

## Report of the Health Officer

Fremont's Health Officer welcomed Joanne Cotton, MSPH, as the Deputy Health Officer. She comes with a wealth of public health education and training. April Phelps, DNP, MSN, RN, graduated from her Doctorate in Nursing program.

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented year with the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across the globe. We have been closely monitoring the NH Department of Health and Human Services health alerts for health threats throughout the year. Health guidance has frequently been changing throughout the year as more becomes known about the coronavirus. The Health Officers have worked closely with Fremont's Elected and Town Officials to provide health guidance. The Health Officers worked diligently to keep the Fremont community informed with televised and internet presentations on how to protect and prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community. The Health Officers have made numerous visits to business establishments throughout the year to ensure State health guidance was followed to ensure the Fremont community's health.

The Health Officers worked with the Mosquito Surveillance Contractor to monitor mosquito-borne health threats. The year 2020 was an unusually quiet year for mosquitoes, with many of the key species for disease transmission greatly diminished by the drought. There were no positive Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus pools in Fremont and very few West Nile Virus cases throughout the state. Fremont citizens continue to support funding mosquito surveillance programs as they understand active mosquito surveillance allows the community to respond quickly to any health threats.

April attended the virtual Fall NH Health Officer Workshop and numerous COVID-related virtual training sessions and question and answer sessions with Federal and State authorities throughout the year. April participated on Ellis Schools COVID Response Team: Health, Safety, and Wellness Committee, which developed safeguards to keep the staff and students of Ellis protected from COVID-19 upon their in-person return to school in the Fall.

To keep abreast of the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, refer to:

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.fremont.nh.gov/>

Respectfully Submitted,

April Phelps, DNP, MSN, RN, Health Officer  
Joanne Cotton, MSPH, Deputy Health Officer

