

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

The Stamford Health Department offers a number of services for the residents of Stamford. Some at a fee or for free. When compared to surrounding municipalities. The fees were oftentimes much less despite the rising costs to maintain these essential programs. For these reasons, we propose a reassessment of the Department's fee schedule.

While any proposed increases in fee could potentially deter the use of Health Department services, we believe that these increases are essential at this time.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS

The Division of Environmental Inspections provides the City of Stamford with a variety of services. Some of these services are performed for free and a fee is charged for others.

Building Fees. Prior to the use of any commercial or residential building, plan reviews are conducted to provide guidance on state and local regulations. A plan review is a time-consuming process that at times may take as long as one year to be completed due to changes in the plans, conflicts with contractors, lease agreements and insufficient funding for the project. In addition, inspections are required before the properties are approved for occupancy to ensure that the contractor has followed the agreed-upon plans that were originally submitted, reviewed and approved.

The City of Stamford Ordinance 123-1(A) and Resolution 2581 established the fee schedule for building and septic permits for various activities. The last fee schedule became effective May 1, 2000 and many surrounding municipalities have substantially higher fees than Stamford (Table 3). The plan review process is very involved, it not only requires an in-office review of the engineer's or architect's plan, but also requires the inspectors to conduct a site review.

The fees listed in Table 1 are being requested for services that we currently do not charge for:

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

Table 1. Building Fees

Activity	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Greenwich	Darien	New Canaan	Norwalk	Westport Weston
3 Apartments Plan Reviews	\$ 70	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4 to 9 Apartments Plan Reviews	\$ 85	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
10 – 39 Apartments Plan Reviews	\$ 210	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
40 Apartments or more Plan Reviews	\$ 325	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Rooming Houses Plan Reviews	\$ 210	\$0	NA	NA	\$100.00	NA	NA
Hotels Plan Reviews	\$ 325	\$0	NA	NA	\$100.00	NA	NA
Assisted Living & Continuing Care Plan Reviews	\$ 325	\$0	NA	NA	\$425 w Class IV/FSE \$200 w/o FSE	NA	NA
Building Addition – Plan Review	\$100	\$70	NA	\$150	\$200	\$110	\$210-\$275
Install Pool/Hot Tub – Plan Review	\$100	\$70	NA	\$150	NA	NA	\$400
Install Water Treatment – Plan Review	\$100	\$35	NA	NA	\$225	NA	\$220
Subdivision Evaluation Application & review – Plan Review	\$175/ lot	\$140 for 1 st lot, \$35 for each additional lot	\$150 per lot	\$250 per lot	\$150 per lot	\$235 per lot	\$220 per lot
New Building Structure and Installation new Septic System in– Plan Review	\$450	\$350	\$465	\$555	\$400 (sys) / \$150 (tank only)	\$335	\$495
Installation of New System in Existing Structure – Plan Review	\$350	\$250	\$465	\$555	\$400 (sys) / \$150 (tank only)	\$335	\$495
Repair Septic System – Plan Review	\$125	\$70	\$465	\$375	\$300	NA	\$220-\$385
Septic Plan Post – Review Revisions	\$100	\$0	\$55-101	\$300	\$150	NA	\$140-\$495
Identification of Location for New Septic System	\$125	\$70	\$235	\$200	\$150	\$235	\$140
Soil Test for New Septic System	\$100	\$0	\$120	\$150	\$150	NA	\$255
Well Abandonment (Closure) – Permit	\$100	\$50	NA	NA	\$100	NA	\$110
Well Construction or Repair – Permit	\$100	\$50	\$509	\$250	\$150	\$85	\$155

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

Massage Establishments. The City of Stamford unlike our neighboring municipalities has a fee schedule for Massage Establishments. **The massage establishment fees are established under City of Stamford Code of Ordinance Chapter 159 and Resolution 2824 and have not changed since July 1, 2003.** Since then, the administrative costs have increased over the years. We propose the following fee changes, see Table 2.

Table 2. Massage Establishment Fees

Massage Establishment Fees	Stamford Current	Stamford Proposed	Greenwich	Darien	New Canaan	Norwalk	Westport/ Weston
Application Filing Fee	\$50	\$100	\$98 same as permit - only one fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Plan Review Application Fee	\$25	\$50	\$65	\$100	\$50.00	\$45	\$385
Pre-Operational Plan Review Inspection Fee	\$25	\$50	N/A	N/A	1 st inspection is free	N/A	N/A
Each Additional Pre-Operational Inspection	\$ 0	\$50	N/A	N/A	\$50.00	N/A	N/A
Permit to Operate Fee	\$50	\$100	\$98 same as permit - only one fee	\$100/ per service up to \$400	\$100	\$100	\$175 (1-15 stations) \$385(16+ stations)
Renewal of Permit to Operate Fee	\$50	\$100	\$98	\$100/ per service up to \$400	\$100	\$100	\$175 (1-15 stations) \$385(16+ stations)

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

Food Establishments. City of Stamford in 2015 revised the Food Establishment License and Service Fees under Resolution 3764. This Resolution provided for a five (5) year phase in which is currently in place. Therefore, we are not recommending changes at this time for these fees.

