

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**RUTHERFORD BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**FOR THE YEAR 2009**

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

Maura Keyes

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Dorothy Willms, President  
Alan Talarsky –Vice President- Resigned 9/28/09  
Theresa Gilburn, Board Secretary  
Andrew Bertone  
Kim Fecanin- Vice President as of 9/28/09  
Matt Ziemkiewicz  
Joseph DeFazio  
Michael Matthews - Appointed 11/09

**2009 STAFF**

Brian M. O’Keefe, Administrative Officer/Registrar of Vital Statistics  
James G. Locarro, Registered Environmental Health Specialist  
Linda A. Hricik, Secretary, Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics  
Janet Calhoun, R.N.  
Therese Zdanowicz, R.N.  
Dr. Jill A. Garripoli – Board Pediatrician  
Dr. Ira Kurz, Board Public Health Physician  
Neil Beeber, D.V.M. – Board Veterinarian

**RUTHERFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2009**

During the calendar year 2009, the Rutherford Health Department continued to provide a wide variety of services to Borough residents. Through various preventive screening programs, issuance of Vital Statistics documents, investigation of citizen complaints, inspection activities, etc., the Health Department had contact with a large segment of the Borough population.

The Health Department continued to increase the level of publicity and public awareness towards state mandated programs and services offered to residents. Press releases and pictures were taken of various programs and screenings offered at the Health Center and submitted to The News Leader of Rutherford, The South Bergenite, and to approximately 30 service organizations and houses of worship in the borough.

The environmental health aspect of the Department continued to be active by conducting 121 food related inspections and sampling 180 potentially hazardous food items from local food establishments. 507 citizen complaints were received and investigated. Seven municipal court complaints were signed to alleviate citizen concerns.

The 2009 calendar year marked the 18<sup>th</sup> year of rabies in land based animals in Rutherford. This continued to result in an increase in manpower hours being devoted to Rabies control measures and follow up on animal related bites to humans and other animals. The Department continued to receive excellent service and cooperation by the Governing Body contracting once again in 2009 for a private Animal Control Service. This decision not only realized the Borough an increase in field related animal control services, but at a reduced cost and at a time when it was continually needed with the Community in the rabies enzootic area and an increase in 2009 in bat related potential human rabies exposures.

The Public Health Nursing Staff continued to provide the residents with numerous preventive health screening programs. The Influenza Vaccination Program, Multi-Phasic Blood Screening Program and Child Health Conference continue to be the most popular programs. 168 residents participated in the Multi-Phasic Blood Screening and 744 residents were vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus and 407 participated in the H1N1 clinics. 396 blood pressures were taken during the weekly walk-in blood pressure program held on Tuesdays. The Child Health Conference continued to provide to residents State funded vaccine for the prevention of 13 childhood diseases with 44 children immunized by the Board of Health Pediatrician.

For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Health Department was able to apply for reimbursement for those residents 65 and over who were Medicare patients and were vaccinated against Influenza. Instead of the Influenza Vaccination Program costing the Department \$10,720 in vaccine costs, with Medicare reimbursement, there was a savings to the Borough of \$6,332.00. The final cost to the Borough was \$4,388.00 We vaccinated a total of 744 adult residents over four clinics for 2009.

The Department continued its role in the School Nursing Program. For the 2008-2009 School Year, the Public Health Nurses continued the School Nursing Services at St. Mary Elementary School St. Mary High School, Rutherford Child Care Center, The Meadow School and The Rutherford Montessori School.

State entitlement per pupil is available for providing these services to the non-public school students and resulted in reimbursement of \$39,758.00 for the 2008-2009 School Year. To accommodate the continued school nursing involvements, adjustments were made to a number of existing nursing related programs.

By continuing our role in the school-nursing program, it required at a minimum, the Public Health Nurses, when schools are in session, to devote an additional five (5) hours a day on this program.

From a budget and finance standpoint, the Board of Health realized a total revenue source of \$76,001.00 in 2009. The largest sums were in the school nursing reimbursement account totaling \$39,758.00, retail food establishment licenses totaling \$25,921.00, vital statistics revenue totaling \$7,970.00, and electronic revenue totaling \$4,255.00. ( $\$76,001.00 + \$4,255.00 = \$80,256.00$ ).

The total appropriation for Salaries, Wages, Operating and Capital Budgets for 2009 were \$410,844 which was 1.53% of the total Municipal Budget (\$26,896,557).

The Vital Statistics aspect of the Department issued 1685 certified copies of Death, Marriage, Domestic Partnership, Civil Union and Birth records that generated \$5345.00 and \$4,255 in electronic payments in revenue totaling \$9,600.00.

In the calendar 2009, a number of specific items are in need of noting:

West Nile Virus activity in the Borough was very quiet in 2009. This was the third consecutive year since 2000 when the virus appeared in the State that we did not have a crow test positive for the West Nile Virus.

Eleven retail food establishments in the Borough were nominated for the “Bergen County Gold Star Program Award for Excellence in Food Protection”. Establishments that exceed minimum sanitation and food safety code requirements are eligible for recognition. The eleven establishments receiving the award were: Ice Cream Charlie’s, Burger King, Dairy Queen, 55 Kip Center, Rutherford Child Care Center, Café Mattise, Renaissance Hotel, Dunkin Donuts, Meadows School, Hop Hing, New China Inn and Sweet Avenue Bake Shop.

The Department worked with the Police Department Detective Bureau on a criminal background form and procedure for applicants for a massage therapy license.

A total of 430 food items were embargoed throughout the year and the food items were destroyed.

The Registrar of Vital Statistics, as outlined under State Statute, appointed two Alternate Deputy Registrar’s in the event of the absence from the office of the Registrar and/or Deputy Registrar.

Both the Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics responded to the County Clerk’s Office for the oath to be administered for re-newel of their Notary Public.

An Energy Audit was conducted of the health center by the borough during the month of June.

The Department assisted the Purchasing Department and interacted with the Borough Administrator regarding updating the animal control service specifications.

During the month of August, within a seven day period of time, the Department was involved with four residents who had a live bat enter their dwelling unit in the evening hours. All of the bats were captured and sent to the State Health Department for rabies testing. All of the bats tested negative for rabies.

The employees in the health department formally appealed a furlough notice issued to them by the Governing Body. Appeal was still pending with the Civil Service Commission prior to the end of the 2009 calendar year.

In February, the Electronic Death Registration System became the sole method for the two local funeral homes processing death certificates and burial permits through our Department.

Three staff members of the Health Department completed Point of Distribution (POD) Leadership Training in the event of the need of mass distribution of antibiotics were needed.

One Mobile Retail Food Establishment was observed operating in the Borough in an unlicensed vehicle several times and was issued a summons and was fined \$100.00 plus \$33.00 in court costs.

The Department conducted a plan review and pre-operational inspection of a new facility in town that established a business of boarding dogs overnight.

During the last quarter of the year, a considerable amount of time was spent on the H1N1 influenza virus that appeared along with the arrival of the H1N1 vaccine. Four of the staff members completed New Jersey Immunization Information System training to input data into the state system, a requirement by the State for those we vaccinated against the H1N1 Virus.

Thank you letter written to FedEx for the services of one of their employees who insured that our H1N1 vaccine that was delivered on a government holiday was actually received by our Department and not sent back to the vaccine manufacturer.

As the H1N1 vaccine was being received, we were able to schedule two vaccination programs following the CDC priority guidelines. The first program took place on November 30<sup>th</sup> with the live nasal spray vaccine and a second program was held on December 16<sup>th</sup> with the inactive vaccine. 407 people were vaccinated in accordance with the CDC guidelines. A third program was schedule for the first week in the New Year.

The bloodborne pathogen exposure program was updated and distributed to the Police, Fire and EMS organizations as required by PEOSHA.

The Department interacted with the Animal Control Officer regarding approximately a half of a dozen locations in the Borough that had a problem with a feral cat population. The cats were humanely trapped and removed, since cats are the leading domestic animal in New Jersey with the deadly rabies virus.

The Department received a host of graffiti complaint issues on structures throughout the Borough and aggressively followed up with the property owners. Property owners were cooperative by removing the graffiti in a timely fashion when notified.

There was an increase in the number of properties in town this year where the property owners did not abate overgrowth violations which forced the Department to hire a private contractor to abate the violations. Properties located on Feronia Way, West Pierrepont Avenue, Prospect Place, Ridge Road, West Newell Avenue and Eastern Way, had property maintenance code violations abated by the Health Department and the cost of the clean ups were sent over to the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector for tax lien action.

The Department Head continued to serve on a host of Borough appointed committees during the calendar year including participation on the municipal alliance committee, safety committee, local emergency planning committee, the office of emergency management, bloodborne pathogen, recycling and environmental and special events committee.

