



# Town of Darien

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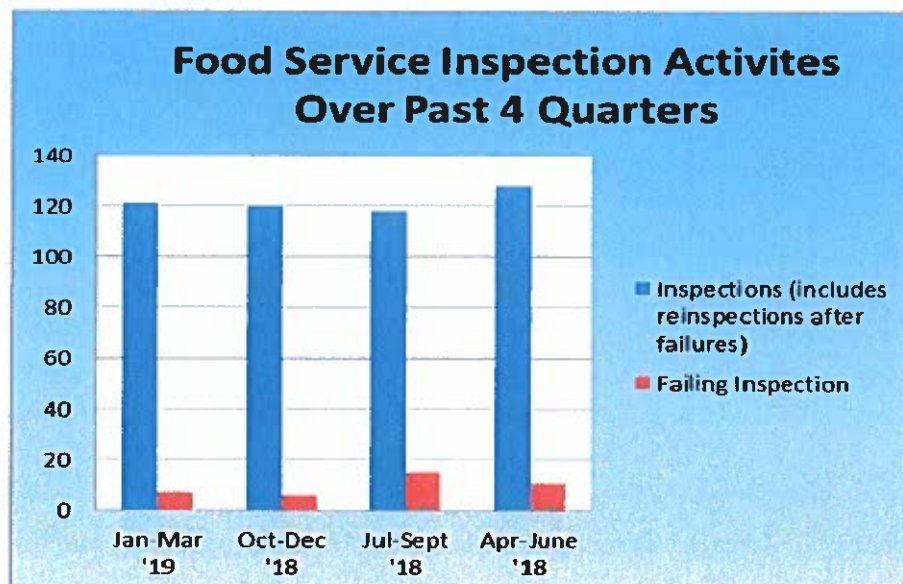
[www.darienhealth.com](http://www.darienhealth.com)

## Health Department

### April 2019 Quarterly Report to the Board of Selectmen

During this quarter, we begin the permitting and inspection of seasonal food service facilities and public pools. Water sampling at Weed and Pear Tree Point Beaches begins before Memorial Day and is conducted weekly through Labor Day. Other updates are as follows:

- Food Protection Program – Status of State Mandated Changes to the CT Public Health Code & impact on our Program – continued discussion.** There still has been no regulatory guidance issued by the State for regulations that were scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2019. As a result, DPH has proposed legislation to delay implementation until January 1, 2020. As previously described, the new CT Food Code will involve the use of an inspection form that does not have scoring system which completely changes how we perform inspections and enforce correction of violations. It will necessitate revision to the Ratings program, the fee schedule and our local regulations. We are working with other local health departments that issue Ratings to create a standardized approach to issuing Ratings throughout the State.
  - 155 Annual Food Service Permit renewal applications have been processed and all permits have been issued. Annual food service permits expire on January 1.
  - Permit applications and pre-opening inspections for seasonal food service facilities are beginning. Sixteen (16) seasonal permits were issued last year.
  - Website viewing of Ratings: Google Metrics reports there were 313 viewings of the Ratings page this past quarter, compared with 223 viewings in the last quarter of 2018. The website link also includes cosmetology salon inspection reports.



## Food Service Inspection Summary

### January 1 to March 31, 2019

- Inspections: 121 with 7 Failures (6% failure rate)  
Enforcement: 3 hearings & 4 reinspection fees due to multiple failing inspections within one year.
  - Temporary Events, after normal business hours – 3 events

### September 1 to December 31, 2018

- Inspections – 120 with 6 Failures (5% Failure Rate)  
Enforcement – 1 hearing; 3 reinspection fees assessed
  - Temporary Events – 8 events with 16 vendors

### July 1 to September 30, 2018

- Inspections – 118 with 15 failures (12.7% Failure Rate)  
Enforcement – 3 Hearings
  - Temporary Events – 9 events with 28 vendors

### April 1 to June 30, 2018

- Inspections – 128, with 11 Failures (8.6% Failure Rate)  
Enforcement – 2 Hearings
  - Temporary Events – 10 with 41 vendors

2. **Flu Prevention Program – Final Report FY 2018-19:** 320 doses of vaccine were ordered, 285 vaccinations were administered and there are 35 doses remaining. The Department held four clinics, two at the Senior Center and two at the Town Hall, and the public has access through our website to the on-line “Scheduler” to make an appointment with the Public Health Nurse.

