

# NEWS



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## **Orange County Health Department recognizes National Healthy Homes Month**

*Initiative encourages residents to recognize potential hazards in home and prioritize safety*

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County’s Health Department is proud to recognize National Healthy Homes Month (NHHM), created by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). NHHM will run through the month of June.

“Everyone deserves a healthy home,” said Dr. Eli Avila, Orange County’s Commissioner of Health. “The Orange County Department of Health has worked diligently for over two decades to help provide Orange County residents with the knowledge and the resources to make their homes healthy and safe places to raise their families. We continue this mission on a daily basis.”

NHHM offers residents an opportunity to learn more about housing and its impact on health, provides resources to encourage local activities and empowers families to protect themselves from potential hazards in their homes. June’s outreach activities aim to increase awareness and understanding of what federal and local resources are available to make a difference in the lives of all residents, focusing on issues related to:

- Childhood lead poisoning prevention
- Residential asthma intervention
- Injury prevention

- Smoke free public housing
- Safe indoor pest control
- Radon Safety
- Disaster Recovery

HUD reports that millions of homes have moderate to severe physical problems, including dilapidated structure, roofing issues, heating, plumbing and electrical deficiencies, water leaks and intrusion; pests, damaged paint and high radon gas levels. These conditions are associated with a wide range of health issues, including unintentional injuries, respiratory illnesses such as asthma and radon-induced lung cancer and lead poisoning. The associated health and economic burdens from preventable hazards within homes are considerable and cost billions of dollars in healthcare.

“National Healthy Homes Month is an important opportunity to highlight the dangers of residential hazards for people of all ages, especially our children and other vulnerable populations,” Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus said. “It also promotes community involvement and enhances public awareness of these hazards and the ways we can better protect our families on a community, city, state and national level.”

Orange County’s Department of Health will be participating in various events throughout the month, providing education on the National Healthy Homes principles, and will continue outreach in the cities of Newburgh, Middletown and Port Jervis. These events will promote awareness and provide resources to empower families to strive for a healthy home. For more information on National Healthy Homes Month 2016, please visit [www.hud.gov/healthyhomes](http://www.hud.gov/healthyhomes).

If you live in the Middletown, Newburgh or Port Jervis areas, call 360-6680 to inquire if your neighborhood is eligible to receive a public health assessment through the County’s Healthy Neighborhoods Program. Residents can call 360-6687 to apply for funding through Orange County’s HUD program to have any homes or multi-family homes you own made lead safe.

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