The Borough continued to have a series of special events throughout the year that required departmental participation in the planning stage and review food safety concerns for food items provided to the public at these events to insure a safe and wholesome food product was provide at these temporary events.

The Department spent a considerable amount of time investigating animal bites to humans. This was a very time intensive activity. While 19 animal bites were followed up on, some of the bite exposures were problematic and did result in one resident receiving the post exposure treatment for rabies which involves five inoculations over a 28-day period of time. Since rabies is a fatal disease, proper follow up and documentation in a timely manner is imperative.

The following is a breakdown of activities for each component of the Health Department:

**\*2009 VITAL STATISTICS**

- 1,685 - Certified Copies of Death, Marriage, Domestic Part., & Birth Records Issued
  - 127 - Death Certificates Processed (80 Electronic & 47 photocopied)
  - 127 - Burial Permits and/or Transit Permits Issued (Electronic 98 & 29 Typed)
  - 102 - Marriage Licenses Issued
    - 2 - Civil Union Applications Issued
  - 33 - Death Certificates Recorded for Deaths Occurring in Town
  - 87 - Marriage Certificates Filed in Rutherford
    - 0 - Civil Union Certificates Filed in Rutherford
    - 2 - Re-Marriage Certificates Filed in Rutherford
- 119 - Residents Died During 2008
  - 0 - Births Recorded in Town
- \*120- Birth Certificates Received for New Residents
  - \* Female - 52                      Male - 68

\* - As of January 8, 2010

\$12,225.00 in revenue was received for Certified Copies of Marriage, Birth, Death Records, Civil Union, Domestic Partnership Affidavits, Burial Permits and Marriage Licenses including electronic payments.

**2009 – BUDGET & FINANCE**

2009	Operating Budget - \$50,768
2009	Salary & Wages Budget - \$352,076
2009	Capital Budget - \$8,000

Total Borough Funds allocated for Board of Health, Salary & Wages, and Capital & Operating Budget in 2009 was \$410,844, or 1.53% of the total Municipal Budget (\$26,896,557).

If you factor in the Board of Education budget (\$34,665,009) with the Borough budget, we required 0.66% of the money raised by taxes to cover the entire Health Department's budget in the calendar year 2009.

The Health Department during 2009 brought in the following revenue:

\$ 5,345.00	Vital Statistics
25,921.00	Retail Food Establishment Licenses
860.00	Vending Machine Licenses
42.00	Store Milk Licenses
0	Court Fines -* \$218 - Noted only for 2009 - Not Added to Revenue
39,758.00	School Nursing Reimbursement (2008-2009 School Year)
0	Miscellaneous Fees (Including Lead Testing)
2,625.00	Dedicated Revenue
1,450.00	Massage License Fees

\$ 76,001.00 Total Revenue (\$4,255-Electronic Payment Total for 2009 – not added to this total). (\$76,001.00 + \$4,255 = \$80,256.00 – Final Revenue Total 2009).

**2009 – ADULT SCREENING PROGRAMS**

Blood Screening:	April – 82 (referred 81) Oct. - 86 (referred 79)
Flu Clinic:	Participants –744 – Oct. 28 & Nov. 23, 2009
Hemocult:	18
Pap Program:	Oct. 21, 2009 – 8 Participants (0 Referrals)
Pneumonia:	Throughout 2009 –6 participants
Podiatry:	April 1, 2009 – 13 Participants (6 Referrals)
Prostate:	Sept. 16, 2009 - 18 (referred 6)
Rabies Clinic:	March 7, 2009 - (165 Dogs - 14 Cats) Total 179
Skin Cancer:	June 24, 2009 - 65 (referred 24)
Vision:	July 21, 2009 – 15 Participants (1 Referral)
H1N1 Nasal:	Nov. 30, 2009 – 149 Participants
H1N1 Inactive:	Dec. 16, 2009 – 258 Participants

**2009 – PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

Audiology	0
Blood Pressures	396
Communicable Disease Follow Up	94
Health Risk Assessments	50
Immunization Audits	19
Referral Home Visits	1
TB Testing (seven positive reactors for follow-up)	80
Newborn Letters (As of 1/6/10)	132
Monitored elevated lead cases and investigated	3

**2009 – CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCE**

Attendance	55
Children Immunized	44
Hearing Screening	0
Hematocrit & Hemoglobin	0
Hours	10.45
Lead Testing	1
Nurse Counseling	55
Physicals	27
Referrals	0
TB Testing (CHC)	0
Vision Screening	0

