



AGENCIES

Image above: The Eastern Highlands Health District's web page. The Town of Coventry is a member of this health district.

EASTERN HIGHLANDS HEALTH DISTRICT

Robert Miller, Director

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, and Mansfield established the Eastern Highlands Health District on June 6, 1997 as a cooperative effort to pool their resources and create a regional full-time professional health department. Reducing costs and improving both the scope and quality of public health services in the community were the objectives of establishing the District. Seven more towns joined between 2000 and 2005: Andover, Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Scotland, Tolland and Willington. The Eastern Highlands Health District is committed to enhancing the quality of life in its communities through the prevention of illness, promotions of wellness and protection of our human environment. The pursuit of this mission is realized by assuring that other community agencies provide certain public health services within the region and by providing specific public health services directly. The services directly provided include a communicable disease control program, public health education, community assessment and public health planning, emergency preparedness and a comprehensive environmental health program. The main components of the environmental health program include on-site subsurface sewage disposal permitting, complaint investigation program, food establishment licensing and inspection, and environmental monitoring program.

Accomplishments for FY 2014-2015

- Board of Directors adoption of an operating budget of \$791,691 for FY 15/16, which is a 3.3% increase from the previous fiscal year.
- Executed contract, and kicked off project with ViewPoint Government Solutions to provide online permit application, tracking, and mobile inspection support services.
- Awarded a \$100,000 grant from the American Planning Association to implement the Plan4Health initiative.
- Milestones in public health emergency preparedness activities for this year includes: ebola monitoring and response; medical reserve corps drill in June; and various updates for public health emergency preparedness plans.
- Salient projects and initiatives in support of specific member towns includes: technical and public informational support of the proposed four corners community sewer project (Mansfield); reviewed and commented on proposed tank pumping ordinance (Columbia); provided technical support to DEEP grant proposal to protect Crandall's Pond watershed (Tolland); ongoing support of lower Bolton lake sewer project (Bolton), Tobacco Free Open space initiative (Coventry, Mansfield)
- Communicable disease control activities included review and follow up (as needed) of 1553 case reports; and, conducted 10 disease outbreak or individual case investigations.
- Main indicators for environmental health activity in Coventry include: 192 site inspections for septic systems; 55 septic permits issued; 39 well permits issued; 12 complaints investigated; 184 environmental samples taken for lab analysis; 221 food establishment inspections and other health inspections; 86 B100a building permit reviews; and, 149 test pits and perc tests.

Plans for FY 2015-2016

- Main health district office record keeping, workstation, and storage re-organization
- Implementation of health district communication and public awareness plan
- Complete implementation of web based permitting, licensing and inspection software
- Address the individual public health needs of member towns as they arise