



NMEHA NEWS

New Mexico Environmental Health Association Newsletter

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Upcoming: Vector Conference Spring 2024!



April 23-24 in Albuquerque

See Page 4 for details

Memo from NMEHA Board President Jay Wyatt

It is a pleasure and an honor moving forward as NMEHA's President for this term. I moved to New Mexico two years ago and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Land of Enchantment. So far I have found red chili to be superior to green and Balloon Fiesta is more enjoyable when you're not the one driving. I have been practicing environmental health for 10 years between a combination of state, federal, and private practice. I currently work as a Field Sanitarian for the Indian Health Service in Santa Fe.

I am also looking forward to our organization's upcoming Vector Spring Conference April 23rd and 24th and hope you will join us. This event promises to be an insightful gathering of pest operators, vector scientists, and environmental health professionals to discuss the latest research, best practices, and innovative solutions in vector control. The conference will feature speakers who are leading experts in their fields and plenty of networking opportunities. It is an ideal venue for professionals at all stages of their careers to learn, share knowledge, and connect with peers.

I am both excited and humbled by the path that lies ahead as we continue forward with our vision of advancing public health within New Mexico. Our association has always been at the forefront of addressing public health concerns, and I look forward maintaining the spirit of that tradition while providing value to New Mexicans and NMEHA members alike.

Sincerely,

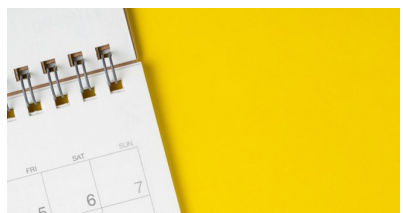
~ Jay Wyatt



New Committee Forming!

Have you ever wondered how NMEHA benefits the state of Environmental Health in New Mexico? Consider joining a newly forming committee to discover ways our association can add value and stay relevant.

Email jamie.wyatt@ihs.gov for info.





Reporting Mosquitos: Did you know?

Albuquerque and Bernalillo County residents can request mosquito control spraying by calling 311.

Residents who don't wish to have their property sprayed can register on the No-Spray List by calling 311.

New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) has a Reporting and Surveillance Hotline with an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist available 24/7 to answer questions and accept notifiable conditions reports. **1-833-796-8773**



Embracing Healthier Communities: Updates from the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department

As stewards of public and environmental health, we are happy to share the latest endeavors and updates from the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department. Guided by our commitment to supporting healthier communities, we have been diligently working to enhance various aspects of our program.

1. Revised Food Ordinance: Safe Dining Experiences and Simpler Permitting Processes

Ensuring the safety and quality of the food we consume is paramount. In line with this mission, our Department is pursuing a repeal to the City's existing food safety ordinances, replacing them with an updated, comprehensive ordinance. These revisions not only streamline regulatory processes but also aim to elevate the consumer experience by adopting the 2022 Food and Drug Association Food Code and increasing allergen labeling requirements. The new ordinance will take effect later this year after a series of public meetings with our stakeholders. We look forward to rolling out these new measures to continue advancing public health while promoting a thriving culinary landscape in our city.

2. Updated Pool Ordinance: Making a Splash in Safety

Swimming pools provide much needed relief for our residents as we experience increasing summer temperatures. Recognizing the importance of maintaining sanitary conditions in these aquatic facilities, we are working to introduce updates to our pool regulations. A collaboration with the City's Parks and Recreation Department is in the beginning stages, which will bring the Swimming Pool Ordinance in line with national standards incorporated in the Model Aquatic Health Code. We are also working on internal policies to bring us closer to these standards in the interim. By prioritizing preventative measures and updated enforcement actions, we aim to minimize public health risks and continue to ensure responsible pool management across Albuquerque so our residents and visitors can stay cool this summer.

3. Human Waste Removal Pilot Program: Pioneering Sanitary Solutions

One of the many challenges we face in the ongoing homeless crisis is a lack of public restrooms, which has the unfortunate outcome of human waste in public spaces throughout the city. Until now, the burden of waste removal has been placed on property owners. To address this and help keep our city clean and safe, we are launching a pilot program for sanitary human waste clean-up on both public and private properties. Residents and business owners alike can call 311 to report human feces which will generate a request that will come to the Environmental Health Department and a contractor will facilitate the safe removal of the waste. This important service is made possible by a \$100,000 appropriation from the Albuquerque City Council. Safe and sanitary removal of human waste not only safeguards public health, but it prevents contaminants from reaching the waters of the Rio Grande. While the project is currently only funded as a short-term pilot, the data collected will be used to inform future initiatives.



NMEHA Vector Control Conference 2024



WHEN
April 23-24, 2024
7:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

WHERE
South Valley Multi-Purpose Center
2008 Larazolo Rd SW Albuquerque, NM 87105

FEATURING • Light Breakfast • Multiple Speakers
Field Trip • Buffet lunch • CEUs: 10 NMDA AND 9 NEHA

WWW.NMEHA.ORG

IN PERSON EVENT

REGISTRATION
\$125 Non-member
\$100 Member

SPEAKERS

Claudia Riegel, Ph. D; City of New Orleans, Louisiana

Chris Lesser, Manatee County, Florida

Tiffany Johnson, NMSU

Melise Pederson, CABQ

Liz VinHatton, NMDOH

Erin Worth, NMDA

Li, Shujan, Ph. D, University of Arizona

Justin Stevenson, RD Wildlife

Edith Sandoval, NMDOH

Keith Haas, Veseris

Daniel Porter, NOAA

Roy Faiman, VecTech



Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Health Award went to Dan Galasso of NMED Solid Waste Bureau for his diligent work to curb illegal dumping.

~ The NMEHA Board



Count on us.

This past year the Bernalillo County Commissioners updated the county food code, adopting the 2022 FDA Retail Food Code. The revision included requiring food handler cards for food workers and at least one person serving as the Certified Food Safety Manager. The new Food Code went into effect in October 2023 with food handler card and Certified Food Safety Manager being effective on March 25, 2024. The new food code along with the food handler card and Certified Food Safety Manager mirror the New Mexico Environment Department's requirements for food handlers and Certified Food Safety manager.

Health Protection was recently awarded the Retail Program Standard grant to work at maintaining the Voluntary Retail Program Standards. The Program Standards include nine (9) standards for local food regulatory agencies to achieve. Health Protection has elected to work towards achieving standard 2, Trained Regulatory Staff. Achieving standard 2 will ensure that the county maintains regulatory staff that are trained to the criteria outlined in standard 2.