



Connecticut Environmental Health Association

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

Volume 48, Issue 2

Summer 2020

President's Message

Hello fellow CEHA members, 2020 has brought on a variety of obstacles both professionally and personally. Some days it feels like a dream, more so a nightmare, of "new normal". The lessons we have learned along the way and a shift of perspective and focus on so many levels. Could we even imagine what 2020 had in store for us??? A global pandemic and another emerging complex public health crisis involving racial disparities in our Country. Our role in environmental health, as you all know, is about regulating and educating those we permit or license to protect the overall health of the public and our environment. The COVID-19 pandemic has required even more of our valuable time and attention. We are learning and providing new services daily, the distribution of State allocated PPE, contact tracing, education on how to properly wear a mask, reopening CT guidance, self-certification, enforcing social distancing requirements.....etc. Three or four months ago social distancing wasn't even a utilized phrase, but now it's commonly used in our profession and society in general.



I have never felt so valued in Local Health, the public, our licensed contractors, and our establishments have been constantly turning to us for guidance as this pandemic unfolds. So, where does that leave us?

Perhaps this is our opportunity to highlight public health, to brand and recognize those commendable contributions we make daily. Those extra hours all of you have been putting in because you acknowledge the role you play in your communities. The constant information overloading and juggling regular priorities has been challenging these last 4 months. (How wonderful does a tropical vacation sound about now?) The fact remains that public health is receiving heightened publicity, although it is on the heels of something crippling to so many. I am hopeful the public, State leadership, and other professions, will appreciate the work we all love to do!

On another note, it is officially summer in Connecticut! Get outside and have a safe and healthy summer, remember to stay hydrated.

In health,

Mindy Chambrelli, RS, REHS

BOARD MEMBERS/COMMITTEES

- Mindy Chambrelli, President
- Kevin Elak, President-Elect
- Chris Buter, Vice President
- Scott A. Cook, Treasurer
- Charles Motes, Jr., Secretary
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- Elizabeth Kavanah, Legislative
- Maryam Hosseini, Membership
- Phyllis Amodio, Nominations/Elections
- Erica Mikulak, Scholarships/Awards
- Dianne Harding, Education
- Heather Oatis, Publicity
- Steven Yenco, Food
- Kristen Amodio, Housing/Lead
- Brian Falkner, Body Arts/Personal Services
- Jeff Polhemus/Ryan McCammon, Subsurface Sewage
- Don Kendrick, Private Well
- Newsletter Editing by Lisa Yu*

In This Issue

- Board Members/Committees Updates
- Scholarships Awards
- COVID-19 News from Health Departments
- Announcements

Next Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, 12pm, August 12, 2020

Via Zoom

Please email [Mindy Chambrelli](mailto:Mindy.Chambrelli), if you are interested in attending!

*The nomination form for the positions of Vice President and Secretary for 2020-2021 CEHA Executive Board will be emailed to our membership soon .

UPDATES FROM CEHA BOARD MEMBERS



Legislative

2020 legislative session is February 5, 2020 - May 6, 2020.
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/>

Couple of things you can do to stay informed and advocate for your interests:

- Enroll with your state representative's Facebook page and twitter (if you are on twitter and Facebook) and sign-up for updates via their web sites, in particularly if they are on the public health committee. Public health committee chairs will be identified by the start of session.
- Let us know if you have an idea to advance legislative proposals surrounding environmental health
- DPH has plans to submit several proposals these environmental concerns include water and tattoo technician changes.

Consider registering for the public health advocacy course seminar on February 8th at SCSU

– email AdvocacyTraining2020@gmail.com

-Committee co-chairs Suzanne Blancaflor, Elizabeth Kavanah

Upcoming Trainings

- Alternative Sources of Lead Webinar on July 23rd at 1pm
- Lead Refreshers (See CT Train for Registration)

Education

“THIS IS NOT A DRILL”

During the past 3 months we have been experiencing an extreme example of “just in time” training. A real life, present time and presumably on-going education in the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Local health departments are on the front lines of this “war”. The battles are constant and ever-changing with new challenges and responsibilities (e.g. contact tracing, closure of regulated facilities, inspections of those allowed to remain open in a modified way, reopening the regulated according to phases, informing businesses and the public about our interpretation of the minutiae within sector rules, whistleblower complaints, etc...). Hopefully, utilizing our gained knowledge and with perseverance we will confront and defeat this global menace.

