



North Central District Health Department

- Enfield—31 North Main Street, Enfield, CT 06082 * (860) 745-0383 Fax (860) 745-3188
- Vernon—375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 120, Vernon, CT 06066 * (860) 872-1501 Fax (860) 872 1531
- Windham—Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226 * (860) 465-3033 Fax (860) 465-3034
- Stafford—Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 * (860) 684-5609 Fax (860) 684-1768

Patrice A. Sulik, MPH, R.S.
Director of Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 28, 2016

CONTACT: PATRICE SULIK, 860-745-0383

Recognizing Public Health Accomplishments *NCDHD Celebrates National Public Health Week*

April 4-10 is National Public Health Week. It is a weeklong celebration that focuses public attention on state, community and individual efforts aimed at preventing public health problems. The American Public Health Association sets aside this week each year to raise awareness of the important role that public health and prevention play in keeping communities healthy. The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) celebrates National Public Health week by encouraging residents to learn more about public health and what their local health department/district does for them.

“National Public Health Week is a time for us to reflect on all the advances that have been made in public health,” said Patrice Sulik, NCDHD Director of Health. “I am proud to be part of such a dedicated profession who values the health of people and encourages people to live healthier lives.”

Public health strives to protect and improve the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention, and detection and control of infectious disease. This is accomplished by implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) some of the many accomplishments in public health in the 21st century include:

- Life expectancy increased by 25 years in Americans.
- New vaccines, such as pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and rotavirus vaccinations, assisted in the decline of cases, hospitalizations, deaths and health-care costs associated with vaccine preventable diseases.
- Improvements in state and local public health infrastructures along with innovative and targeted prevention efforts has helped to control the spread of infectious diseases.
- Death rates for coronary heart disease and stroke have declined. Stroke is now the fourth leading cause of death in the United States instead of the third leading cause of death.
- Tremendous improvements have been made in public health's ability to respond to emergencies. Public health has expanded their capacity to respond and have focused on improving laboratory, epidemiology, surveillance, and response capabilities for public health systems.

Board member, Ben Rodriguez of Suffield, states, "Public health accomplishments often go unrecognized. That is why I want to take the time to thank public health professionals in our communities for all they do in preventing disease and promoting healthy lifestyles."

###

About NCDHD

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) serves the communities of Enfield, East Windsor, Ellington, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham, and Windsor Locks. NCDHD is a full-time public health department with a full-time staff funded by its member towns and an annual per

capita grant from the Connecticut State Department of Public Health. NCDHD provides professional public health services in the areas of health education and disease prevention, environmental health and emergency preparedness. The mission of NCDHD is to prevent disease, injury, and disability by promoting and protecting the health and well-being of the public and our environment.

For more information about NCDHD visit www.ncdhd.org.