



BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD ANNUAL REPORT 2021

RINGWOOD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 2022

60 Margaret King Avenue

Ringwood, NJ 07456

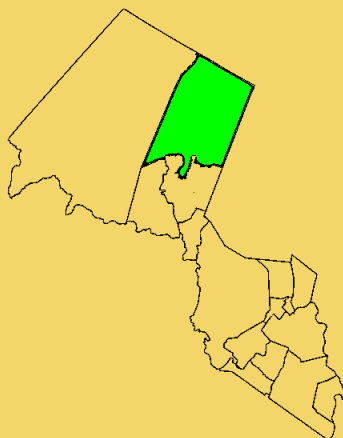
www.ringwoodnj.net

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. The Health Department accomplishes this by providing environmental stewardship, valuable health services, partnerships for health promotion, and emergency preparedness.



SERVICES

The Ringwood 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). Ringwood utilizes shared services agreements for some of the services provided to keep costs down.



BOARD OF HEALTH

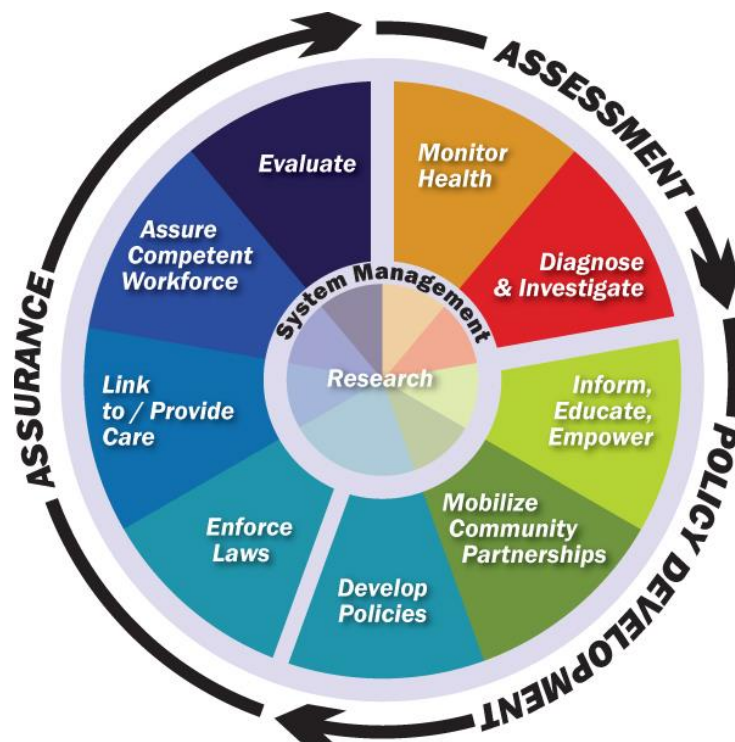
The Ringwood Board of Health (BOH) is comprised of dedicated men and women, often with advanced degrees, that bring their passion and expertise to help steer programs and policies that impact the health of this beautiful community. The BOH reviews public health trends and discusses issues and events that occur 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.

"Ringwood has been my home for most of my life. Its unique characteristics were made more clear in the 10 years that I lived elsewhere. Moving back and raising my family here has made me appreciate the qualities that Ringwood has to offer. Our small town community creates experiences that my family would not find in another town. From a public health perspective, Ringwood is unique in the fact that residents geographically have access to some of the best healthcare in the world, yet our physical environment allows residents to be physically active outside while reaping the mental health benefits of nature. It is an honor to work with all the board of health members. Our varied professional experiences and education allow for us to work toward the goal of helping Ringwood residents thrive while creating a healthy sustainable environment. As a board, I hope we are able to continue to support projects and initiatives that move Ringwood forward."

Melinda Leone, 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	25.6
Number of Households	4,138
Population (2020 census)	11,735
Population Density	458 people/square mile
Gender	Male 48.9% Female 51.1%
Age	<18 years 22.2% 18-24 years 8.4% 25-34 years 10.5% 35-64 years 41.9% >65 years 17%
Race	White 90.7% Asian 3.3% Black or African American 1.9% 2 or More Races 1.6% American Indian and Alaska Native 0.8% Other 1.7%

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Ringwood Health Department participated in the Passaic County Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan for 2021 through the North Jersey Health Collaborative. The top 6 health issues identified are:

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

A complete report can be found at:

