



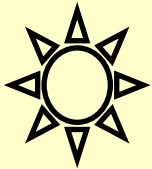
# The Environmental Health Publisher

Keeping you in the Lead, Radon & Healthy Homes loop

Connecticut Department of Public Health

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

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**Save the Date**

**Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Semi-Annual Meeting**

**October 7, 2019**

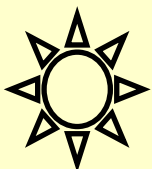
**Meriden Public Library**

**9:30—12:30**



## In This Issue

- ◆ The Built Environment and Health Pt. II
- ◆ The Healthy Homes Fund
- ◆ 2019 Lung Force Walk
- ◆ Lead Poisoning Case Managers



## The Built Environment and Health—Part 2



The built environment includes the physical makeup of where we live, learn, work, and play—our homes, schools, businesses, streets and sidewalks, open spaces, and transportation options. The built environment can influence overall community health and individual behaviors such as physical activity and healthy eating. In neighborhoods without a grocery store and without good public transit, the residents are more likely to buy their groceries in convenience stores that do not carry fresh fruit or produce. Foods sold in convenience stores are also more likely to be of low nutritional value.

Neighborhoods with sidewalks, parks and bicycle lanes encourage physical activity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) understands the importance of the built environment and its [Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity](#) maintains a web page containing information and tools health departments can use to improve community health.

For a built environment assessment tool click on the link below.

[CDC's Built Environment Assessment Tool \(BE Tool\)](#)



# Healthy Homes Fund

The Governor signed [Public Act No. 18-160 An Act Imposing a Surcharge on Certain Insurance Policies and Establishing the Healthy Homes Fund](#) into law on June 13, 2018. This act imposes a surcharge of \$12 on homeowners' insurance policies. Collection of these funds started on January 1, 2019. In April 2020 insurers must report to the Insurance Commissioner all surcharges collected. The surcharges, minus administrative cost, will be deposited into the Healthy Homes Fund. The Crumbling Foundations Assistance will receive 85% of these funds to help cover the cost of failing foundations.

The Healthy Homes Fund will give up to one million dollars to the Department of Economic and Community Development to be used for grants in aid to homeowners in the vicinity of the West River and Yale Gold Course in the Westville section of New Haven and Woodbridge. These funds are for structurally damaged homes due to subsidence and water infiltration.



The remaining amount will be given to the Department of Housing (DOH) to fund a program to reduce health and safety hazards in residential dwellings in Connecticut. The hazards will include, but not be limited to lead, radon, and other contaminants or conditions that can be addressed through removal, remediation, abatement and other appropriate methods.

Once funding has been deposited into the Healthy Homes Fund, the Department of Public Health (DPH) will be notified of the amount of funds that are available in the Healthy Homes Fund. DPH will then notify each local health department of the availability of funds. More information about the DOH program will be shared as it is developed.

# 2019 Lung Force Walk



In June, Team Radon from the Connecticut Department of Public Health participated in the American Lung Association's Lung Force Walk at Great River Park in Hartford, CT.

Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, causing an estimated 22,000 deaths each year.

DPH Program staff participated in the walk to help make a difference in the lives of people affected by lung disease. Together with more than 250 Connecticut residents they walked to raise awareness and funds to defeat lung cancer and promote overall lung health.

Felicitades

बधाई हो

So long <sup>تهانينا</sup>

祝賀

Поздравляю

Toutes nos

מזל טוב

Congratulations!

Comhghairdeas

Herzliche Glückwünsche

After nearly 20 years working in leadership positions in the Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes program, Krista Veneziano is moving on to lead DPH's Local Health Administration program (LHA). LHA is responsible for ensuring the delivery of public health services at the local level and working to fulfill Connecticut General Statutes and Regulations that require the provision of essential public health services. Krista will also be working with the Preparedness Program which is housed alongside LHA.



LHA is fortunate to hire Krista with her deep knowledge of local health departments and her ability to manage many jobs at one time. Krista made great accomplishments while managing the LRHH program. She streamlined processes to make licensing and certification of lead professionals easier. She has played a pivotal role in decreasing the rate of lead poisoning in Connecticut's children by overseeing the enforcement of regulations and running educational campaigns to increase screening rates and educate parents on protecting children from lead poisoning. Krista will be greatly missed in the LRHH program, but we take comfort in knowing that she is only one floor away if needed.

Congratulations Krista!

