

TOWN OF LYNDON HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

2013

It is the authority of the Town Health Officer to hear concerns and complaints of public health issues. Public health hazards are defined in law [18 VS: 2(9)] as "...potential harm to the public health by virtue of any condition or any biological, chemical, or physical agent." The majority of these complaints have to do with rental housing issues. To this end, at times an investigation may be conducted. Most often, remediation is accomplished through amicable cooperation between the person with the complaint and any landlord or other responsible individual.

Typical complaints this past year have been flooding into living space, bedbug concerns, rodents, air quality (i.e. malfunctions of heating or concerns about mold), and utilities. Bedbugs usually require professional treatments to eradicate. Although mold is of concern, there is no EPA standard for mold types or amounts in a given area. It is recommended that any visible mold be cleaned up as soon as it becomes known. Landlords are not permitted to discontinue utilities to rented spaces, regardless. There are several good web sites accessible by anyone for more information regarding public health and/or specific issues: www.healthvermont.gov and www.epa.gov are two comprehensive sites.

The town of Lyndon has several ordinances to help keep Lyndon a safe and healthy community. "Solid Waste Management", "Rental Housing", and the licensed dog ordinances are just a few. It is recommended that each of us become aware of these ordinances and work together to preserve our town as a wholesome place to live and work.

Once again, thank you to the residents of the town of Lyndon for granting me the privilege of serving in this capacity. If you have questions or concerns, please let me know. I can be reached at lomatteis@charter.net or 626-8589.

Lorraine C. Matteis, Town Health Officer