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## **GO Health 2023: A Year in Review**

As we say goodbye to 2023, the Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments (GO Health) would like to wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year! This was a busy and successful year as staff continued to work towards Public Health Accreditation and provide needed services to the community.

The **Community Health Services** team continues to actively address health issues that are impacting Genesee and Orleans County residents. This includes monitoring and containing the spread of disease, offering public health education, and providing direct patient care. Throughout 2023, there were approximately 510 vaccines administered at routine immunization clinics. Additionally, 44 individuals received post-exposure rabies treatment after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal. Moreover, 665 vaccines were administered and 567 various healthcare services were provided on-site to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Staff also conducted roughly 491 communicable disease investigations.

**Environmental Health** staff continue to regulate permitted facilities throughout Genesee and Orleans Counties through compliance with the New York State (NYS) Sanitary Code. They help ensure the community is safe from foodborne illnesses by conducting inspections of food service establishments. Staff routinely inspect septic systems, monitor Public Water Supplies, enforce the NYS Clean Indoor Air Act, offer free rabies clinics, and enforce the Sanitary Code across several other significant program areas. The Lead Program continues to educate and provide outreach to enhance lead poisoning prevention and promote lead testing for children. GO Health has been awarded several grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address lead hazards and prevent childhood lead poisoning throughout the entire Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming (GLOW) region.

Staff within our **Children with Special Needs Programs** work with families of our youngest children (age's birth to three) providing case management, education, support, and referrals. Some of the services children receive through this program are speech

therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and special education teacher services. For children with special needs, ages 3 to 5, the counties work with local school districts to ensure they receive the services that they need. The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs grant (for age's birth - 21) is now subcontracted with Independent Living of the Genesee Region. Having a full-time staff member devoted to this grant has led to a significant increase in referrals.

The **Public Health Education** team spent a great deal of time implementing activities to address priority areas detailed in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to reduce chronic disease and overdose deaths. Staff implemented Naloxone (Narcan) trainings and worked with local businesses and organizations to install Narcan Emergency Boxes. In addition, staff attended over 50 events in the community and educated over 4,000 residents on various public health topics. Along with community partners, the team implemented a Walkability Pop-up Demonstration on Bank Street in the city of Batavia to seek feedback from residents and area businesses on proposed changes.

**Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)** began 2023 reviewing the lessons learned about public sheltering and emergency messaging from the Winter Storm Elliot response. Attention to the air quality index was quickly incorporated into summer outreach efforts, along with increased awareness for cooling centers and precautions over heat alerts. Significant advances were achieved in plan development, partnership building, educational outreach, medical reserve corps (MRC) management, staff training and drills, and inventory and critical resource management. Some of these advances included the acquisition of a new mobile medical outreach vehicle in each county and the establishment of new platforms for the Ready Genesee and Orleans Aware preparedness apps.

**Weights & Measures** (W&M) tested and inspected over 1,130 commercial weighing and measuring devices within the two counties ensuring they satisfy NYS standards. The department also collected 120 fuel samples confirming fuel sold within both counties met a variety of parameters, handled 9 complaint investigations, and confirmed 4,290 item prices. 2023 Price Audits:

- 133 Overcharges (Prices at checkout were higher than shelf tags)
- 63 Undercharges (Prices at checkout were lower than shelf tags)

Since transitioning to a department of one in 2020, W&M has shown savings of over \$200,000 – a direct county savings resulting from our shared services agreement.

“It has been a pleasure for us to serve the residents of Genesee and Orleans Counties,” stated Paul Pettit, Public Health Director for GO Health. “We thank our community partners, volunteers, Board of Health members, and the Genesee and Orleans County Legislatures for their continued support and collaboration. We wish everyone a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year.”

For more information on Health Department programs and services, visit [GOHealthNY.org](http://GOHealthNY.org) or call your respective health department at:

- Genesee County: 585-344-2580 ext. 5555
- Orleans County: 585-589-3278

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