

ANNUAL REPORT

COLUMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



2025



(518) 828-3358



www.columbiacountynyhealth.com

A Message from the Public Health Director

On behalf of the Columbia County Department of Health, I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of our programs, services, key achievements, and the challenges we encountered in 2025.



We remain committed to delivering effective and efficient public health services while upholding our responsibility to protect the community's health. In 2025, we faced complex challenges. Our resilience and dedication continued to drive our work to improve our community's health and well-being.

I thank my colleagues, partner agencies, supportive elected officials, and especially the community we serve. Your support enables us to prevent illness, promote health, and protect the well-being of everyone in Columbia County.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria McGahan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Victoria McGahan, MS, CHES®
Public Health Director

Public Health in Action



Confirmed Disease Cases*



2023	2508
2024	2102
2025	3005

Immunizations Administered



2023	2020
2024	2295
2025	1711

Animal Bite Investigations



2023	106
2024	111
2025	112

Rabies Vaccines Administered



2023	378
2024	297
2025	288

Water Supply Inspections



2023	140
2024	89
2025	105

Food Service Inspections



2023	222
2024	319
2025	350

Healthy Home Visits



2023	312
2024	100
2025	225

Child Safety Seat Checks



2023	27
2024	32
2025	41

Tobacco Compliance Checks



2023	59
2024	76
2025	134

Lead Care Coordination



2023	64
2024	60
2025	58

Naloxone Kits Distributed



2023	711
2024	372
2025	561

Community Sharps Collection



2023	1,522 lbs
2024	1,906 lbs
2025	2,043 lbs

Preschool Services/Transports



2023	164
2024	201
2025	180

Early Intervention Services/Transport



2023	154
2024	146
2025	160

*Includes diseases that meet case definition by NYSDOH only

Highlights

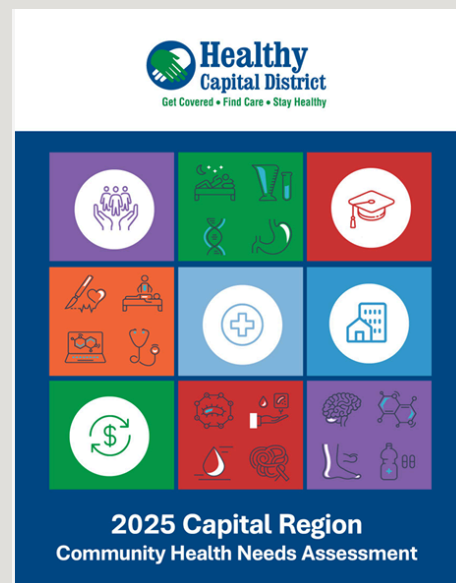
- The Columbia County Department of Health (CCDOH) welcomed Amelia Scheriff as a Summer and Winter Youth Program Intern. During her time at CCDOH, Amelia assisted the Communicable Disease and Environmental Health Divisions with various tasks including compliance checks with the Tobacco Enforcement Program, clerical work related to communicable disease case investigations, and monitoring symptoms and lab values to determine if cases met the case definition for tick-borne disease illnesses.
- The Columbia County Board of Supervisors adopted Local Law 3, related to how CCDOH processes individual septic applications, introducing local regulations, and standards for the safe management and disposal of on-site waste.
- The Environmental Health Division inspected **26** Children's Camps, **11** Campgrounds, **21** Swimming Pools, **18** Bathing Beaches and **41** Mobile Home Parks.
- Our Department enhanced our social media presence, reaching **197** followers on X and **7,124** followers on Facebook with **627,809** views. Our smartphone application has also been downloaded **3,389** times.
- The Health Education Division hosted **88** educational events and attended **21** community outreach events, reaching an estimated **2,782** individuals.
- The Communicable Disease Division conducted **2,290** communicable disease investigations and continued disease outbreak surveillance of all nursing homes and assisted living facilities within Columbia County.
- The Migrant Health Program visited **nine** farms and provided health education along with blood pressure, blood sugar, and tuberculosis screenings to **207** seasonal workers. In addition, **138** seasonal workers received recommended vaccinations to help protect their health and prevent the spread of disease.
- Our Community Health Worker (CHW), Spanish Speaking, had **1,106** migrant encounters for which she provided translation services, transportation for medical services, and assisted with access to social services. Our CHW also assisted **five** pregnant migrant women to their appointments.
- Our Department hosted **45** sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinics and served **94** patients with appropriate testing, medication and referrals.

