



## MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO.1

1540 WEST PARK AVENUE, SUITE 1, TINTON FALLS, NJ 07724

[www.merhc.org](http://www.merhc.org), Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MCRHCno.1](https://www.facebook.com/MCRHCno.1), Twitter: #healthmerhc

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END OF THE YEAR MESSAGE – 2020

### *HOPE FOR THE FUTURE*

2020 has been a year of unimaginable disaster and loss due to the deadly COVID-19 Pandemic, crumbling economy, hunger in our streets and the seeming disregard for public health protection practices.

Against this backdrop of worldly concerns we see signs of hope on the horizon. Project Warp Speed has produced companies that have developed revolutionary vaccines that promise to deliver COVID protection to a majority our residents in the next year. Everyone is working hard on COVID-19 regional vaccination clinics, case investigations and contact tracing.

After declaring a local public health emergency in March, the staff and President Dr. Leonard Giles wanted to reach out to our communities to keep them informed of COVID-19 and other public health related information. We chose ZOOM as one way for us to communicate, in addition to our new and improved website, Facebook and Twitter. We have been holding ZOOM calls each Thursday, since March with our towns, school officials, hospitals, colleges and public health partners. We have had lively discussions and provided an opportunity to share information and learn from each other as we travel this uncharted public health Pandemic.

We have worked closely with the long term care facilities, colleges, schools, police, municipalities, doctor's offices, visiting nurses, and other community agencies to provide guidance and updates on COVID-19.

We have had historic success for competitive and non-competitive grants this year in the form of two communicable disease grants, our first Lead Poisoning Prevention Grant covering childhood blood lead testing for Monmouth County and a Vulnerable Populations Outreach Grant covering MCRHC towns and Manalapan Township.

The Asbury Park Press published an outstanding article on how our department was working to protect our residents from COVID-19.

With the help of Senator O'Scanlon's office including Beau Huch, Esq. and Legislative Director, Senator Gopal's office, Monmouth County Freeholder Director Arnone, Monmouth County Administrator O'Connor, MCRHC Vice President Paul Roman, MCRHC Commissioner Theresa Casagrande, and others, we applied for CARES ACT Funding for COVID-19 related expenses.

We have hope for the significant reduction in COVID-19 cases, better public health, better economy and a healthier community. You can help us in this hopeful future by doing the following:

- Wear a cloth face mask.
- Maintain social distancing.
- Wash your hands.
- Get a Flu shot.
- Stay away from large crowds.
- Keep your child and yourself home if you are sick.
- Get the COVID-19 vaccine, when available.
- Stay healthy.

Have a Healthy & Safe Holiday Season!

*David A. Henry*

Yours in Health,  
Dave Henry, Health Officer