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015- 16	2014-15
<b>Shots given</b>	285	250	208	296	333
<b>Doses ordered</b>	250* (320)	250* (340)	300	350	400

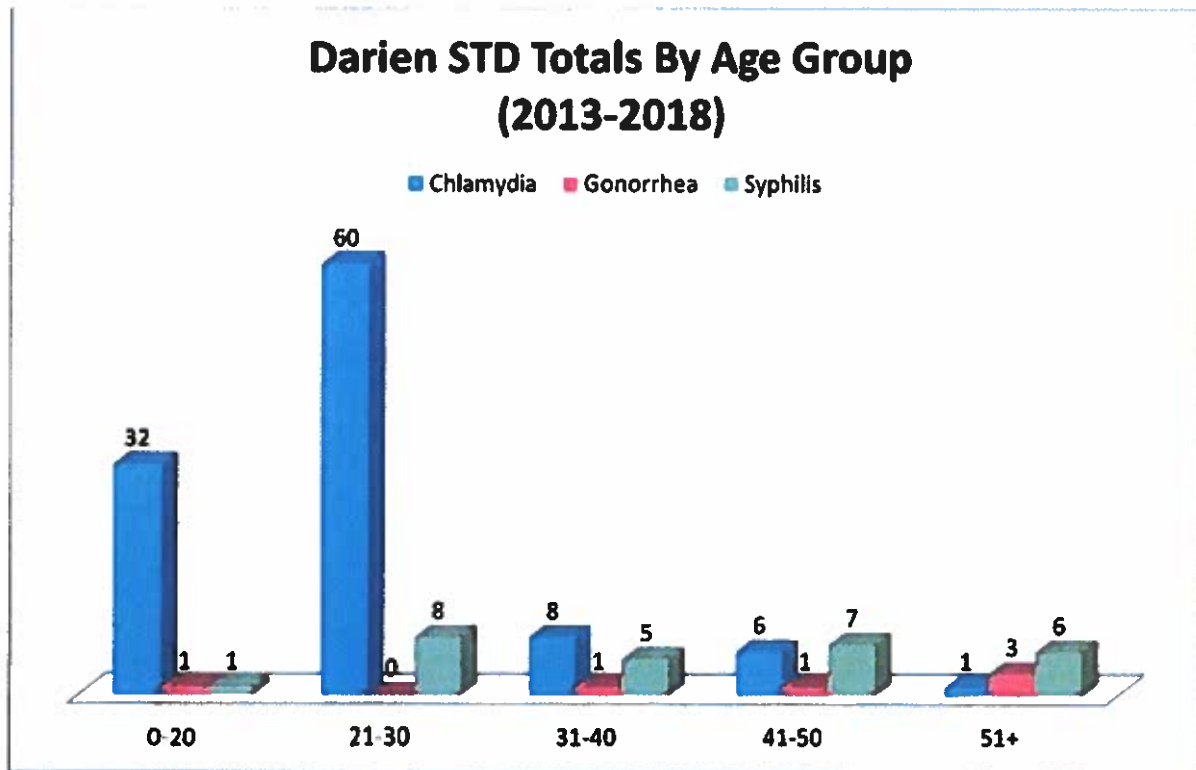
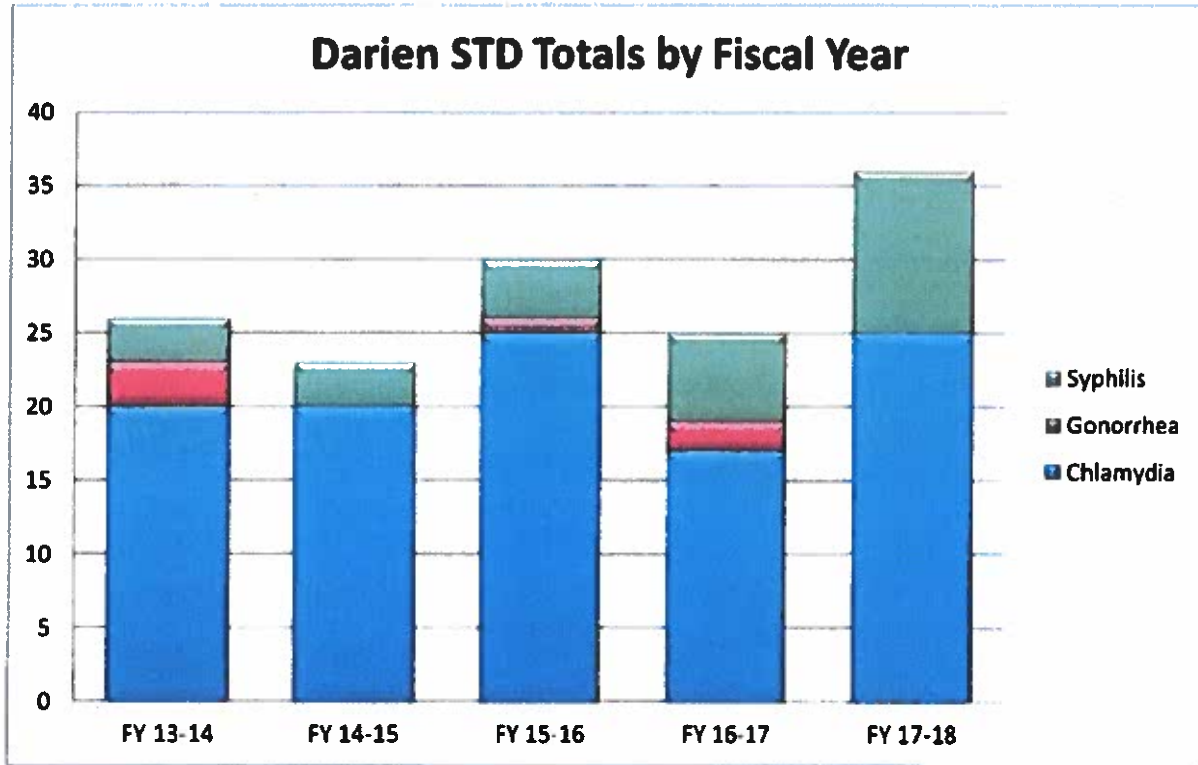
*Note:* \* is the original vaccine order. Number in parentheses is the final order.

