

OSWEGO COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

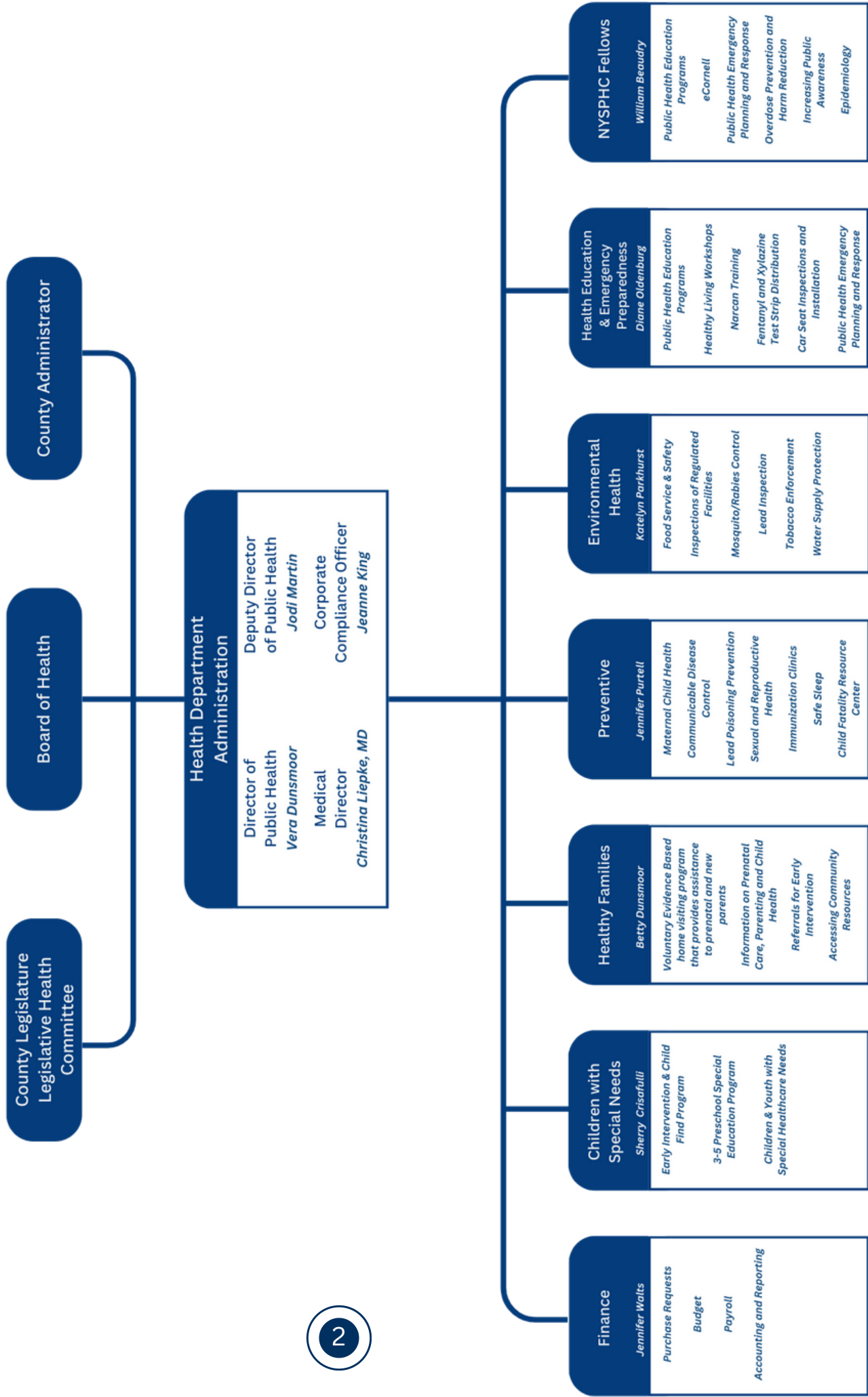
A healthy, thriving community for all



Table of Contents

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	2
NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR	3
MISSION, VISION & VALUES	4
10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	5
OCHD STAFF	6-7
STAFFING CHANGES	8
GOVERNING BODY	9
ACCREDITATION	10-11
CHA/CHIP & STRATEGIC PLAN	12
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	13
ENVIRONMENTAL	14
HEALTHY FAMILIES	15
HOSPICE UPDATE	16
NYSPHC FELLOWS	17
HEALTH EDUCATION & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	18
PREVENTIVE	19
CONTACT INFORMATION	20

