



Public Health
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Cortland County Health Department

CORTLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
60 CENTRAL AVENUE
CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045-2746
(607) 753-5036
FAX: (607) 753-5209
<http://www.cortland-co.org/432/Health-Department>

Nicole Anjeski, MS, MPH
Public Health Director
Lisa Perfetti, BSN, RN
Deputy Public Health Director
Ngozi Mezu-Patel, MD
Medical Advisor

TO: Local Media

FROM: Nicole Anjeski, Public Health Director, Cortland County Health Department

RE: 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Goals Announced

DATE: 8/22/2022

Following careful review of community health indicator data - including surveys collected from over 2,266 community members and input from 20 partnering organizations - the following NYSDOH Prevention Agenda focus areas and goals were selected by the Cortland County Health Department and Guthrie Cortland Medical Center Steering Committee as the shared 2022-2024 Cortland County community health goals:

Focus Area: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Prevention

Goal #1: Prevent Opioid and Other Substance Misuse and Death

Goal #2: Prevent Suicide

Focus Area: Chronic Disease - Prevent Tobacco Use

Goal #3: Prevent Initiation of Tobacco Use and Youth Vaping

Goal #4: Promote Tobacco Use Cessation

Goal #5: Eliminate Secondhand Smoke

Focus Area: Vaccine Preventable Disease

Goal #6: Improve COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Rates

Goal #7: Reduce COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Coverage Disparities

Progress towards the identified goals will be assessed on a quarterly basis and data will be made available to the public via the 2022-2024 CHA/CHIP Dashboard which can be found at the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/cortgovhealth22-24chachip/home>

A presentation is scheduled for August 30th, 2022 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM to share the results of the Community Health Assessment survey and present the 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan. Community members can register at this link: <https://forms.gle/EzC6PJrpVjE1d8gj6>



WORKING TO BUILD A HEALTHY COMMUNITY SINCE 1929

Jennifer Yartym, SVP, Guthrie Cortland Medical Center President states:

“As one of the area’s major health care providers, we strive to address the needs of our neighbors in Cortland and the surrounding region. The latest Community Health Assessment Survey has re-enforced areas of focus for Guthrie Cortland Medical Center and our continued commitment to addressing local health needs.”

Nicole Anjeski, Public Health Director states:

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the overwhelming reality that a public health threat can affect the whole world. For more than two years now, communities have been facing this global public health threat. With this pandemic we have witnessed profound impacts on health status across communities and within the worlds’ economic and political systems.

Despite all of this, public health workers across the nation and across the globe have stepped forward in these unimaginable circumstances by bringing the best science and public health recommendations to their communities on a daily basis throughout the course of this pandemic. What needs to be understood though is that public health did not do this alone, especially in the Cortland County community. The monumental support from our local health systems, physicians, community members, partners, community organizations, and local leaders all continue to play a part in helping to fight this pandemic.

As the community begins to return to a semblance of “normalcy” while we move through the next phase of this pandemic, it is important to once again take a look at all the health indicators that affect the health of our community members. The Cortland County Health Assessment and Improvement Plan 2022-2024 is a collaborative tool to help address the community’s priority health challenges.

The Community Health Assessment presents demographic and health indicator data for Cortland County residents, while also examining the social determinants of health, existing assets and resources in the community. The Community Health Improvement Plan establishes specific focus areas and goals for health improvement by addressing chosen priority areas through a collaborative community process.

This collaborative document was developed by the Cortland County Health Department in partnership with Guthrie Cortland Medical Center. Input was also received from numerous community partners who will be involved in making sure that the chosen priority areas will be addressed over the next three years. I look forward to our continued partnership with Guthrie Cortland Medical Center, all our community partners, and the Cortland County residents in improving our community’s health.”