

**Ocean County Health Department  
PO Box 2191  
Toms River, NJ 08754-2191  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Leslie Terjesen  
Public Information Officer  
732-341-9700, ext. 7224  
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## **OCEAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE TETANUS BOOSTERS AND LITERATURE AS THEY BEGIN THE NEXT WAVE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS**

“The Ocean County Health Department (OCHD), once again, is reaching out to the Ocean County community in its continued response to Superstorm Sandy,” said Ocean County Freeholder Gerry P. Little, Liaison to the Ocean County Board of Health. He continued, “The Health Department has been extremely involved since day one in the recovery and response efforts after the storm. In addition to its many response efforts, the OCHD has been coordinating mold programs for residents and building code enforcement officers and they have kept their website up-to-date with the important information for residents in addition to the latest “Sandy” news and efforts. Also, the OCHD Environmental Division has been working diligently as part of the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program, where water at every bathing beach in Ocean County, is tested for bacteria content. Besides testing the waters, inspections have been made of every beach. The health and safety of our residents and visitors has evolved to a higher level with the aftermath of “Sandy.”

Daniel E. Regenye, OCHD Public Health Coordinator, said, “The OCHD Outreach Vehicle will be stationed in Manahawkin this Friday through Sunday, May 31 ó June 2. The vehicle will be located at the Home Depot Shopping Center from 10AM to 12PM each of the 3 days and then at the Lowe’s and ShopRite Shopping Center from 1PM to 3PM on those days. Visitors will receive an information packet with copies of *Mold Guidelines for New Jersey Residents*, RX Drop-off locations in Ocean County, West Nile Virus information, Swimming Guidelines, OCHD Clinic Services, information on *Hope and Healing* and information from the Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs, etc. The OCHD will also be offering Tetanus boosters in the form of Tdap. It is important that people be vaccinated against Tetanus before they begin or continue to clean up debris.”

Regenye added, “Staff at the Health Department continues to monitor the after effects of “Sandy” throughout the county and have been working closely with each municipality to address unmet needs. In planning this outreach effort, we have noticed that many homes are just opening up for the first time this season. In addition, we are receiving numerous calls regarding mold and confusion on what to do about removal, etc. Another concern at the Health Department is that due to the change in topography, debris still present and drainage issues, there is an ideal setting for mosquito breeding. We have taken a look at the questions that we receive and have designed our outreach to meet these needs.”

He continued, “Another issue is that we are aware that many of our food establishments on the upper barrier island have not reopened. One of the roles of our Environmental Inspectors is to work with and advise food establishment owners on what needs to be done to help them open their facility. We have put together information for our food establishments and continue to reach out to them to give them this information and also offer our assistance. We encourage food vendors to call us if they need any guidance.”

You can find updated Sandy information on the Ocean County Health Department website at [www.ochd.org](http://www.ochd.org) or you can follow on Twitter@OCpublichealth.

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