Unfortunately, because of social distancing and other constraints the following CEHA planned events have been cancelled: the July summer meeting at Hammonasset State Park and the Yankee Conference in Rhode Island scheduled for September.

Understandably, between pandemic related and the usual mandatory activities there is not much time to contemplate additional endeavors. The links below have been provided as a few free educational opportunities that may still be available.

<http://www.afdo.org/AFDO-professional-training>

<https://www.neha.org/professional-development/education-and-training/neha-e-learning>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/elearn/index.htm>

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world”

-Dianne Harding, CEHA Education Chair 860-989-9582

Lead

Notification regarding the online refresher course will be sent out to local health inspectors over the next 5 weeks. Invitations are being spaced out according to who was registered for which course before they were canceled. You will be able to register through CT Train and there are 15 modules and you can do all at once or space of a course of a few days as your scheduled permits. There will be a link provided in the email that Jim will send you.

There is also a webinar that will be held on 7/23/20 from 1-3pm on "Alternative Sources of Lead". There will be more information to follow.

- Kristen Amodio, Lead Committee

Scholarships and Awards

There is still time to apply!! What are you waiting for?

Applications for the Marvin L. Smith Scholarship and the Joe Hock Yankee Scholarship are available on our CEHA Website. Please make to fill out applications completely and send to the Scholarships and Awards chair address listed in the application. This is a great opportunity for individuals majoring in a Bachelor's of Science degree in Public Health or furthering their education by obtaining a Master's degree in Public Health. The Scholarship amounts are listed below. The deadline to Apply is SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2020.

Marvin L. Smith Scholarship \$1500.00

Joe Hock Yankee Scholarship \$1,000.00.

Also, please don't forget to apply for the two awards that are given for excellence and give the highest recognition to professionals in the Environmental Health field of Public Health.

Raymond W. Brunelle Award (Connecticut Sanitarian of the Year)

Robert C. Perriello Award

These applications for the Awards are available on the CEHA website under Scholarships and Awards tab. Deadlines are posted on the nomination applications.

-Erica Mikulak

Subsurface Sewage Committee

"The CEHA Subsurface Sewage Committee met June 18 to discuss upcoming projects. First and foremost, is a series of short videos designed to offer training for new and experienced sanitarians on basic septic system inspections; such as staking, scarification, sewer lines, tanks, distribution and leaching systems. Co-Chair Jeff Polhemus presented the first draft video as a staking inspection, with the hope of creating a series available through the CEHA website in Fall 2020. Anyone interested in assisting with this, please feel free to contact Ryan or Jeff (info below).

We are also starting the process of planning for the 2021 Soils Training and are looking for volunteers to assist with planning and eventually volunteering for fall of 2021. Let us know if you want to help out.

Lastly, the DPH Environmental Engineering Division is on track for a potential Technical Standards update in 2021. The code advisory committee (a collection of CEHA, COWRA, DPH, DEEP, Engineers, surveyors and builders) will likely meet via conference call in the coming weeks to discuss potential changes. If you have any proposed changes to the Tech Standards, please notified Jeff or Ryan.

Our next CEHA Subsurface meeting will be a zoom meeting on August 20, likely in the afternoon, details to follow.

-Ryan McCammon, ryan.mccammon@chathamhealth.org
-Jeff Polhemus, jeffpolh@yahoo.com"

Salon New Licensing Requirements

Questions & Answers:

1. **If you hold a cosmetology license will you still need to acquire a separate nail license?** Yes, you will require a Nail Technician License.
2. **Is there a grouped license for providing services?** Yes the only licenses that can be applied for in combination are Esthetician, eyelash technician and nail technician.
3. **In the State of Connecticut a cosmetology license currently covers nails, waxing and hair. Will this still hold true?** No, the language passed by the legislature in Public Act 19-117 Sec. 204 removed manicuring from the hairdresser/cosmetologists scope of practice.
4. **Is there an approved esthetician, nail or eyelash tech School at this time?** No, the only current path to licensure is by meeting the experience requirement.
5. **Will we need to acquire a separate nail license if we are a licensed Esthetician? Esthetics programs do teach nails not sure if the state is recognizing that?** Yes, you will need a separate Nail Technician license.
6. **Is a license required to do waxing?** Waxing is covered under the Esthetician license, Cosmetology is not.
7. **Is license required to apply make-up?** Make up services offered in a salon is covered under the Cosmetology or Esthetics license.
8. **Estheticians are currently licensed out of state, looks like they can all apply for a temporary license that will hold them for 120 calendar days. Will they need to acquire a CT license to practice esthetics after the 120 days?** Once DPH receives their completed application along with the fee and the required documents, they will issue a temporary license that is valid for 120 days and it's not renewable. See below from DPH website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing--Investigations/Esthetician/Practice-Act>
9. **Micro-blading and permanent makeup.** At this time a Tattoo Technician License is required to perform these services.
10. **Who can provide Lash Lifting and Tinting?** Eyelash Technicians and Sec. 191 (4) Esthetics means services related to skin care treatments, (A) including, but not limited to, cleansing, toning, stimulating, exfoliating or performing any similar procedure on the human body while using cosmetic preparations, hands, devices, apparatus or appliances to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin; makeup application; *beautifying lashes and brows*; or removing unwanted hair using manual and mechanical means, and (B) excluding the use of a prescriptive laser device; the performance of a cosmetic medical procedure, as defined in section 19a-903c of the general statutes; any practice, activity or treatment that constitutes the practice of medicine; makeup application at a rented kiosk located in a shopping center or the practice of hairdressing and cosmetology by a hairdresser and cosmetician licensed pursuant to chapter 387 of the general statutes that is within such licensee's scope of practice;

The language that was passed to establish these new professions clearly state that an eyelash technician license will be required to perform eyelash extensions, eyelash lifts or perms and eyelash color tints. The Department is working on guidance through a declaratory ruling or statutory change to determine if the term "beautifying lashes and brows" in the esthetician scope of practice includes eyelash extensions, eyelash lifts or perms and eyelash color tints. In the meantime, a complaint related to an esthetician or eyelash technician providing these services in a manner that does not conform to the accepted standards of the profession should be reported to the Department of Public Health.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR COLLEAGUES

Danbury Health Department

The City of Danbury Department of Health and Human Services has been approaching the COVID-19 response from all angles. We transformed a local motel into a shelter to house the city's most vulnerable populations during this crisis. We have sheltered 70+ individuals over the course of these last few months and hired and trained new staff to cover the shelter 24 hours a day. The environmental health team has been working diligently to conduct telephone, drive by, and in person inspections for food service establishments, salon and body care facilities, and fitness centers. They also approved and inspected over 70 permit applications for outdoor dining to ensure safety and compliance with state guidelines. A team of contact tracers have been working hard to reach out to cases to identify any close contacts in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 and have been about to contact over 400 cases since the efforts began. We have also been collaborating with community health organizations to facilitate testing for the community, first responders, city employees, and shelter residents. The department has vastly increased communication with local businesses to provide them with the latest COVID-19 updates and has coordinated mass distribution of PPE to small businesses.



This has absolutely nothing to do with Environmental or Public Health. I am operating a radio station conducting Radio-Telephone patches to United States federal (military) aircraft. Otherwise I'm retired and doing nothing in the Public Health arena.