Oswego County Health Department 2023 Organizational Chart



Note From the Director of Public Health



Vera J. Dunsmoor

MSNE, RN

Dunsmoor has more than 16 years of public health experience, joining the county health department in 2007. She has worked in various roles throughout her career with the county including public health nurse, supervising public health nurse, director of patient services and deputy director of public health.

She has also received several honors including being named on New York State's Public Health Works Honor Roll in 2020. This recognition honors public health workers who have helped make New York one of the healthiest states in the country.

Dear Community Members,

It is my pleasure to present the Oswego County Health Department's 2023 Annual Report, which highlights our accomplishments and the challenges faced over the past year.

We hope the detailed information provided in this report gives you, our stakeholders, a comprehensive overview of the Health Department's priorities and accomplishments.

We also welcome your suggestions on how we can continue to improve the way we provide programs and services to the residents of Oswego County.

I want to thank the community for your continued partnership that keeps us resilient, strong and prepared for whatever lies ahead. I also want to recognize all my colleagues for the work they do each day to protect and improve the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Vera Dunsmoor

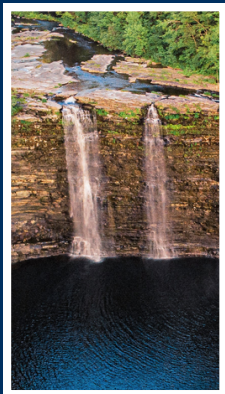
Vera J. Dunsmoor, MSNE, RN
Director of Public Health

Oswego County Health Department



Our Mission

A healthy, thriving community for all



Our Vision

To promote wellness, prevent disease,
and protect all who live, work, play or
learn in Oswego County



Our Values

Accountability, Collaboration,
Compassion, Education, Excellence, Health
Equity, Integrity, Service, Sustainability,
and Wellness

10 Essential Public Health Services

The following Ten Essential Public Health Services provide a working definition of public health and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of the local public health organization.

- 1 Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
- 2 Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- 3 Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- 4 Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- 5 Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- 6 Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- 7 Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- 8 Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
- 9 Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- 10 Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Source: CDC, <http://www.cdc.gov/nphsp/essentialservices.html>

OCHD Staff



Administration



Children with Special Needs



Environmental



Finance

OCHD Staff



Health Education



Healthy Families



NYSPHC Fellows



Preventive

2023 Staffing Changes

NEW STAFF:

- Charles Airebamen
 - Public Health Engineer
- Nazanin Anwary
 - Typist
- Emily Baker
 - Registered Nurse
- Amy Battles
 - Educational Specialist
- Lynne Bunce
 - Typist
- Sarah Cotton
 - Public Health Educator Assistant
- Amelia DeMento
 - Public Health Educator
- Brittany Ferguson
 - Senior Health Program Specialist
- Kelli King
 - Licensed Practical Nurse
- Jessica Lamb
 - Health Program Specialist
- Stacey Meyers
 - Special Education teacher
- Adriana Militello
 - Senior Health Program Specialist
- Danielle Pellino
 - Public Health Educator
- Hailey Smith
 - Public Health Technician
- Maxwell Sunday
 - Public Health Educator Assistant
- Samantha Whalen
 - Health Program Specialist

RETIREMENTS:

- Judy Naoti
 - Senior Account Clerk
 - 47 years
- Tina Bourgeois
 - Senior LPN
 - 31 years
- Mary D'Amico
 - Educational Specialist
 - 25 years
- Judith Grandy
 - Director of Environmental Health
 - 22 years
- Patricia Owens
 - Public Health Nurse
 - 11 years

Governing Body

Oswego County Board of Health

The Board of Health promotes the health and safety of the citizens of Oswego County. It serves to formulate, adopt, endorse, and enforce rules, regulations, and orders in accordance with the New York State Public Health Law and the New York State Sanitary Code.