Community Health Needs Assessment



The Columbia County Department of Health, the Greene County Public Health Department, and Columbia Memorial Hospital, collectively known as the Columbia-Greene Planning Partners, worked collaboratively throughout the assessment and planning process and are committed to working jointly across agencies and county lines throughout the implementation phase as well.

The Columbia-Greene Planning Partners were assisted in the assessment and planning phase by a diverse stakeholder group that was convened in May 2025 to review data from the Community Health Needs Assessment and inform the selection of community health priorities (see a full list in Appendix A). This broad stakeholder group, referred to as the Columbia-Greene Healthy People Partnership, will continue to have a role throughout the implementation process. The Partnership will be charged with reviewing reports, monitoring progress, and providing feedback.



Community Health Improvement Plan

The Columbia County Department of Health and its community partners have worked collaboratively to develop the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for 2025-2030. This CHA/CHIP summarizes county demographic and health data from a variety of sources and presents a community plan for making measurable improvements in the following health priority areas:

- Nutrition Security
- Tobacco & E-cigarette Use
- Suicide Prevention

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment
2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan
and
2025-2027 Community Service Plan
for
Columbia and Greene Counties, NY
and their Hospital

Jointly prepared and submitted by
the Columbia-Greene Planning Partners:
Columbia County Department of Health
Greene County Public Health Department
Columbia Memorial Hospital



In fulfillment of the requirements of the New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda and the Internal Revenue Service, the Community Health Needs Assessment, the Community Service Plan, and Implementation Strategy were adopted by vote of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Affairs Committee on October 27, 2025 and the Board of Governors of AMHCY/PH/CHM and the AMHS Board of Governors on December 9, 2025.



Communicable Disease

A fundamental responsibility of the Columbia County Department of Health (CCDOH) is to monitor communicable diseases. Tuberculosis is a serious bacterial infection that can affect the lungs (pulmonary) or outside the lungs (extrapulmonary). When exposed, people can harbor the bacteria which lies dormant for a time (latent tuberculosis) until it becomes infectious and sickens the person (active tuberculosis). Latent tuberculosis can be effectively treated with one drug over a few months, while active tuberculosis requires a 4 drug regimen over 6 to 9 months, and can cause serious complications including death. Managing latent cases with education, testing, and treatment can help prevent the devastating health, financial, and outbreak costs of active cases.

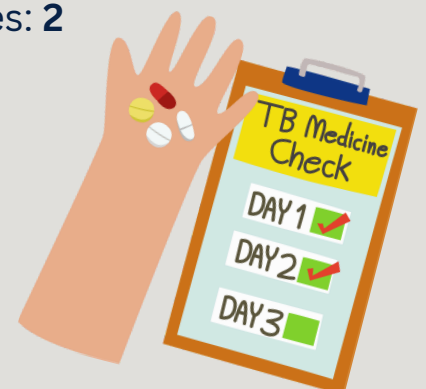
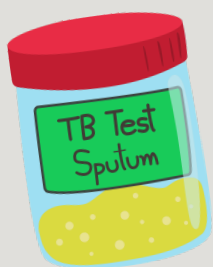
In 2025, the Communicable Disease team provided follow up for Tuberculosis (TB) cases including:

- Investigation of positive PPDs from our clinic;
- Investigation of positive Quantiferon Gold blood lab test reports;
- Ruling out active TB by facilitating chest x-rays and other testing;
- Providing directly observed therapy, contact tracing, and contact testing for active TB cases; and
- Providing education on the difference between latent and active TB to individuals and employers.

Number of positive Quantiferon Golds: **70**

Number of vouchers provided for rule out active TB: **30**

Number of active Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) cases: **2**

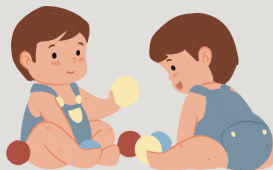


Early Intervention



The purpose of the Early Intervention (EI) Program is to assist families in achieving positive outcomes for babies and toddlers with developmental delays. Early intervention serves children from birth to 3 years. Services and evaluations are provided at no direct cost to families. Children must meet the eligibility criteria set by NYS to receive services. CCDOH will assign a Service Coordinator to assist the family throughout the process.