**2009 – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH****Citizen Complaints** 507

## Chapter 12 – Detailed food Inspections:

Satisfactory on Initial Inspection	100
Satisfactory on Re-inspection	8
Conditional on Initial Inspection	8
Conditional on Re-inspection	2
Unsatisfactory	0
Spot Checks – Re-inspections	4
After-Hour Complaints, Activities	29
Animal Bites Follow Up	19
Child Care Facilities Inspections	1
Court Action Complaints	7
Food Embargoes	430
Food Samples	180
Garbage Inspections	210
Inter Office Memos	106
Licensed Retail Food Establishments	121
Licensed Massage Therapy Establishments	2
Miscellaneous Correspondence	635
Miscellaneous Food Related Inspections	61
Mobile Vendor Inspections	4
Pet Shop Inspections	1
Plan Review	7
Pre-Operational Inspection – Chapter 12	7
Public Recreational Bathing Inspections	2
Youth Camps	0

Audits and surveys of public and private schools and 12 daycare centers in the Borough concerning Immunization Compliance with Chapter 14 of The State Sanitary Code.

Complete School Nursing Program at St. Mary High School, St. Mary Elementary School Rutherford Child Care Center, The Meadow School and Rutherford Montessori School covering over 502 students. Programs cover such things as auditing and maintenance of health records and immunizations, tuberculin testing, health screenings which include vision, hearing, scoliosis, heights and weights, first aid to ill and injured students, and faculty and student health counseling, etc. At least five (5) Nursing Hours are spent each day on programs when schools are in session.

Health counseling, which includes telephone calls, walk-ins, home visits, screenings, follow-ups, etc. – approximately 4,000.

The Annual Report for 2009 is a credit to the members of the Rutherford Board of Health for their insight and support of the Staff in providing a public health program designed to meet the needs of the Community.

The Governing Body of the Borough of Rutherford needs to be commended for continuing to provide an acceptable and reasonable level of funding to the Board of Health in order that public health mandates can be successfully achieved.

As this report concludes the tenth year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for the Rutherford Health Department, many major dramatic health threats have been eliminated since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century which have contributed to the increase in the average life span since the early 1900's by over 30 years, 25 years attributable to advances in public health. Infectious diseases associated with poor hygiene and poor sanitation, diseases associated with poor nutrition, poor maternal and infant health, and diseases or injuries associated with unsafe workplaces or hazardous occupations have been drastically reduced or eliminated.

While this list of health threats seems rather remote to us today based on advances in public health, we have completed the tenth year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century with public health threats inconceivable over 100 years ago. The concern of biological terrorism is one example of a modern day public health threat that presented itself in the State of New Jersey nine years ago with the release of Anthrax through the mail system. The concern of biological terrorism highlights the need for the public health infrastructure to change to provide the elements necessary for successful public interventions throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Local public health continues to adjust to such things as new strains of diseases that have been around for hundreds of years. The new strain of influenza virus that appeared in the United States in April of this year as the H1N1 virus is an example of how the public health system is constantly challenged to adapt to changes in a disease process and services provided to the public. The appearance of the H1N1 virus in 2009 resulted in the health department interacting with residents regarding a host of questions that were posed to the Department by the public, the school systems and the day care centers in town, in addition to the establishment of several H1N1 vaccination programs being set up to offer the H1N1 influenza vaccine to the public.

Special thanks are extended to the members of the Medical Community who volunteered their time during various screening programs offered at the Health Center throughout the year: Dr. Manuel R. Morman and Dr. MarieAnne Giardina-Beckett for conducting a Skin Cancer Screening Program, Dr. Philip Obiedzinski for conducting the Foot Screening Program, Dr. Robert Purnell for conducting an Adult Eye Screening Program and Dr. Consetta Cheatam for conducting the Pap & Breast Screening Program. All of these programs would not have been possible without the willingness of the aforementioned individuals in donating their time and services to our Department.

The Staff looks forward to working with the Board in the 2010 Calendar Year in continuing to provide a sound and robust public health program to the residents of Rutherford. While the US economy took a turn downward in the 2009 calendar year, it did not affect the continued demand for health services on the part of the Borough population. Working with a continued tight budget framework, the 2010 year should pose some unique challenges to the Staff and Board.

Respectfully Submitted,  
For The Board of Health,

Brian M. O’Keefe  
Administrative Officer  
Rutherford Health Department