

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Health

March 18, 2026

Regular Meeting:

Upon roll call Mr. Ed Sorge, Dr. Komal Naik, Mrs. Ellen Guritzky, Mrs. Carolyn Sayre, Mr. Bill Machado along with Ms. Juliana Silva and Ms. Jessica Mindo from Union County.

Mr. Bob Dorsi, Mrs. Valerie Simon & Mr. Alvaro Medeiros were absent.

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Sorge to approve the minutes of January 8, 2026 Board of Health Meeting and seconded by Mr. Bill Machado. By unanimous vote all members were in favor.

Presidents Report: thank you to Mrs. Ellen Guritzky, Mr. Bill Machado and the GLHS students for volunteering at the annual rabies clinic.

Health Officer's Report:

The Public Health Nurse audited seven schools. Five audits were completed, and two are scheduled for re-audits.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Public Health

Communicable Disease Investigation

Berkeley Heights Cases 1/8/2026 – 3/11/26	
Cases	Number of Cases
Chlamydia	1
Gonorrhea	1
Yersiniosis	1
Salmonellosis	1
Novel Coronavirus	22
Total:	26

All communicable disease cases have been closed and approved by the State Department of Health.

Retail Food Inspections/Nuisance Complaints

Inspection	Total
Reinspections	2
Routine inspections	14
Special Events	2
Temporary food app reviews	1

Lead

There are no active lead cases currently.

Health Education

Vaccination

Union County residents can access free immunization services and tuberculosis (TB) testing. Wellness visits are also available for uninsured children under the age of five residing in Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Hillside, Roselle, and Scotch Plains.

Union County Family Clinic

40 Parker Road

Elizabeth NJ

Basement Level

Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm

908-965-3687

908-965-386

Email: ucclinic@ucnj.org

Events

A rabies clinic was held on January 24. A total of 23 animals were vaccinated, including 16 dogs and 7 cats.

New Business: There was a discussion regarding Ordinance 8.68.210 and the pro-rating of food license fees for the first year when a new owner opens a restaurant mid-year. Currently, if a new restaurant opens in November 2025, the owner must pay the food license fee at that time and again in January for the 2026 license. A proposed change would allow new owners who open on or after July 1 to pay only half of the annual food license fee for their first year. The majority supported this amendment to Ordinance 8.68.210.

Additionally, there was discussion about situations in which a restaurant changes ownership or relocates during the year. Under the current Ordinance 8.68.200, the food license fee must be paid again in such cases. All participants agreed to keep this ordinance unchanged.

Mr. Bill Machado spoke about a cat hoarder since he has been involved.

Animal Control Services was briefly discussed.

Old Business: there was a brief discussion on the chicken ordinance and Mr. Bill Machado will give another update at the May meeting.

Citizens Hearing: no report

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Ed Sorge asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:38pm. A motion was made by Mrs. Carolyn Sayre; seconded by Mrs. Ellen Guritzky to adjourn to May 20, 2026 at 7:30pm.

Submitted by Linda Palumbo