For more information, please call: (518) 828-4278.



Preschool Special Education



The Preschool Special Education Program works to facilitate educational services to children aged three to five who demonstrate a developmental delay.

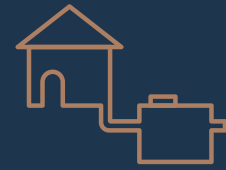
Services and evaluations are provided free of cost to qualified preschoolers. Children aged 3-5 are referred to the Committee on Preschool Special Education of the school district of residence for an educational evaluation to determine eligibility for services. Once the evaluation is completed, the Committee on Preschool Education will meet to determine eligibility and level of services.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's development, please contact the appropriate school district or call our office. We will be happy to assist you with any questions.

For more information, please call (518) 828-4278.



Adoption of Local Law 3



Following the Columbia County Board of Supervisors' adoption of County Law #3 of 2025 on April 9, 2025, the Columbia County Department of Health (CCDOH) improved its sewage disposal program. This local law, known as the Columbia County Sanitary Code, took effect on May 1, 2025 and applies to the construction of and use of new residential, commercial, community, or public sewage systems designed to discharge sewage to the groundwaters of the County.

As stated in the new law, known as the Columbia County Sanitary Code: "The purpose of this chapter is to set forth regulations and standards for the safe management and disposal of on-site waste. It is hereby declared to be the health policy of the Columbia County Department of Health to protect the quality of water supplies by ensuring the proper installation of sewage disposal systems."

The local law requires that all Individual Sewage Disposal Applications are submitted to CCDOH and accompanied by engineered design plans, designed by a New York State licensed professional engineer. All plans must be designed in accordance with Appendix 75-A Wastewater Treatment Standards - Residential Onsite Systems. Upon receipt of the required documents, a CCDOH representative conducts a site visit to confirm the suitability of soils for the proposed system. Once the proposed plans are approved and installed, a CCDOH representative conducts a joint inspection with the supervising design professional to confirm compliance with approved plans and specifications.

Local Law #3 can be read by visiting the ["Columbia County Board of Supervisors" page on the county website and clicking on "Local Laws 2025."](#)



Scan to read Local Law #3



Scan for the Sewage Disposal System Application Instructions

Healthy Neighborhoods Program



The Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) is a **FREE** service funded by the New York State Department of Health, which aims to improve the health, safety, and environmental living conditions for all residents in Columbia County. HNP specialists work with residents to reduce asthma triggers and indoor air pollution and increase fire safety and radon testing in their homes. The only requirement for the program is a home visit, with no income or age restrictions. During the home visit, HNP specialists may identify safety or health hazards and provide information and free materials to help improve the area of concern. All renters and homeowners in Columbia County are encouraged to participate!



Columbia County
Healthy Neighborhoods Program



Scan to request a home visit!

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)



The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers who help make their communities stronger and healthier during disasters and every day.

The Columbia County MRC is organized and sponsored by the Columbia County Department of Health. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as community members without any healthcare background or experience.

MRC activities include:

- Point of Dispensing (POD) operations
- Emergency Shelter operations
- Training opportunities including CPR, Stop the Bleed, and more!
- Specialised teams (Mental Health, Animal response, etc)

The MRC is always looking for people who want to make a difference in our community!
Want to learn more or get involved? Find more information below!



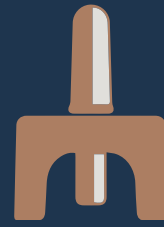
Scan here to complete the MRC Interest Form!

Visit our website (<https://columbiacountynyhealth.com/volunteer-during-emergencies/>) or call (518) 828-3358 for more information.



Columbia County

Opioid Overdose Spike Response Framework



The Columbia County Department of Health (CCDOH) has been actively updating its Opioid Overdose Spike Response Framework to strengthen coordination, communication, and rapid response efforts during overdose surges in our community. As part of this work, CCDOH recently hosted an Opioid Overdose Spike Response Framework tabletop exercise, bringing together representatives from nine community partner agencies. The exercise provided an opportunity to walk through real-world response scenarios, clarify roles and responsibilities, identify gaps, and enhance collaboration to ensure a timely, unified approach to preventing overdose deaths in Columbia County.