Members:

- Hon. James Karasek, President
- Michael Egan, Vice President
- Marie Desravines, MD
- Ariane Hamblin-Smith, DVM
- Renante Ignacio, MD
- Kristin Nylen, DDS
- Selma Sheridan, MD

Legislative Health Committee

This committee oversees matters pertaining to public health and serves as a liaison between the Health Department and the Legislature.

Members:

- Hon. James Karasek, Chair
- Michael Solowy, Vice Chair
- Frank Castiglia
- Marc Greco
- Kevin Hill
- Richard Kline
- James Scanlon

The Journey to Accreditation

Estimated Timeline

Year 1 (2023-2024)

Year 2 (2024-2025)

Year 3 (2026)

Preparation

Application

Documentation

Review

Decision

Reports

The Oswego County Health Department is working towards accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board. By completing this process, the Health Department will implement a greater commitment to quality and performance improvement processes, improve team engagement, achieve higher standards of excellence, improve accountability and transparency, and improve relationships within the community we serve.

There are additional benefits of undergoing the accreditation process. The Health Department will be able to better serve the Oswego County community with an improved response to health emergencies, strengthened partnerships, access to more resources and the eligibility to receive additional funding.

91% of Accredited NY Health Departments reported accreditation has helped the health department document capacity to deliver the three core functions of public health and the Ten Essential Public Health Services.



Accreditation Process

Completed in 2023:

- Creation of an Accreditation Team
- Workplace Development Plan
- Building Wide Quality Improvement Plan implementation
- Strategic Planning
- Branding
- Policy & Procedure Review
- Signage
- Website remodeling
- Brochures

Goals for 2024:

- Submit readiness assessment
- Gather and submit required documentation
- Implement a performance management system



CHA/CHIP

See how Oswego County identified community needs and is addressing public health concerns.

Click [here](#) to visit the 2022-2024 Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan.

(<https://cms3.revize.com/revize/oswegonyhealth/CHA%20and%20CHIP%202022%20-%202024%20Final.pdf>)

Strategic Plan

View Oswego County Health Department's goals and action plan of steps to improve the organization.

Click [here](#) to visit the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

(<https://cms3.revize.com/revize/oswegonyhealth/Documents/about%20us/Strategic%20Plan%202023.pdf>)



Children and Youth with Special Needs

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs offers services for individuals from birth to 21 years of age who have or are suspected of having a serious or chronic condition and require health and related services of a type or amount beyond typically required by children. This division has many programs with different services:

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs:

- For youth ages 0-21 who have or are suspected of having a chronic condition, or a developmental and/or emotional condition that requires health related services.
- Services include advocating with providers, providing information about various programs, advocating with school districts, making referrals as needed, and more.

Early Intervention:

- For infants and toddlers from 0-3 who have developmental delays and disabilities.
- Services include full developmental evaluations, physical therapy, speech and occupational therapy, and service coordination.

3-5 Preschool Special Education Program:

- For children ages 3-5 who have developmental delays and disabilities.
- Provides services like education and physical evaluations, special education services, physical therapy, speech and occupational therapy, transportation and more.

Child Find:

- Tracks children ages 0-3 who are at risk for developmental delays.
- This program helps ensure that each child has a primary care provider who can complete periodic developmental screenings and tracking.

