

## **County Health Department Led The Way With Covid-19 Response During 2021**

Hunterdon County's Health Department, which was recognized for its high degree of training and preparation as the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, was equally up to the task with testing and when vaccine became available for the public during 2021.

Over the course of the year, the Department administered over 22,000 vaccinations, mainly through the County's drive thru clinic at the Route 12 complex. In addition to vaccinations, over 12,000 Covid-19 tests were conducted through the Department's on-line portal and at the joint County-HMG test site.

### **County Staff and Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers Respond When Needed**

County Commissioner Shaun C. Van Doren, the Board's liaison to the Health Department, stated in his end of year report at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, "The entire Health Department team and Public Health Nursing staff worked tirelessly at the clinics, assisted by many other county employees from other units who volunteered to serve the public at the clinic.

The county's Medical Reserve Corps, comprised of health professional volunteers, gave their time, particularly as vaccinators, along with our public health nurses, throughout the year, and continue to do so. The program would not have been the success it was without these volunteers, and they have not only the Board's appreciation, but our admiration as well."

### **Health Department Overcame Early Vaccine Supply Shortage**

While vaccine supplies were scarce at the beginning of the year, now the county has available the Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson vaccine and is offering both booster and initial vaccinations at the walk-in clinic several times per week in Building 1, at the Route 12 campus.

The drive thru clinic was deemed a great success and included visits from both Governor Phil Murphy and Congressman Tom Malinowski who observed the operation and came away impressed.

### **Hunterdon County 93% Vaccination Rate**

The County's Health Department was just one of a number of venues where the public could receive vaccinations. The Medical Center, CVS, Walgreens, and Shop Rite also provided many, many vaccinations. The United Way worked with the County Health Department to provide vaccinations to those underserved persons in the community.

According to state records 93% of Hunterdon County has received at least one dose of the vaccine at this time. And booster shots are on-going. The next County clinic will be January 6, 2022. Appointments can be made online here

<https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Coronavirus/clinics.html>