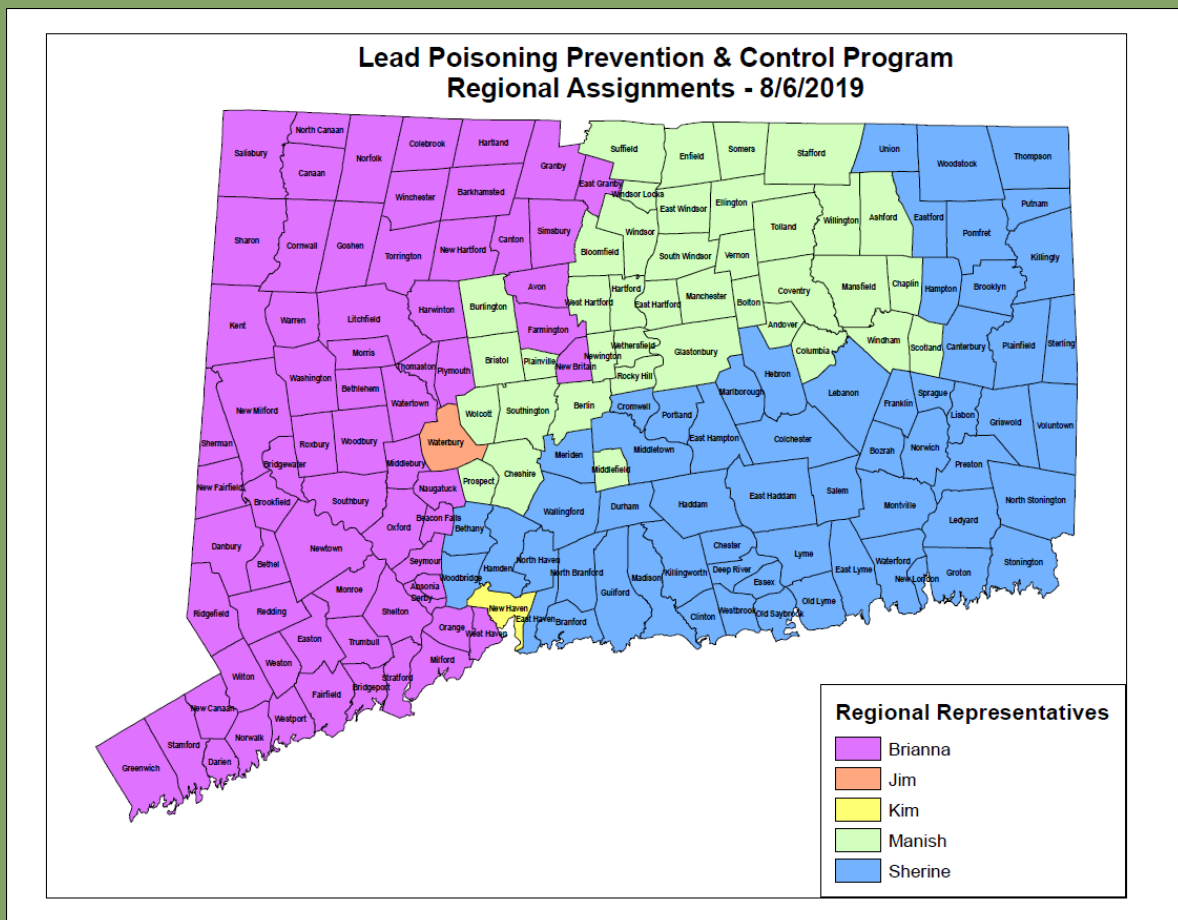
## Lead Poisoning Case Management Unit

The Lead Poisoning Case Management Unit (CMU) staff assist local health departments with keeping track of their lead poisoning cases. Each case manager works with their respective local health department to ensure that:

- children are being tested appropriately
- necessary follow-up testing is completed according to retesting schedule
- environmental inspections are carried out as required by Connecticut regulations, and
- lead abatement/remediation is completed when required.

CMU staff will also work with medical providers' offices to confirm high blood lead levels and to remind them of children who are overdue for follow-up testing. The CMU staff will also provide technical assistance to local health departments and assist them with prioritizing cases. If needed, CMU staff will serve as a liaison between local health and the Regional Lead Treatment Centers.

Click on the map below to see areas covered by the case managers.



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Commissioner Renée Coleman-Mitchell, MPH