A Year in Review

- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program: 85 youth served- 165% increase from 2022
- Early Intervention: 512 children served- 1% increase from 2022
- Preschool Special Education Program: 558 children served- 7.3% increase from 2022
- Child Find: 277 referrals- 62% increase from 2022

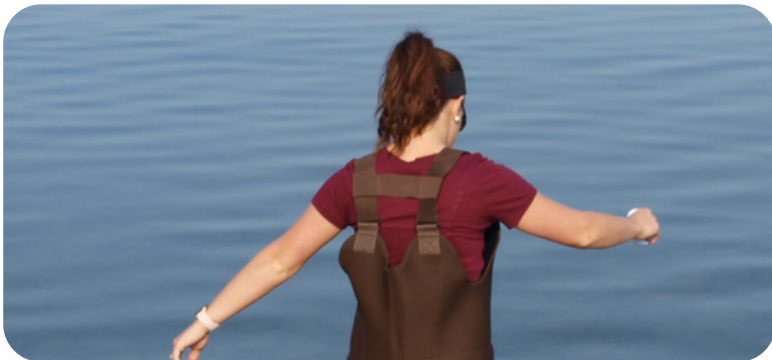


Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division helps Oswego County residents live healthier lives by protecting individuals from environmental threats to their health.

Some efforts are targeted to the population at large and follow the NYS Sanitary Code. This includes monitoring of public and private drinking water, food safety in restaurants, fire safety in hotels, permitting of mass gatherings and more.

Other programs target specific needs such as interventions to prevent illness from rabies, lead poisoning, failing septic systems, and sale of tobacco products to minors. Inspection, investigation, environmental response and ensuring compliance with environmental health regulations are key to safeguarding the public's health.



A Year in Review

- 23,769 mosquitoes submitted into 587 pools for EEE testing
- 10,263 acres sprayed
- 5,667 community phone calls
- 2,506 environmental samples collected
- 1,424 animals immunized for rabies
- 752 possible exposures investigated, and 44 humans post-exposure treatment referred
- 96 animals tested
- 1,433 inspections of regulated facilities
- 134 public health nuisance complaints investigated
- 165 engineering plans reviewed



Healthy Families

Healthy Families evidence-based home visiting program provides free services to pregnant and new parents. Healthy Families strives to talk with all expectant parents and parents of newborns in the community. The goal is to identify strengths and challenges, prenatally or at birth, and provide appropriate information and referrals to help babies get off to a healthy start until the child is 5 years old.

Support services include:

- Connecting clients with medical providers for prenatal/well-baby visits and immunizations.
- Providing information on prenatal care, parenting, infant and child development, and child health.
- Demonstrating activities for clients to practice with their child to increase bonding and to stimulate cognitive and physical development.
- Assessing the client's child for developmental milestones and providing referrals for early intervention, if needed.
- Helping the client's family access community resources and services, such as job training, ESL classes, legal services, GED preparation classes, and health care.
- Providing opportunities for the client and their family to attend social and educational events, which enable parents to establish connections with other parents of young children and share parenting experiences, successes, and challenges.



A Year in Review

- 32 screens received
- 22 new enrollees
- 609 referrals made
- 1135 efforts to engage families
- 675 home visits conducted
- 87 virtual visits conducted
- 38 families served



Hospice

Hospice offers services for terminally ill persons who are no longer receiving aggressive or curative medical care. It promotes comfort and a personal sense of control on a person's quality of life. Services that are offered include nurse visits, counseling, pastoral visits, physical, occupational and speech therapies, and home health aides. Bereavement services are also offered to families after the death of their loved one.

Due to a staffing shortage, Oswego County Hospice started the process of closing its operations on November 30, 2022. Referrals were no longer accepted, and all remaining patients were transitioned to other end of life programs. The agency ensured that these transitions were as smooth as possible, and no patients or families went without necessary services. To guarantee that families received the best service possible, bereavement services continued for 13 months after the death of their loved one.

Sadly, on September 22, 2023, Oswego County Hospice officially closed after serving our community for the past 33 years.

End of life services are being offered to Oswego County residents through programs such as: Hospice of Central New York and of the Fingerlakes, Hospice of Jefferson County, and Hospice and Palliative Care of New Hartford.

Click [here](#) or visit our website to view additional hospice resources.

(https://health.oswegocounty.com/programs/1_hospice/index.php)

Sadly, after 33 years of service, Oswego County Hospice officially closed on September 22, 2023



NYSPHC Fellowship

The New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Fellowship Program is designed to attract working professionals with demonstrated leadership capabilities who want to refocus their careers on public service. The Oswego County Health Department has created numerous positions utilizing this program to promote new, permanent job positions to bolster the public health workforce and expand professional growth opportunities.