- Chuck Motes

Cromwell Health Department



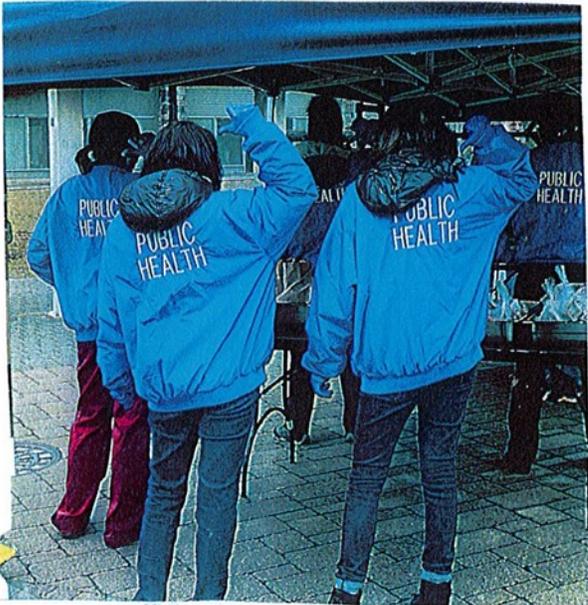
Here is a pic of our Cromwell School District re-opening committee meeting. We have also been busy distributing PPE, meeting with establishments on procedures regarding compliance with sector rules and contact tracing. We have also been holding regular zoom town hall type meetings with establishments and residents regarding COVID-19 concerns. Additionally, we have been collaborating with our local chamber of commerce, hospital, fire and police departments. The department is also a key player in our unified command structure regarding the pandemic.



Bristol-Burlington Health Department



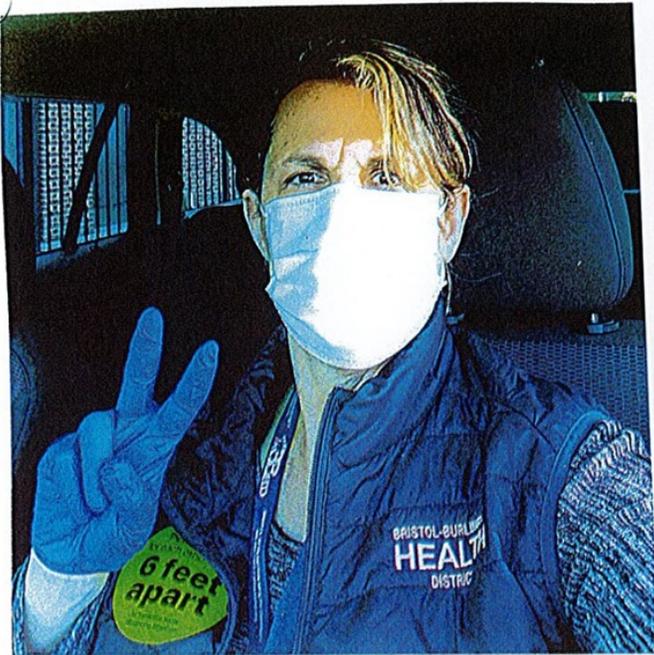
BBHD in a joint venture with Bristol Hospital set up one of the first drive thru testing sites in CT.



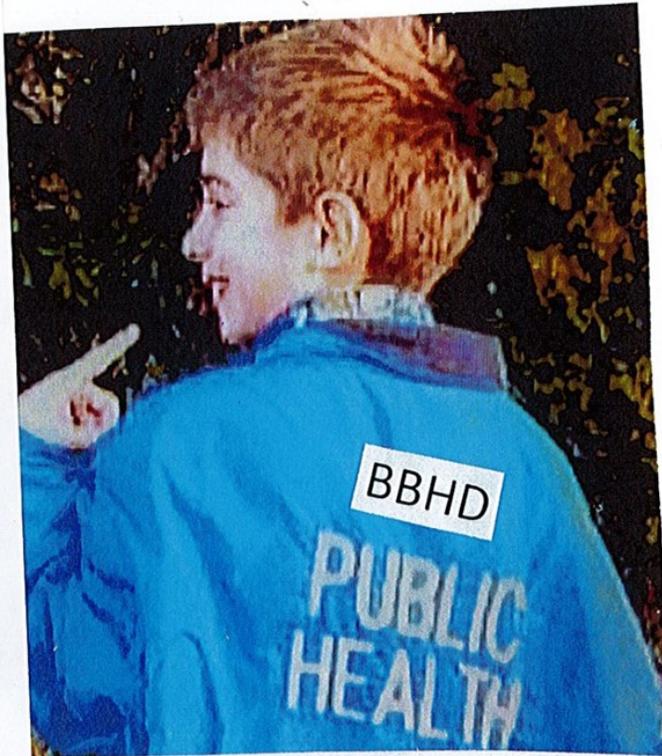
BBHD staff working at the food distribution sites for the Bristol school students.