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

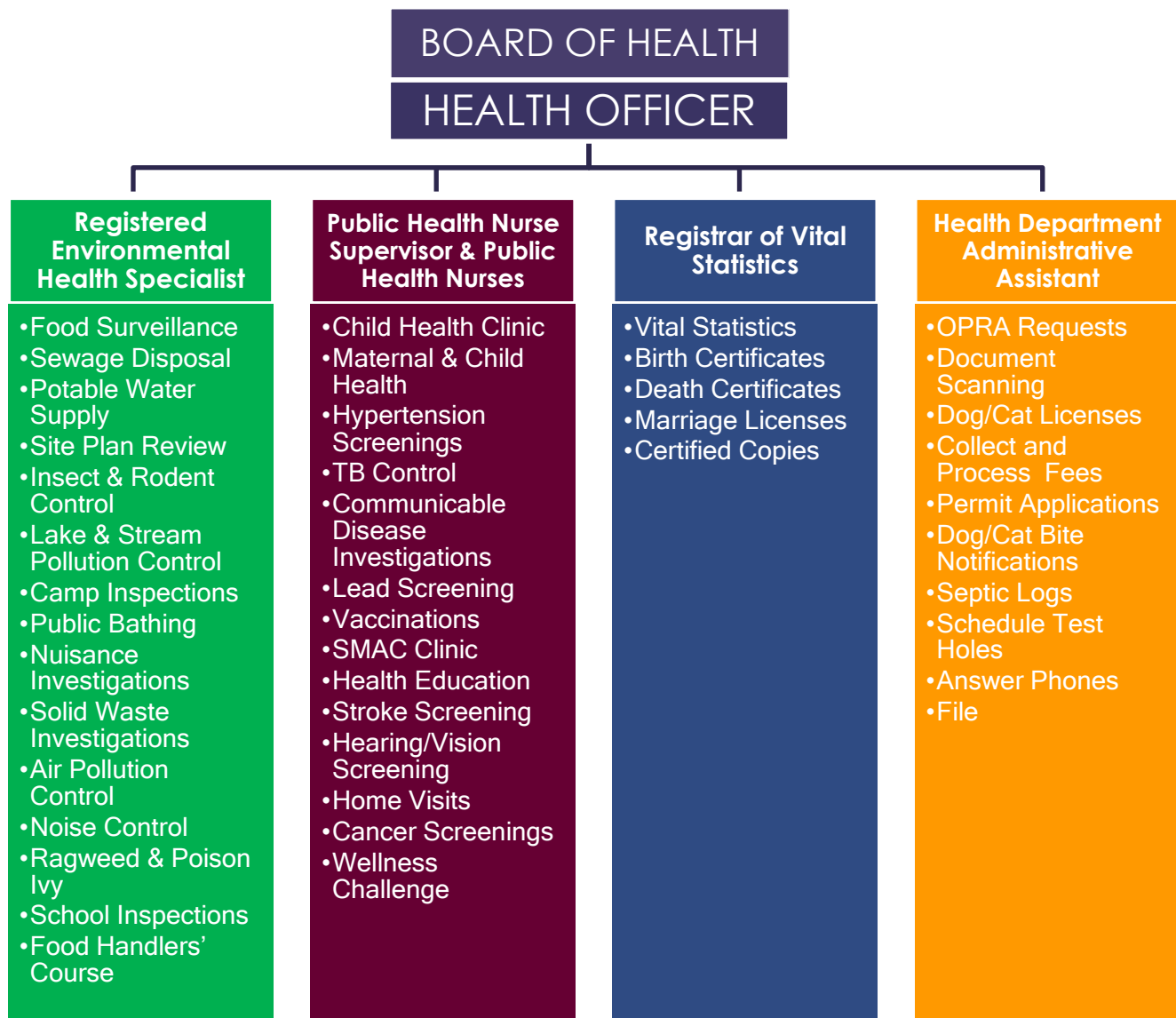
2021 STAFF DIRECTORY

STAFF	CONTACT
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
Zackary Faiola, REHS Registered Environmental Health Specialist	973-962-7079 x124 zfaiola@ringwoodnj.net
Jeannette Davison, RN, 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 x123 dbracken@ringwoodnj.net
Aurea DeLeon, CHES Certified Health Education Specialist Atlantic Health System	973-971-7107 Aurea.DeLeon@atlantichhealth.org
Lisa Perry, ACO, ACI Animal Control Officer Bloomingdale Animal Control Services	973-838-8959 lperry@bloomingdalenj.net