New positions include:

- Public Health Educator
- Public Health Educator Assistants
- Epidemiologists
- Public Information Specialist
- Registered Professional Nurse

Fellows hired within the NYSPHC Fellowship program are assigned tasks to work with, expand and create new programs within their divisions.

Tasks include but are not limited to:

- Death Data Project
- Overdose prevention and harm reduction project.
- Assist in public education and detailing on various public health topics.
- Increase advertising and public awareness of Health Department programs and services.
- Update and maintain Health Department website.

A Year in Review

- Organized and led building-wide POD drill for distribution of PPE
- Oversaw vaccination commercial & billboard campaign
- Created and led the Public Health and Safety Team
- Presented projects at 2023 NYSPHC Summit



Public Health Education & Emergency Preparedness

Public Health Education and Emergency Preparedness provide a variety of education and outreach programs to address community health needs. The team works on the development and implementation of the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP). Another responsibility is to improve public health messaging and provide reliable health information via social media, traditional media, and website updates.

Current priorities identified include:

- Reducing smoking
- Increasing access to safe places for residents of all abilities to be physically active
- Increasing breastfeeding supports
- Increasing access to medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder
- Reducing suicide and overdose deaths
- Implementing evidence based programs to better manage chronic disease and prevent fall injuries

Programs are also available to school districts, organizations and community groups. These include:

- Vaping prevention
- Handwashing and germ fighting
- Dental health and hygiene
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Tick and mosquito bite prevention
- Rabies prevention
- Sun safety

Additionally, the team is responsible for public health emergency response activities. They develop, review and revise emergency plans like the medical countermeasure distribution and management plan, continuity of operations plan, and the pandemic plan.

A Year in Review

- Engaged with 10,780 community members
- 1,286 people received mental health education
- 1,493 participants in physical health & wellness education
- 1,798 youth received vaping prevention/cessation education
- Over 3,000 toothbrushes were given out
- 374 participants for overdose prevention programming
- 234 Naloxone kits distributed
- Conducted Stepping On and CDSMP workshops



Preventive

The Preventive Division of the Public Health Nursing Services provides a variety of preventive health services in the areas of maternal child health, immunizations, and communicable disease control. The goal of preventive services is to promote the optimum level of health for all residents of Oswego County through a full complement of comprehensive preventive services.

Maternal Child Health Services:

- Newborn, antepartum, and postpartum home visits by Registered Professional Nurses.
- Pregnancy testing.

Communicable Disease Prevention:

- Communicable Disease Control: surveillance of all communicable diseases.
- Tuberculosis Control Program.
- Referral for testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Referrals for HIV testing.
- Immunization Clinics: immunizations for all ages, including influenza and pneumonia shots.

Health Promotion Activities:

- Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: prevention, testing, investigation, and abatement.
- Rabies Pre- and Post-Exposure Vaccination Program.



A Year in Review

- 1,842 vaccine doses administered (including 620 flu shots and 373 COVID vaccines)
- 66 homebound vaccines administered
- 10 migrant clinics held off site, 51 vaccinated
- 100 tuberculosis skin tests placed
- 50 general immunization clinics held, 31 flu/ COVID clinics
- 22 back to school vaccine clinics
- 819 cases of communicable diseases investigated
- 7 Expedited Partner Therapy treatments provided
- 364 maternal and child health visits for 69 clients
- 84 personal care visits for 54 clients
- 122 lead cases followed, 43 new cases and 4 discharged

Contact Us

Oswego County Health Department
70 Bunner St. Oswego, NY 13126
Phone: 315-349-3545 Fax: 315-349-3435
Email: healthdepartment@oswegocounty.com
www.health.oswegocounty.com

ADMINISTRATION	315-349-3540
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	315-349-3500
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	315-349-3573
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	315-349-3557
HEALTHY FAMILIES	315-349-3553
PREVENTIVE NURSING	315-349-3547
PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION	315-349-3587



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OSWEGO COUNTY