

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

	2003*	2004*	2005*
Annual Flu Clinic	201	280	196
Pneumonia	0	17	0
Lyme Disease	3	9	16
Bacteriosis	0	2	1
Annual Rabies Clinic	50	47	50
Percolation Tests	33	66	52
Septic Systems – Installed/Repaired	49	68	44
Well Permits	10	13	21
Septage Haulers Permits Issued	4	4	4
Disposal Works Installers Licenses Issued	19	16	17
Food Service Establishment Permits Issued	29	29	28
Public Swimming Pool Permits	1	1	1
Health / Nuisance Complaints	5	11	3
No. of gallons of Hazardous Household Waste Collected	420	495	490

*(Numbers based on calendar year)

The Transfer Station is being used by approximately 657 households, where 482 tons of solid waste and 181 tons of recyclable materials were processed. Last year, the Board of Selectmen/Health voted to join about 90 other municipalities in western Massachusetts to take all recyclables to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield. For more information on how to use the transfer station, please refer to the Transfer Station Information section of this Town Report.

On April 2, 2005, we held our annual Rabies Clinic at the Highway Department Town Garage, where 50 dogs/cats were vaccinated. Many thanks to Dr. Penny Peck for her time and to our Town Clerk, Eva Wiseman, for her help in issuing dog licenses, and to the Girl Scouts, who, once again, lent a hand in organizing this important annual event.

On September 10, we participated in the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Day held at Minnechaug Regional High School. During this event, 490 gallons of hazardous waste from our Town were disposed of properly. The event also took in 50 mercury fever thermometers for exchange. Please contact the Board of Health office for more information on what materials are accepted during the event. September 2006 is the next hazardous waste collection month.

The board held a flu clinic on November 10, 2005. One hundred ninety-six individuals were vaccinated for influenza. Many thanks to the Council on Aging volunteers, nurses Judy Hatch, Bea Moriarty, and volunteers that helped make this event a successful one.

The Board of Health has continued to work with the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) in preparation for an emergency response plan. The Towns of Hampden and Wilbraham have worked together to develop an Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) and Staging area in order to effectively inoculate the residents of both towns, as required. The funds provided by the HCHC have enabled the town(s) to purchase computers, audio-visual items, a state of the art refrigerator for storage and monitoring of vaccines, "Go-Kits" that provide the essential administrative components for EDS, scanners, weather radios, infra-red thermometers, stethoscopes and medical bags. All of these items are essential in the preparation and implementation of an emergency response. The upcoming year will continue to focus on

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH P2

increasing the capacity, capability and level of preparedness for routine and emergency public health events.

Well water testing for Coliform bacteria is now available throughout the year. Sterile sample bottles may be picked up from the BOH office with instructions on how to properly draw a water sample. Residents are responsible for taking their sample to the laboratory for testing and for the cost. Con-Test Labs located in East Longmeadow charges \$50.00** a sample, and there are other local labs that may be used.

We encourage you to visit our website, www.hampden.org, to access forms required for percolation testing, disposal works construction application, Title V information and links, Transfer Station information, upcoming events, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane E. Mosier, Chairman

**Cost of water testing subject to change based on Con-Test Lab prices.