RINGWOOD BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

MEMBER	TERM EXPIRATION
Donna Kirby, Chairperson	12/31/2023
Verne Taukus, Vice Chairperson	12/31/2021
Alan Fedeli	12/31/2023
Melinda Leone	12/31/2022
Sarah Lenington	12/31/2023
Kimberly Maher	12/31/2023
Dr. Melissa Scollan-Koliopoulos	12/31/2021

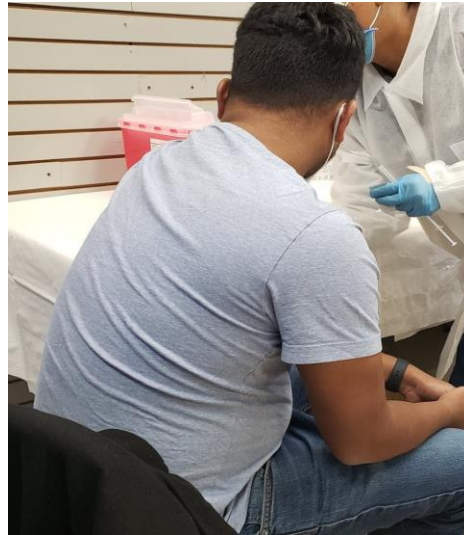
2021 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



SHARED SERVICES

Health Education	Animal Control
Wellness Challenge	Rabies Control
Cardiovascular	Rabies Clinics
Cancer	Dog/Cat Licensing
Diabetes	Dog/Cat Canvassing
Vaping	Animal Shelter
Stigma-Free	Wildlife Management
School Programs	Quarantine

SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic



With the dawn of 2021, public health and healthcare were in the thick of the pandemic. Based on the history of the 1918/1919 Spanish Flu, we were hopeful that we only had to endure another few months before the pandemic was behind us. New nomenclature was becoming part of everyday conversations, such as “messenger RNA,” “rate of transmission,” “fully vaccinated” and “boosted.” The evolution of new variants led us through the Greek alphabet, using terms such as “variant of interest” and “variant of concern.” Healthcare and non-healthcare individuals were served daily doses of case, fatality and vaccination rates, while color-coded CALI scores and a plethora of graphs and charts were created. Everyone knew at least one person who was either a case or a close contact.

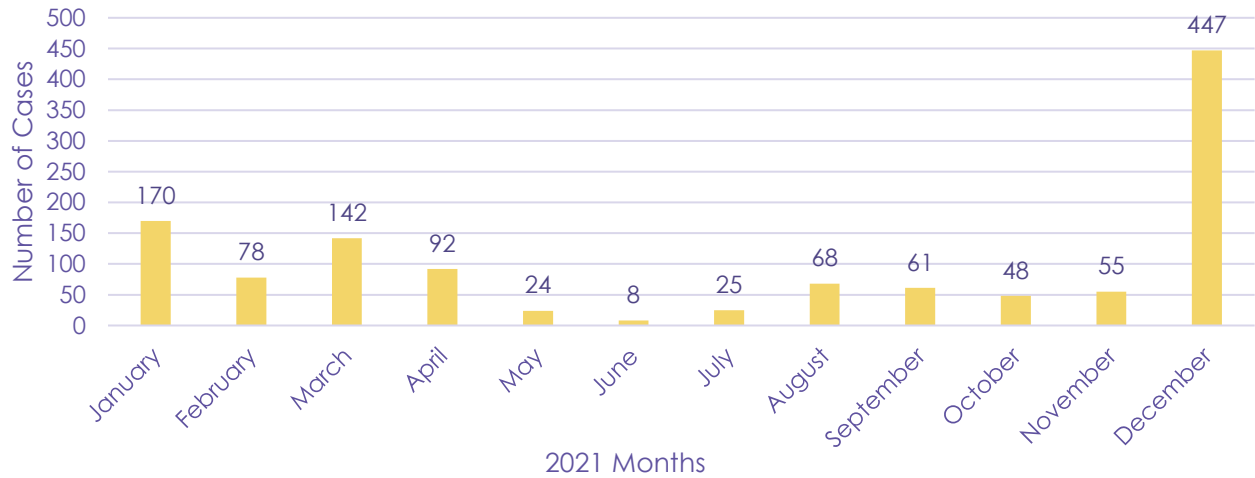
With the advent of vaccines from 3 different manufacturers, local, county, regional and mega-site vaccine clinics emerged, creating an early frenzy to secure a dose. Scheduling glitches, long lines and patience were part of the process. Vaccination rates climbed as more residents secured a dose and cases began to drop. The warm weather and rebirth of nature that comes with spring created a sense of optimism that we might be returning to normal. To borrow from Alexander Pope:

