



## CITY OF MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY BULLETIN – AUGUST 2008



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Chronic Disease Prevention & Neighborhood Health Division

The Manchester Health Department (MHD) has been selected as one of 24 sites in the country to host a two-year field assignment of a Public Health Prevention Specialist (PHPS) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The PHPS is a training and service program for master's level public health professionals who train and work with the CDC prior to placement in state and local health departments, community-based organizations, and public health institutes. The program focuses on public health program management and provides Prevention Specialists with experience in program planning, implementation, and evaluation through specialized hands-on training and mentorship at CDC and public health agencies.



The field assignment placement process is extremely competitive. This year, the CDC received 174 Letters of Intent (LOIs). The MHD was one of 100 invited to submit a full application. The Prevention Specialists reviewed these applications and selected between 6-8 sites with whom to interview. This review resulted in Prevention Specialists inviting 68 agencies to participate in the PHPS Interview Day. After Interview Day, a computer program was used to identify the best possible matches using Prevention Specialists rankings of health agencies and health agencies ratings of Prevention Specialists. PHPS staff met to discuss preliminary matches as well as qualitative comments from both parties after which final matches were made.

Manchester's field assignment will focus on the design and implementation of a data infrastructure and performance monitoring framework to drive the community health improvement process utilized by the Healthy Manchester Leadership Council. Such data will integrate medical and public health data and information to fuel decision making by key leaders throughout the community. In addition, the PHPS will work closely with MHD staff and community partners to develop a five-year public health improvement plan. Not only will this field assignment contribute to improvement of the health of the local public, but it will significantly aid in the accreditation preparation process of a local health department. The PHPS assignment begins on October 1, 2008.

### Community Health Division

Flu season is quickly approaching and current projections indicate that flu vaccine production is on schedule. Beginning with the 2008-09 influenza season, annual vaccination of all children aged 5-18 years is recommended. Annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months-4 years (59 months) and older children with conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from flu should also continue. Children and adolescents at high risk for influenza complications will continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as vaccine providers transition to routinely vaccinating all children. The Manchester Health Department anticipates initiating flu shot clinics by mid-October.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*To improve the health of individuals, families, and the community through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats.*

## Environmental Health & Public Health Preparedness Division

### Restaurant Inspection Scores Online

As of August 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, internet based access to second quarter (April – June 2008) food service inspection data will be available. Residents will now have access to inspection scores and information about critical item violations (i.e. those violations which can increase the risk of foodborne illness) for 2006, 2007 and the first two quarters of 2008. As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, over 450 “hits” have been made to the 2008 first quarter database alone.

More information about the program and to view inspection scores, please visit our website at: <http://www.manchesternh.gov/website/Departments/Health/Inspections>

### Heavy Rains and Swimming Pains

Each year from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Environmental Health Division conducts weekly water sampling at various bodies of water through out the City in which citizens swim and/or conduct recreational activities. Due in great part to the heavy rain events that we have experienced this summer, the levels of bacterial contamination along the Merrimack and Piscatoquog Rivers have been higher than normal (i.e. exceeding the standard of 88 E. coli per 100 ml of water).

To view the results of our weekly water sampling program, please visit our website at: <http://www.manchesternh.gov/website/Departments/Health/Services/WaterQuality>

## School Health Division

**Safe Routes To School:** A Neighborhood “Walkability Assessment” was conducted on June 17<sup>th</sup> in the Henry Wilson Elementary School area. This assessment is part of the evaluation for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, and provided an in-depth review of the current infrastructure (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks, street lights/signs) in the neighborhood. Subsequently, a presentation was made of the proposed activities for funding in the SRTS grant application to the Statewide Advisory Committee, which will determine the programs that are granted approval for funding. The SRTS Task Force should be notified by the middle of August if their proposal was selected for funding.

## Monthly Spotlight

The Weed & Seed strategy, in partnership with the Manchester Police Department, will be hosting two “meet and greet” opportunities for neighborhood watch groups and community residents. During these meetings, Chief David Mara will present his vision for community policing in Manchester. The meetings will be held:

Date	Time	Location
August 12, 2008	6:30 pm	MPAL/Officer Briggs Community Center, 409 Beech Street
August 19, 2008	6:30 pm	William B. Cashin Senior Center, 151 Douglas Street

For more information, please contact Officer Mark Ampuja, Weed & Seed Officer within the Community Police Division at the Manchester Police Department (603) 628-6132 ext. 313 or by email: [mampuja@manchesternh.gov](mailto:mampuja@manchesternh.gov)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-6466