

1947 - 2007

60
Years
of
Service

Immunizations • Sexually transmitted diseases • AIDS • TB •
Epidemiology • Hepatitis • Chronic disease prevention • Tobacco
intervention • Women, Infants, Children (WIC) • Public Health
Preparedness • Family Planning • Improved Pregnancy Outcome •
Healthy Start • Comprehensive Child Health • School Health
Services • Comprehensive Adult Health • Dental Health • Medical
Quality Assurance • Coastal Beach Monitoring • Institutional
Food Hygiene • Body Art • Lead Monitoring • Group Care Facilities
Migrant Residential Facilities • Minimum Housing (SLC) • Mobile
Home Parks • Petroleum Storage Tanks • SUPER Act • Limited Use
Water Systems • Safe Drinking Water Act • AND... • Wells • Public
Swimming Pools • Bathing Places • River monitoring • Septic Tank
Permitting • Biomedical Waste Services • Sanitary Nuisance
Response • Arbo-virus Surveillance (WNV) • Tanning facilities •
Indoor Air Quality • Radon Resource • Emerging Health Issues •
Emergency response EFS8 • Emergency Planning • Special Needs
Shelters Pandemics • Hurricanes • Chemical Fires • Terrorist Acts
• Hazardous Spills • Incident Command • Flooding • Wild Fires



St. Lucie County Health Department

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Port St. Lucie Site: 5150 NW Milner Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

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Hello St. Lucie County



As Administrator of the St. Lucie County Health Department I would like to invite you to share in the 60th Anniversary of your health department. How things have changed! In 1947 our primary task was to serve the health needs of the migrant community. Today we serve the public health needs of all 280,000 citizens and countless visitors and are an active and aggressive part of the emergency response system. The work of our dedicated professionals touch the lives of so many and often, the people who are being served may not even realize how much public health does to protect the length and quality of our lives.

This year we are very proud of the fact that we are one of only 11 counties in the Nation to have received the National Association of County and City Health Officials' Prestigious Public Health Ready Certification. Although we can never be finished reviewing, revising and drilling our hazards response plans, it is good to know that our efforts are among those leading the nation.

We are also extremely pleased and proud of receiving two Prudential-Financial Davis Productivity Awards from Florida TaxWatch for innovation and efficiency in government. We are saving thousands of dollars in archiving fees through a public-private partnership; funds better spent providing services to our citizens. We are especially pleased that this process has already been adopted by seven other health departments across the state, further enhancing the statewide reputation of your St. Lucie County Health Department.

Please accept my invitation to read on. I hope you will be pleasantly surprised at what the St. Lucie County Health Department has to offer.

Very sincerely,
Larry Lee, RN, MA
County Health Administrator

*Public Health touches your life from birth
to death and every day in between.*

PERSONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES *We Offer Special Clinics for Influenza, Pneumonia and Foreign Travel*

Pediatric Services
Adult Health Care
Child and Adult Immunizations
Dental Care
School Health

Family Planning
Healthy Start Services
Pharmacy
Laboratory Services
Medical Records

Confidential/Anonymous HIV & AIDS testing
PEPW
Pregnancy Testing and Counseling
Project AIDS Care
Tuberculosis (TB)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Bio-terrorism Response
Medical Quality Assurance
Beach Water Quality
IRL/StLR Sampling
Institutional Food

Biomedical Waste
Body Art
Group Care
Migrant Housing
Mobile Home Parks

Fuel Storage Tanks
SUPER Act
Water Systems Wells
Public Pools
Septic Tanks

Sanitary Complaints
Rabies Surveillance
Arbo-virus Surveillance
Indoor Air Quality
Emergency Response

HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION
Cancer
Diabetes
Cardiovascular

INJURY PREVENTION
Drowning Awareness & Prevention
Summer Safety
Bike Helmet Safety

WIC & NUTRITION SERVICES

WIC is a federal nutrition program for pregnant, breast-feeding and post-partum Women, Infants, and Children up to age 5.

WIC provides the following at no cost to eligible families: healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breast-feeding support, and referrals for health care.

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WIC participation reduces low birth weight and infant mortality and improves children's readiness to learn.

VITAL STATISTICS

The data gathered from birth and death certificates is used to identify the health of the community.



EPIDEMIOLOGY

Communicable Disease Surveillance
Hepatitis B in Pregnant Women
Bio-Terrorism Surveillance
Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)
Jail Link
Childhood Lead Investigations
HIV Investigations Surveillance
Special Programs

60 Years of Service...

In the Beginning...