Staff Development Day

On November 6, 2025, Columbia County Department of Health employees participated in our annual Staff Development Day! This year, the featured speaker was MaryBeth Cale, an expert in communication. Topics covered included effective communication types, body language, listening to communicate, and conflict resolution. After an engaging and thought-provoking morning, our team had lunch together and spent some time in the afternoon with our Public Health Educator, who led a Bingo-size session, an evidence-based program promoting physical activity!



Programs & Services



**Early Intervention & Preschool
Immunization Clinic
Communicable Disease
STD/STI Clinic
Arthropod Illness
Pool & Beach Regulation
Campgrounds & Children's Camps
Child Passenger Safety
Chronic Disease Interventions
Food Service Inspection
Lead Case Investigation &
Lead Poisoning Prevention
Migrant Labor Camps
Temporary Residences
Mobile Home Parks
Water Supply Safety
Sewage Disposal
Opioid Prevention
Walk With Ease**



**Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention
Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention (ATUPA)**



**Rabies Prevention & Control
Nuisance Complaints
Realty Subdivisions
Public Health Preparedness
Healthy Neighborhoods
Maternal Child Health
Public Health Education
Migrant Farm Worker Program**



2025 Staff

Tara Becker
 Marsha Bishop
 Samantha Black
 Melissa Blass
 Adrienne Burger
 Alyssa Conn
 Edward Coons
 Emily Crimmins
 Martin DeGennaro
 Irish Falkner
 Pamela Ferber
 Alejandro Fernandez
 Brenda First
 Kristy Frederick
 Emily Haigh
 Luanne Kline
 Jennifer Lento
 John Mabb
 Rajkumarie Matthiesen
 Colleen Melino
 Chloe Meltz
 Donna Monska
 Timothy Moore

Elizabeth Neale
 Christina Nelson
 Cailey Nieto
 Emily Quist
 Chelsea Rice
 Cheryl Ronsani
 Caitlin Rustick
 Yuleiva Rosa-Brown
 Tisha Rothvoss
 Joshua Ryder
 Amy Schober
 Miranda Utterback

Management Team

Victoria McGahan
 Elizabeth Galle
 Lauren Clark
 Magnolia McBroom
 Samantha Black



Special Acknowledgements

Matt Murell, Chairman, Board of Supervisors
 Ananthakrishnan Ramani, MD, Medical Director

Board of Health

Patricia DiGrigoli, President
 Donal Collins
 Wendell Cook
 David Harrison Jr.
 PJ Keeler
 Jane Meicht
 Daniel Melamed, MD
 Anna Maria Assevero, MD
 Leitha Pierro
 Gretchen Stearns, MD

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 Robert Lagonia
 Matt Murell
 David Helsey
 Abdus Miah
 Brenda Adams
 Ronald Knott
 T. Randall Martin

PAC Committee

Ananthakrishnan Ramani, MD
 Patricia Abitabile
 Elizabeth Galle
 Pamela Ferber
 Kristy Frederick
 Jack Mabb
 Victoria McGahan
 Elizabeth Neale
 Aidan O'Connor
 Anna Papadakis
 Dawn Beaumont

Welcome & Farewells

New Staff in 2025!



Caitlin Rustick
Jennifer Lento



Farewell!

Cheryl Ronsani
Brenda First
Donna Monska
Colleen Melino
Magnolia McBroom
Christina Nelson



What Is The Greatest Public Health Achievement?



“ The greatest achievement in public health is the crisis that never made the headlines. It is the silent success of a system that absorbed a shock, protected the vulnerable, and allowed the world to wake up the next morning to a normal day.
*John Mabb, B.S., AEMT-P,
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator* ”

“ Let's not forget what a Pandemic does. Learning from the past, we can choose to be ready next time.
Resilience is a culture of preparedness.
Raj Matthiesen, Bookkeeper ”

“ The greatest public health achievement is understanding the diversity of the people we serve. Approaching challenges from different cultural perspectives ensures that community members feel seen and heard. By doing so, we build a level of trust that encourages people to seek services and communicate openly when they need support.
*Yuleiva Rosa-Brown, Community Health Worker
(Spanish Speaking)* ”

“ The greatest public health achievements are often quiet victories - reducing HIV transmission, preventing malaria deaths, tackling obesity with new treatments, and replacing lead pipes to protect future generations.
Tisha Rothvoss, Environmental Health Clerk/Typist ”