*“Hope springs eternal in the human breast:
Man never is, but always to be blest.
The soul, uneasy, and confin'd from home,
Rests and expatiates in a life to come.”*

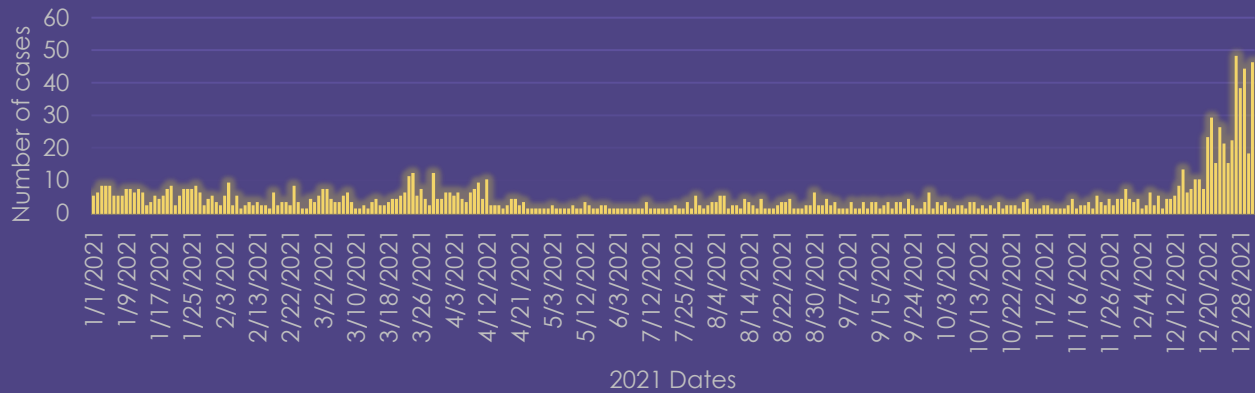
Summer brought a dramatic drop in cases and a return to everyday activities and socialization. Unfortunately, the emergence of new variants, Delta and Omicron, brought back a surge of cases in September, with a dramatic spike at the end of the year. As we navigate through this new wave, we are still hopeful that we will prevail.

2021 COVID-19 DATA

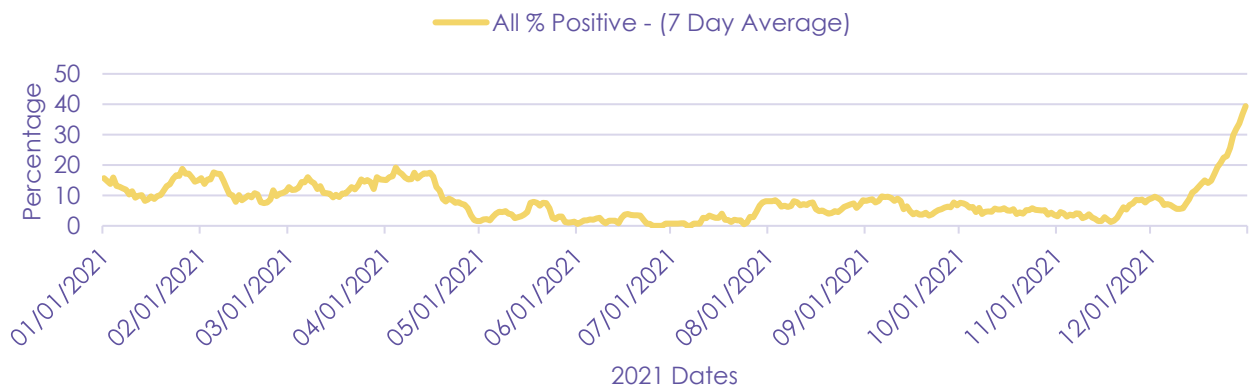
Reported COVID-19 Cases by Month in Ringwood