1947-1954 Sixty years of service began on January 9, 1947 when the St. Lucie County Health Department opened its doors in the old country canning facility on the corner of Boston Avenue and 5th Street in Ft. Pierce. We were created as part of the Public welfare Committee primarily to serve the migrant and indigent populations. *Dr. John Ross Hague* served as the first health officer whose responsibilities eventually encompassed Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. Including Dr. Hague, there were seven staff to serve the region with an annual budget of \$10,000. Expanding to meet the needs of the public's health, 1948 saw the school board unanimously endorse Dr. Hague's program to test children for a variety of conditions. They recognized then, as now, the school nurse may have been the only non-emergency health care available to the students. TB being a serious problem, a massive x-ray program was instituted across the community. Maternity services, infant and pre-school child services, immunizations, "venereal disease," diabetes and home visit programs were started. Sanitation services, now called Environmental Health, inspected all aspects of the community.

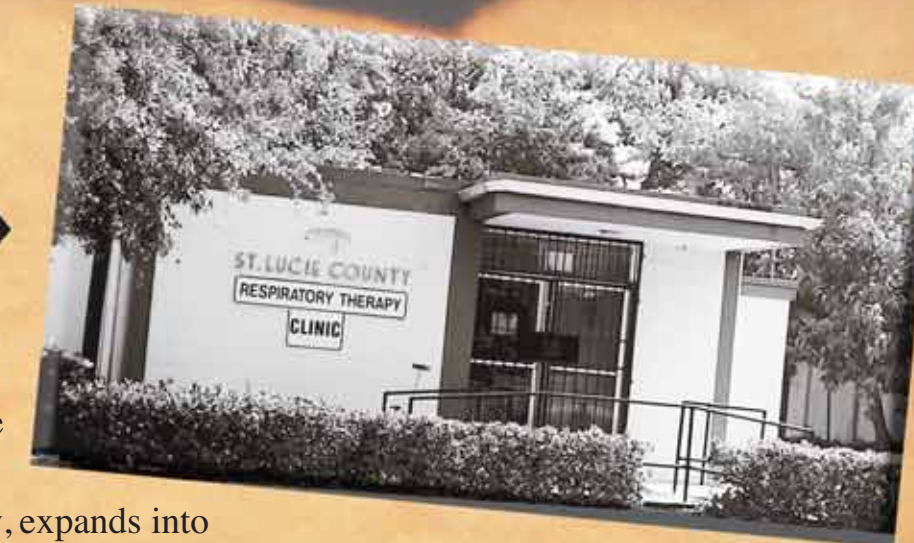
In 1950, *Dr. L L Whiddon*, temporarily agreed to take on the duties for \$200 a month. The position was soon filled by *Dr. Kip Kelso*, local physician and well known treasure hunter, who dealt with the prevailing issues of TB and polio. In 1952 *Dr. Ben F. Wyman Jr.*, inheriting, the same priorities, adds the growing issues of swarms of flies from agricultural waste dumping and an over abundance of pit privies.

1954-1986 *Dr. Neill D. Miller (1925-1986)*

At 29, the youngest County Health Officer in Florida, he also became the longest serving. He expanded health education, established X-ray and food sanitation laboratories, building the foundations for today's programs.

1961-1962 - A new \$150,000 building at 714 Avenue C, financed by county and federal money, replaced "...one of the downtown eyesores" according to the News Tribune.

1986-1987 *James Moses, RS, MAT*
The Environmental Health director since 1983, became Interim Administrator at the passing of *Dr. Miller*



1986 - Environmental health programs are expanded into 408 Brown's Court, a warehouse, early Civil Defense headquarters, and 911 dispatch center.

1987 - The business office and later Respiratory Therapy, expands into 412 Brown's Court, ironically the old county welfare office.

1987-1995 *Dr. John Rodney Cardiff*

1987 - Pre-natal clinic is established

1988 - The first office to serve Port St. Lucie is established at the Village Green Shopping Center (now City Place) to expand Environmental Health services

1992 - A two-story, 14,000 square foot addition is added to the Avenue C office

1995 - A new water and clinical laboratory is established



1995-2004 *Diane Walgren, RNC, MS*

With the creation of the Florida Department of Health, the opportunity arose to change the public health perspective of the community from helping the indigent to serving the entire community. A new facility is built on Milner Drive in Port St. Lucie. The agency becomes a progressive force in the community.



2004-2005 *Virginia "Jenny" Lindell, RN, BSN*

The Nursing Director since 1995, as Interim Administrator she expertly guided the Department's responsibilities and response as 3 major hurricanes (Frances, Ivan and Jeanne) directly impacted St. Lucie County in a 21 day period.



2005-present *Larry J. Lee, RN, MA*

The course of the St. Lucie County Health Department has been reset to meet the changes and challenges of the 21st Century.

