



Northeast District Department of Health

69 South Main Street, Unit 4, Brooklyn, CT 06234
860-774-7350 / Fax 860-774-1308 www.nddh.org

PRESS RELEASE

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Contacts: Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD, Director of Health
860-774-7350 x. 119 / sstarkey@nddh.org
Linda J. Colangelo, Education and Communications Coordinator
860-774-7350 x. 114 / lcolangelo@nddh.org

Northeast District Department of Health Recognized for Contributions National Public Health Workers Day Observed with Reception by DPH Commissioner

(BROOKLYN) – The Northeast District Department of Health was recognized recently by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) as part of National Public Health Workers Day, observed on November 21st.

Public health professionals from Connecticut’s 34 municipal health departments, 20 districts, and seven part time departments were invited to a reception at the DPH Public Health Laboratory in Rocky Hill where Commissioner Manisha Juthani and the team from DPH honored their local health colleagues and presented each health department and district with an Official Statement from Governor Ned Lamont.

Representing the Northeast District Department of Health were Public Health Programs Manager Amanda Gonzalez and Public Health Programs Specialist Isaac Combs.

“Being acknowledged by the DPH, Commissioner Juthani, and Governor Lamont for the efforts we made throughout the pandemic and the work that we continue to do was not only important but validating,” said Combs. “We were reminded that public health typically works in the background preventing illness and addressing health disparities and inequities...so our work often goes unnoticed. COVID-19 brought public health to the forefront and gave communities an idea of the importance of what we do daily.”

Lamont’s statement, in part, conveyed honor and recognition to “the countless brave individuals in the public health sector who have worked with steadfast determination to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our shared community.” It paid tribute to those who are employed in the public health field and the many volunteers who supported COVID-19 response efforts, and in doing so, “prevented the worst of possible health outcomes during a moment of unprecedented crisis.”

“I am so very proud of the NDDH team and grateful for the dedication they display in delivering essential public health services whether it’s on ordinary days or during extraordinary times,” commented NDDH Director of Health Sue Starkey.

Throughout the pandemic, NDDH provided national, state, and local updates; procured personal protective equipment for community partners; coordinated COVID-19 testing services; conducted contact tracing; convened town leaders, schools, business and non-profit leaders to discuss mitigation strategies; provided education and training on COVID and accessing vaccinations; and recently administered their 15,000th dose of COVID vaccine.

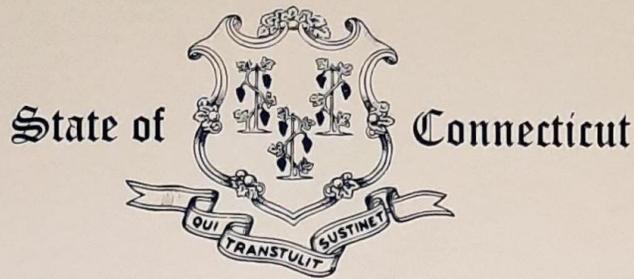
“We are so grateful to have such a skilled team of professionals, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, and community partners,” commented NDDH’s Amanda Gonzalez. “Isaac and I were honored to represent NDDH and are proud to extend the thanks of our state partners to everyone who works to better the health and well-being of our NDDH communities.”

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(Pictured left to right) Isaac Combs, Northeast District Department of Health Public Health Programs Specialist; CT DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani; and NDDH Public Health Programs Manager Amanda Gonzalez during a reception recognizing National Public Health Workers Day, Monday, November 21, 2022 in Rocky Hill, CT.



Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD, and DPH team members honored their colleagues from local health departments and districts as part of National Public Health Workers Day on November 21, 2022.



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

On behalf of the State of Connecticut,
I, Ned Lamont, Governor, take great
pleasure in honoring and recognizing

Northeast District Department of Health
in celebration of
National Public Health Workers Day
on
November 21, 2022

The Monday before Thanksgiving each year is observed by the *American Public Health Association* and *Research!America* as **National Public Health Workers Day** – to highlight and celebrate the profound contributions and sacrifices made by the public health workforce throughout the United States. This year, the State of Connecticut joins these and other distinguished public health organizations in paying tribute to the countless brave individuals in the public health sector who have worked with steadfast determination to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our shared community.

This year, I would like to convey sincere appreciation to the many residents who are employed by or volunteered for one of our public health districts, departments, or Tribal health offices throughout Connecticut – who valiantly rose to the occasion during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in doing so prevented the worst of possible health outcomes during a moment of unprecedented crisis. By coordinating public health services for the wellbeing of all community members – in particular our most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, homebound, low-income, and uninsured – local health organizations provided testing services, epidemiological investigations, medical material distribution, disease monitoring, and more. The courageous efforts made by your respective organizations over the past several years are deserving of the highest of praise. Each and every one of you is a testament to the power of the indomitable human spirit, and the successes that are accomplished when we work together united toward a common goal. The State of Connecticut owes you a debt of gratitude for the heroic deeds you have made, and continue to make, throughout the pandemic, as we thoughtfully put the knowledge we have gained into practice. The results you have achieved to make Connecticut once again, a safe and healthy place for all, are deserving of the highest of praise.

Therefore, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut,
on this day of Monday, November 21, 2022, do hereby
officially convey honor and recognition upon

Northeast District Department of Health
in the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR