distress; and all other requests related to animals. An annual free rabies clinic is held each year in November to vaccinate dogs and cats. Annual licensure of dogs/cats is required each year by January 31st.

Animal Control Services

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
# of Dogs Licensed	1692	1611
# of Cats Licensed	404	379
# of Rabies Vaccines Given at Clinic	250	225
# of Incidents Where an Animal Bit a Human	20	7
# of Incidents Where a Rabid or Suspected Rabid Animal Bit a Human	1	0

# of Incidents Where a Rabid or Suspected Rabid Animal Bit a Domestic Animal	0	1
# of Unimmunized Domestic Animals Confined for Rabies Observation After Biting a Person or Animal	0	0



VITAL STATISTICS

Vital statistics pertain to the record keeping of births, deaths and marriages that occur in Ringwood. They are provided through the services of a Certified Municipal Registrar, Deputy Registrar and Alternate Registrar. Services encompass marriage and civil union licenses, birth certificates and death certificates. Certified copies of the above are obtained at the Health Department.

Vital Statistics

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data
Marriage or Civil Union Licenses	59	54
Marriage Licenses Certified Copies	172	234
Birth Certificates	1	0
Birth Certificates Certified Copies	11	5

Death Certificate Certified Copies	36	6
Total Certified Copies Issued	219	245



2021 GOALS

The Ringwood Health Department strives to maintain the highest level of service to our community. We will continue to provide robust health programs and oversight of the environment. While maintaining current services, we will also set goals for the upcoming year that positively impact the health of our residents and the environment.

2021 GOALS
<i>Support COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts</i>
<i>Install Walking Path at Eleanor G. Hewitt School</i>
<i>Purchase Aeroponic Garden Towers and The Walking Classroom for Eleanor G. Hewitt School</i>
<i>Oversee Watershed-Based Assessment Recommendations of the Lakes</i>
<i>Collaborate on Vaping-Cessation Support Program for Youth</i>
<i>Enact Ordinances That Protect the Environment</i>
<i>Continue Stigma-Free & Anti-Vaping Campaigns</i>
<i>Ensure Representation on Decision-Making Boards and Committees that support Ringwood</i>