- Our on-line scheduler has been utilized with 62 individuals making appointments for vaccine. 223 doses of vaccine were administered in four open clinics.

3. **Radon Testing Program** – Once again, this Department partnered with DPH to offer free radon test kits to residents. During the past winter, 24 kits were given out. We have received 12 test results with only one location found to be above the recommended EPA limit. In such cases, we provide residents with remediation information and guidance.

## 4. Reportable Diseases/conditions

- EMS Reports – falls remain the #1 reason for EMS calls. We are working with EMS to determine how many calls are substance abuse related.
- Syndromic surveillance system: with all the attention given to opioids and drug overdoses, since June 2018, alcohol related Emergency Rooms visits (59) outnumbered overdoses (24) for Darien residents.
- For the last quarter, flu surpassed STDs as the #1 reportable disease category. However, it is worth noting that, consistent with national trends, we are seeing an annual increase for syphilis in older age groups and continued high numbers of Chlamydia in the 18 – 24 year old age group (see attached chart).



*Source: Darien Health Department – Reportable Diseases Summary*

## 5. Upcoming Special Events

- *"What about Weed?"* A discussion about marijuana in the Town Hall Auditorium on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9:00 PM; co-sponsored by DHD. The intended audience is parents.
- *"Everything You Didn't Want to Know about Mosquitos and Ticks"* May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Library, Preliminary press release: Mosquito and Tick-borne Diseases are a major public health concern for Connecticut residents. Learn from Connecticut Agricultural Station scientists who examine ticks and evaluate methods to control ticks and mosquitoes to reduce infection, and from a local infectious disease physician who diagnoses and treats tick-borne and mosquito related diseases
- *Farmer's Market:* As we did last year, we will maintain a booth at the market once a month to provide free blood pressure screening along with public health advice and literature to shoppers.
- *"Salon Safety"* presentation planned for the fall to provide advice to consumers regarding health risks associated with services offered in cosmetology salons.

## 6. Seasonal Activities

- Ticks are once again being accepted and submitted for testing to the CAES, at no fee.
- In June, the State will again begin testing mosquitos captured in our two trapping stations for West Nile Virus. Public advisories will be issued as needed. As noted above, the Health Department will be sponsoring a presentation at the Library to discuss the State's monitoring program for diseases associated with mosquitos & ticks.
- Permit applications for public pools will be sent out soon and the inspection program begins before Memorial Day. Public pools are inspected and the water checked for pH and chlorine levels every other week throughout the summer.
- Beach water sampling begins the week before Memorial Day and continues weekly through Labor Day. We have a preemptive closure policy of notifying the Parks & Rec Dept. to close beaches whenever there is more than an inch of rain. We also maintain a beach HOTLINE to inform the public of any closures.

## 7. DNA Study Update: Long Island Sound

There has been considerable interest in the bacteriological source tracking DNA study we participated in along with two other health departments. Recently, research conference abstracts have been accepted for the following events:

- National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, Nashville Tennessee, July 2019
- Long Island Sound Research Conference, Port Jefferson, N.Y., "Microbial Source Tracking (MST) in Three CT Watersheds of Long Island Sound" presented March 15, 2019.

We have begun editing the work for journal publication and continue to seek funding to expand the study to actually determine the source of bacteria in Goodwives River.

## 8. Legislative Initiatives

This legislative session has not featured any proposal to require regionalization of local health departments, but there are several bills that would greatly impact our responsibilities thereby resulting in some significant increased fiscal implications for municipalities:

- HB 7133 would reduce the childhood blood level necessitating action by local health departments. To understand the impact, consider in 2016 there were 80 cases statewide that needed intervention; with the new standard, that number [statewide] would increase to 1150. While Directors of Health

support reducing the blood lead levels of children, we have testified against this bill unless significant increased funding is provided to enable the additional staffing and equipment such a regulation would necessitate.

- HB 6955 proposes the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), to be enforced by LHDs. While supporting the concept of Health Homes, Directors of Health have testified against the adoption of this unfunded mandate which would greatly expand the responsibilities of local health departments. The ideal application for the IPMC would be to serve as a State model which municipalities COULD adopt as their local Code.
- CT is the only state in the US that does not have educational and licensing requirements for estheticians, nail and eyelash technicians. HB 6742 would require State licensure of technicians, and the establishment of local regulations that would include a letter grading system with inspection results to be posted online. At this time, Darien is the only jurisdiction in CT that posts complete salon inspection reports on-line.
- The Governor's proposed budget includes a 20% cut in funding to local health departments. Since Darien does not meet the population requirement for funding, we receive no State per capita money so the cut will have no direct impact on our Department. Nonetheless, local directors of health have testified against reducing the State investment in public health, the proactive component of the health care system which has the stated goal of keeping people healthy through programs such as the ones reported on above that reduce the need for medical care.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
David Knauf, Director of Health  
April 10, 2019**