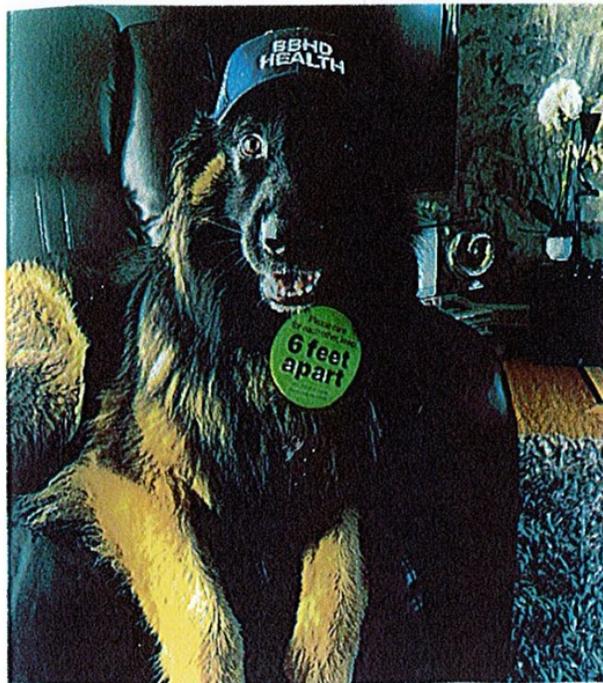
Erica Mikulak and Nicolette Arrotti from BBHD picking up PPE supplies.



Phyllis Amodio Chief Sanitarian BBHD doing her best to keep the peace throughout the pandemic



Thank you to friends, colleagues, and "future" Environmental Public Health Professionals working in CT. to fight against COVID-19.



BBHD official pandemic response dog helping to spread the message to continue practicing social distancing while CT Reopens

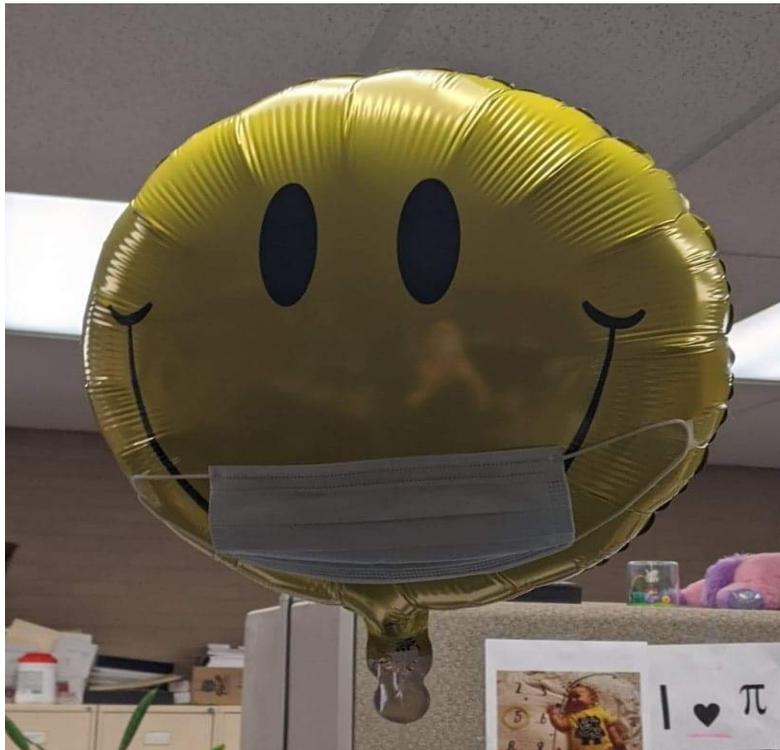
Can you guess who is underneath the mask??







CEHA Zoom Meeting



Health Department Spotlight

Do you want to have your Health Department featured in the next issue of the CEHA newsletter? Contact [Heather Oatis](#) for more information!

Check out our CEHA shop!

<https://ceha.wildapricot.org/Sys/Store/Products/14878>



[Stainless Steel Insulated Tumbler](#)
\$15.00



[65th Anniversary Coffee Mug](#)
\$10.00



[Reusable Stainless Steel Straw](#)
\$5.00



[Reusable Shopping Bag](#)
\$5.00

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