

produce exhaust containing carbon monoxide or nitrogen oxide) for ice resurfacing. As of November 2011, neither licensed facility was using this type of machine to resurface the ice. Both facilities are utilizing electric ice re-surfacers that do not require air quality testing per 105 CMR 675.00.

Swimming Pools

There are 12 public/semi-public pool facilities in Concord. There are currently 3 general purpose pools, 13 lap pools, 6 children’s pools, 3 special purpose pools and 1 diving well. The Public Health Inspector inspects these facilities for compliance with water quality standards, safety equipment requirements and pool operators’ certification for each site.

Animal Permits

The Public Health Inspector serves as the Town’s Animal Inspector. 64 properties are inspected for sanitary conditions, health of animals and elimination of odors and pests with proper manure storage/removal. This year, the Concord Health Department spent additional time reviewing applications for and explaining the pertinent regulations to homeowners interested in raising chickens. This seems to be a trend throughout the State, not just Concord, as more homeowners show an interest in becoming “backyard” farmers.

	2009-2011 Animal Census Information		
	2011	2010	2009
Chickens	1,368	1,056	716
Horses	163	164	166
Cattle	178	243	217
Rabbits	112	78	70
Goats	13	10	17
Geese/Ducks	38	29	23
Guinea Hens	8	9	14
Sheep	1	15	10
Beehives	-	4	4
Llamas	-	0	0
Donkeys	3	2	2
Turkey	8	7	5
Pigs	2	10	12
TOTAL	1,894	1,627	1,256

Rabies Control Program

During 2011, 24 domestic animals (dogs & cats) were quarantined by either the Public Health Inspector or Health Division Administrative staff due to contact with potentially rabid animals. 8 domestic animals were quarantined and followed by the Animal Inspector and Dog Officer because of animal bites to humans. Rabies

tests were conducted on 5 potentially rabid animals (1 bat, 1 fox, 2 cats and a dog). No animals tested positive for the rabies virus.

At the Health Division’s Annual Rabies Clinic in March 2011, Concord Animal Hospital veterinarians administered the rabies vaccine to 34 dogs and 22 cats.

EMERSON HOSPITAL HOME CARE SERVICES

Brian Hailey, MSPT Director

Emerson Hospital Home Care is a Medicare/Medicaid Certified, Joint Commission accredited, provider of home health services in Concord, as well as 23 surrounding towns. Home Care is an active member of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts. The mission is to deliver high quality, safe, and cost effective services to all our patients. These services include skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, home health aide, and medical social work. Emerson Home Care continues to grow to meet the demands of skilled services in the home, as hospital length of stays decrease. We continue to partner with community and tertiary medical centers to reduce the incidence of re-hospitalizations. We have expanded beyond our 23 town service area to accommodate requests of referral sources and our patients.

Home Care accepts referrals for services from Emerson Hospital, other local community and tertiary hospitals, physician offices, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, and referrals from patients with a physician’s order for home care. Members of the community can contact Home Care directly for skilled services for themselves or family members. Emerson Home Care partners with community members to provide services at home after a hospitalization, during a prolonged illness, or when a skilled need arises and the client is home bound. The goal of home care services is always to promote the highest state of wellness and independence, and to assist in planning for the continuum of care. Home Care also provides community health and communicable disease follow up in accordance with our Board of Health Contract with the Town of Concord.

Although Emerson Hospital Home Care does not have a hospice program, we continue to work closely with several area hospice providers. Emerson Home Care

continues to provide end of life care for those patients who decide not to enroll in a hospice program.

The Home Care Department plays an integral role in the organization’s focus of enhancing the care of the growing elderly population in the communities we serve. This includes ongoing meetings with members of the community, as well as initiatives within the care environment in the hospital. Using our disease management programs, the home care department continues the success in decreasing emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and lengths of stay in several diagnostic groups to include chronic lung disease and congestive heart failure. The Department has participated in a nationwide effort by CMS to reduce unnecessary acute care re-hospitalizations and our reportable rate remains below the state and national averages. Home Care participates on the hospital’s Community Geriatric Committee to address the needs of the geriatric population in the community. The Home Care Department is also represented on the newly organized Care Transitions Committee whose focus is to improve care transitions and reduce unnecessary re-hospitalizations.

Emerson Home Care services residents of Concord Park, Newbury Court/ Newbury Commons, and residents of the Concord Housing Authority, to name a few. This has allowed these residents to successfully age in place, and remain out of an institution. Home Care also coordinates closely with the Concord Council on Aging to promote health and wellness to seniors through lectures and other programs.

Our contract with the Town of Concord includes communicable disease follow-up and an influenza vaccination program. The contract also allows Home Care to make home visits to qualifying individuals who have no source of payment to cover our services. Utilization remains low, but this remains an important aspect of our work with the Board of Health. The influenza vaccination program serves both residents and employees of the Town of Concord. Please see the table below for data from flu clinics and communicable disease follow up.

In accordance with our contract, Emerson Home Care continues to work closely with the Board of Health and with other community organizations to coordinate care for the residents of Concord. We will continue to work with the Town and organizations to identify areas of

opportunity to serve the Town’s residents in an effort to promote health and wellness. Home Care is also represented on the Emerson Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee which works with the Town of Concord to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts.

Influenza vaccination Rates	10/201– 12/2011
Senior Clinics	170
Concord Teachers	45
Seniors at Concord Park	39
Thoreau Club	12
TOTAL	266
Communicable Disease Follow Up	
Home care telephone visits	36
Home visits	2
Total	38

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Raymond A. Costa, Sealer

The ultimate goal of the Sealer of Weights and Measures is to “Create Equity in the Marketplace.” All individuals in a community are affected by weighing and measuring operations for virtually all of the necessities of life, particularly of food and fuel.

The function of the Weights and Measures official is to safeguard the public in matters involving the commercial determination of “quantity” and ensure that whenever merchandise or service is bought or sold, that honest weights and honest measures are delivered, and that fraud, carelessness or misrepresentation of such transactions are eliminated. To facilitate this endeavor, the accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used for sale to the public are inspected, sealed or condemned as required.

These weighing and measuring devices include, but are not limited to, all gasoline and diesel dispensing devices (pumps) throughout the community, all weighing devices (scales) used at supermarkets, delis, meat markets, seafood shops, retail checkout counters, farm stands, specialty stores, small convenience stores, pharmacies, laundromats, public shipping stores, hardware stores as well as home heating oil (fuel oil) delivery trucks and a myriad of other weighing and measuring devices.

Consumers can also feel confident when making purchases at establishments that use bar code pricing devices (scanners) as the inspection and testing for accuracy