COVID-19 Epidemic Curve in Ringwood

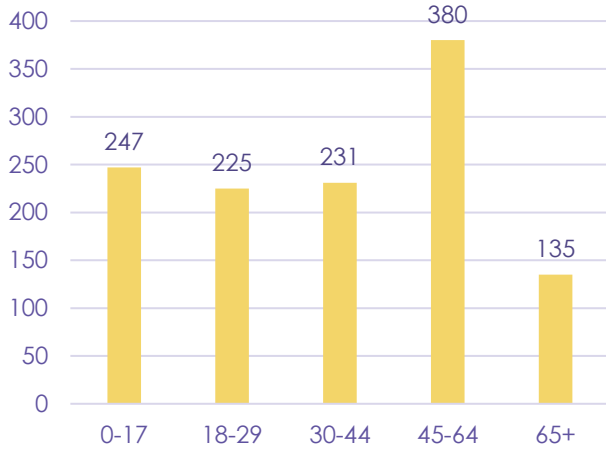


COVID-19 Percent Positivity (PCR) in Ringwood

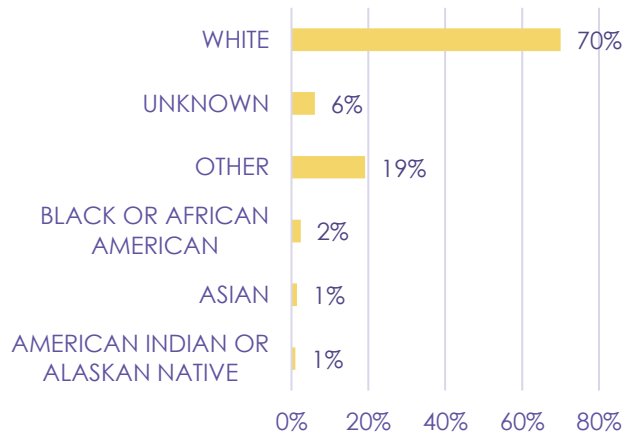


2021 Covid-19 Data Continued

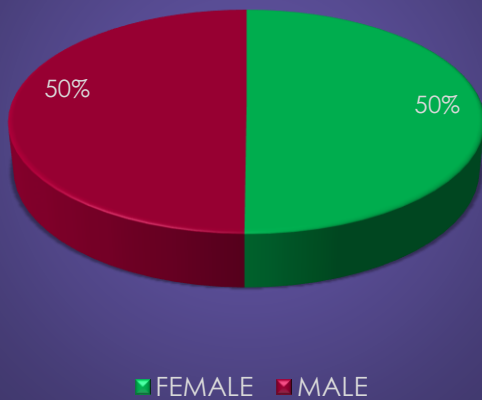
2021 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age in Ringwood



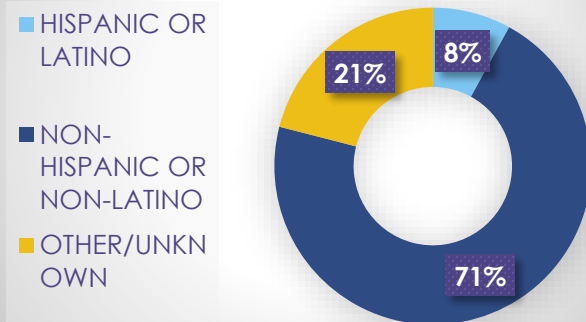
2021 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Race in Ringwood



2021 Confirmed COVID Cases by Gender in Ringwood



2021 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Ethnicity in Ringwood



COVID-19 Related Deaths Reported in 2021

14

Average Age of Death in 2021

75.1

GRANTS


The Borough of Ringwood has been the recipient of several grants and continued its progress during 2021:

- 1) An Assessment of the lakes and watershed in the Borough of Ringwood was completed in March 2021. This assessment, started in 2020, was conducted by Princeton Hydro, LLC, and made possible through a generous grant from the New Jersey Highlands Council. The assessment provided a comprehensive investigation and review of the lakes and surrounding watershed. Through compilation of findings, they presented conclusions for watershed and in-lake recommendations for each of the lakes.
- 2) Chilton Medical Center/Atlantic Health System awarded the Ringwood Borough \$20,000 through the New Jersey Healthy Communities Network. During the second year of this grant cycle in the fall of 2021, the construction of a walking path, aeroponic growing towers and "The Walking Classroom" at the Eleanor G. Hewitt School was completed. The walking path and walking classroom is currently being used and enjoyed not only by the students but also by residents. The goal of these installations is to increase the students and residents' knowledge about healthy eating and active living.



HEWITT SCHOOL WALKING PATH

- 3) 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.

Stress Management

for tweens, teens, and parents

May 6, 2021 at 7PM via ZOOM





Join the Peer Health Advocates of William Paterson University for a conversation to:

- Discuss the ways that stress can affect lives
- Explore strategies that reduce stress
- Learn about virtual and local resources to manage stress

REGISTER AT

https://js02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAtc.6gr0rGt1w_8_YJwcmPRL-A-KH7XN

Sponsored by the Stigma-Free Ringwood, Ringwood Health Department, Ringwood Public Library, William Paterson University, and Atlantic Health System

Due to the pandemic, programs have transitioned from in-person to virtual platforms and several have been postponed, such as:

**Mental Health Mondays (relevant health topics at the Ringwood Library). With stress, anxiety and depression caused by the pandemic, programs were needed more than ever.*

In 2021, the Ringwood Health Department, in collaboration with the William Paterson University Peer Health Advocates, provided a Stress Management program for tweens, teens and their parents. In addition, fitness activities such as yoga, meditation, and hiking were provided through the "Moving Toward Mindfulness" summer program. According to research, physical activity helps you feel better, function better, and sleep better. Not only is physical activity good for muscles and bones but it is also healthy for the brain, as well as reduce anxiety (according to the CDC).

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, Atlantic Health System's Corporate Health Department, and in collaboration with partners such as the Ringwood Public Library, William Paterson University, and Montclair State University.

ACTIVITY	# OF SESSIONS	# OF PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION
Dental Health Lesson	2	28	Skylands Learning Center
Handwashing Lesson	2	28	Skylands Learning Center
Heart Health Meditation	1	20	Virtual / Zoom
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Hike	6	44	Cooper Yellow Union Trail
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Meditation	7	31	Ringwood Skatepark
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Mindful Walk	6	43	Ringwood Skatepark
Moving Towards Mindfulness: Yoga	11	69	Ringwood Skatepark
Moving Beyond Cultural Competency in a Pandemic	1	83	Virtual / Zoom
Safe Sitter	1	8	Little Beach Clubhouse
Stress Management with WPU Peer Health Advocates	1	4	Virtual / Zoom

PHOTOS AND FLYERS FROM HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS



To celebrate February as American Heart Month

Treat yourself with self-care

Celebrate your valentine morning with a session of **virtual meditation** with Nancy Smith from Essence of Self Ayurveda Spa. Reward yourself with self-love and healthy heart tips provided by the Ringwood Health Department.

Sunday, February 14th at 11:00am

Virtual via Zoom

Link to Join: www.zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: **891 6641 2666**

Passcode: **903134**

To register and for more information, call 973-831-5455.

THE RINGWOOD HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO OFFER

Moving Towards Mindfulness

June 21 - August 5

Activities Includes:

	MONDAY MINDFUL WALK - 6:45 PM Ringwood Skatepark, 18 Boro Pkwy, Ringwood
	TUESDAY YOGA - 6:45 PM Ringwood Skatepark
	THURSDAY MEDITATION - 8:00 AM Ringwood Skatepark
	THURSDAY YOGA - 6:45 PM Ringwood Skatepark
	SATURDAY HIKE- 8:00 AM Cooper Union Yellow Trail, 145 Carletondale Rd, Ringwood

It's FUN, FAMILY- FRIENDLY and FREE to join!

SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PRACTICED

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. This year we were excited to move into a new space for our clinics, as seen in the photo below.




BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD
FLU VACCINE CLINIC

**** CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ****
 High Dose for ages 65 and older & Quadrivalent Fluzone under age 65

973 - 962-4343
 Location : 55 Skyline Drive, Suite 203



Attention Ringwood Residents:

Are you, or do you know someone, who is homebound and unable to drive to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

If so, please call Borough Nurse, Jeannette Davison, for helping getting the vaccine.

973-962-4343

After 27 years of operation out of the Center for Family Resources (CFFR), the Child Health Clinic has been relocated to an office in the Ringwood Commons, 55 Skyline Drive Suite 203.

The Ringwood Health Department would like to thank the CFFR for giving their clinic a home and many years of partnership. The health department looks forward to increasing their program offerings in the new location.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

Program	2019		2020		2021	
	Sessions	Participants	Sessions	Participants	Sessions	Participants
Child Health Clinic	8	39	6	21	7	33
Pediatric Immunizations	8	49	-	73	-	57
Blood Pressure Screening	7	25	2	20	2	12
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	-	-	-	-
TB Screening	-	25	-	19	-	26
Adult Immunizations	-	178	-	175	-	251
School Immunization Audits	11	-	11	-	6	-
Blood-Borne Pathogen Training	2	77	-	-	1	26
Home Visits	-	8	-	18	-	115
Communicable Disease Investigations	-	145	-	960	-	2133
Referrals for Medical	-	7	-	4	-	2
Anti-Vaping Counseling	-	4	-	-	-	-
Anti-Vaping Education	-	-	-	-	1	160
Mental Health 1 st Aide	-	-	1	23	-	-
Mental Health Mondays	-	-	4	19	-	-
Stress Management with WPU Peer Health Advocates	-	-	-	-	1	4
Injury Prevention: Bike Safety Sammy's Law Safe Sitter	-	-	-	-	3	82

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	2021 Data
# of Licensed Food Establishments	48	51	51
# of Retail Food Establishment Plans Reviewed	1	1	1
# of Pre-Operational Inspections	1	1	1
# of Routine Inspections	96	67	67
# of Establishments Requiring Enforcement	0	0	0

Youth Camps

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data	2021 Data
# of Pre-Operational Inspections	2	2	2
# of Routine Inspections	1	1	2
# of Emergency and Complaint-Related Inspections	0	0	0

Recreational Bathing

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data	2021 Data
# of Licensed Seasonal Facilities	8	8	8
# of Pre-Operational Inspections	8	8	8
# of Routine Inspections	8	8	8
# of Non-Routine Inspections	8	8	8
# of Emergency and Complaint-Related Inspections	0	0	0
# of Lake Closures	0	0	0

Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data	2021 Data
# of New System Permits Issued	1	1	5
# of Repair Permits Issued	73	94	71
# of Alteration Permits Issued	66	48	65
# of Systems in Ringwood	4200 (approx.)	4200 (approx.)	4200 (approx.)
# of Noncompliant Systems Identified	19	15	36
# of Realty Transfer System Reports Reviewed	225	234	160

Public Health Nuisance Complaints

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data	2021 Data
# of Complaints Received	50	22	18
# of Complaints Investigated	50	22	18
# of Complaints that Required Enforcement	30	14	16

Other Inspections

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data	2021 Data
# of Beauty Salons Inspected	7	7	7
Kennels/Shelters	-	2	3



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.



Borough of Bloomingdale Animal Control
 serving North Jersey Communities
 Lisa Perry, ACO/ACI
 Director of Animal Control Services
 101 Hamburg Tpke.
 Bloomingdale, NJ 07403
 P. 973 838-8959 F. 973 838-7548

2021 RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULE		
RINGWOOD	Nov 6 th 9 AM to 11am	DPW Garage on Margaret King Avenue

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data	2021 Data
# of Dogs Licensed	1692	1611	1577
# of Cats Licensed	404	379	369
# of Rabies Vaccines Given at Clinic	250	225	198
# of Incidents Where an Animal Bit a Human	20	7	16
# of Incidents Where a Rabid or Suspected Rabid Animal Bit a Human	1	0	0
# of Incidents Where a Rabid or Suspected Rabid Animal Bit a Domestic Animal	0	1	0
# of Unimmunized Domestic Animals Confined for Rabies Observation After Biting a Person or Animal	0	0	0

It's that time of the year!

CAT AND DOG LICENSING

Due by January 31st.

Download the form from our website.
www.ringwoodnj.net

WHY LICENSE MY PET?

- ✓ Easy identification to return lost pets to their owners
- ✓ Helps control/prevent the spread of rabies
- ✓ **It's the law**



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.

Key Facts & Activities	2019 Data	2020 Data	2021 Data
# of Marriage or Civil Union Licenses Application	59	54	69
# of Marriage Licenses Certified Copies	172	234	209
# of Birth Certificates	1	0	1
# of Birth Certificates Certified Copies	11	5	4
# of Death Certificate Certified Copies	36	6	8
Total # of Certified Copies Issued	219	245	221

2022 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.

GOALS
Support Efforts to End the Pandemic
Collaborate on Vaping-Cessation Programs for Youth
Continue Stigma-Free Campaign
Strengthen Ordinances That Protect the Environment
Support Schools in Obtaining Grants
Ensure Representation on Decision-Making Boards and Committees