Under City of Stamford Ordinance 132-67 that requires the Health Department to conduct plan reviews. However, the plan review fees were last changed on October 1, 2015 by resolution 3764 which established a fee of \$70. *Thus, we are requesting the changes outlined in Table 3 below.*

Table 3. Food Establishment Fees.

	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Greenwich	Darien	New Canaan	Norwalk	Bridgeport	Westport Weston	New Haven
Plan Review	\$125	\$70	\$160	\$250-\$650	\$125-\$400	\$45-\$130	\$100- >=\$225	\$660	NA
Plan Review Revisions	\$25	\$0	N/A	N/A	\$25	NA	\$165	NA	NA

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

Certificate of Apartment Occupancy (CAO). The City of Stamford's Health Department currently licenses three-family, or greater apartments under City of Stamford Ordinance 146-34. However, there is no CAO inspection requirements for these dwellings unlike what is dictated by City of Stamford Ordinance 146-33 for four family, or greater structures that are 15 years or greater in age. The goal of ordinance 146-33 is to ensure a safe living environment when multiple families share an older dwelling. It is our opinion that three family homes would benefit from a CAO inspection. Therefore, we are proposing a new fee for three-family dwellings (Table 8) with a **change in the language to section 146-33 D(2) of the City Code of Ordinance.**

Currently the Health Department has no legal standing to enforce payment of fees for permits, licenses, and inspections. Because of this, many business persons are delinquent in their payments to the City which results in a huge loss of revenue for the Health Department and the City.

We are proposing a \$75 late fee that a late fee of seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars will be charged for each licensing, permitting and or inspection fee that remains unpaid for a period of thirty (30) days past the due date. After sixty (60) days, an additional one hundred and fifty (150.00) dollars will be added to the late fee. After six (6) months, the license shall be revoked until all licensing, inspections, and late fees are paid in full. As well as provide the authority to placard the establishment.

Table 4. Certificate of Apartment Occupancy for three (3) Family Homes

Certificate of Apartment Occupancy for 3 family houses	# structures in Stamford	Stamford Current	Stamford Proposed New Fee per unit	Greenwich	Darien	New Canaan	Norwalk	Westport/ Weston
3 family inspection	636	\$0	\$95	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$95	N/A

Refuse collection. Surrounding municipalities do not charge a fee for this service. The City of Stamford **Ordinance 137-8 and Resolution 2592** requires that Refuse and Septic trucks be licensed for an annual fee of \$56 which became effective **July 1, 2000**. *We are proposing a new fee of \$100.*

Table 5. Refuse Trucks

	Stamford Current	Stamford Proposed New Fee per unit	Greenwich	Darien	New Canaan	Norwalk
Refuse Trucks	\$56.00	\$100	N/A	N/A	\$100	NA

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

Weights and Measures. The weights and measures activities are established under f. These fees are overdue for an increase as many manpower hours are spent on inspecting scales and meters in food establishments, taxis and at gas pumps for accuracy. City of Stamford's fees are currently less than surrounding municipalities. We are proposing a fee change as described in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Weights and Measures Fees

	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Norwalk	Bridgeport	New Haven
Weights and Measures					
0 to 50 lbs.	\$50	\$35	\$35	\$50	\$36
Over 50 lbs.	\$140	\$140	\$35	\$160	
Retail Motor Fuel Meter	\$50	\$35	\$50	\$65	\$45
Taxi Cab Metter	\$50	\$35	\$35	\$75	\$25
Vehicle Tank Meter	\$90	\$70	\$75	\$130	

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

DIVISION OF NURSING AND DENTAL SERVICES

The Community Nursing Program, while not a direct patient care provider, provides essential services that ensure that the residents have access to critical public health response.

The program provides services for sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, pediatric physicals and assessments, pediatric immunizations, and vaccinations for adults against influenza, pertussis, and other diseases during public health investigations to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases and during the influenza season.

Most of these services have traditionally been offered for free regardless of insurance and income status. However, given the reduction in financial support from the state for completely free care, we are proposing a sliding fee schedule for some services and insurance billing that would allow the Health Department to recoup funds at reimbursement rate as is done in the dental program.

This would require the City to support the clinic by investing in the purchase of an Electronic Health Record (EHR) also known as an Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic. Fees have never been charged in the past for STD services. In Fiscal year 2017-2018.

Table 7. STD Office Visit

	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Norwalk	Bridgeport
Sexually Transmitted Disease Office Visit	\$10	\$0	\$10	\$10

Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic. Fees have never been charged in the past for TB clinical services. In Fiscal year 2017-2018, there were 22 pediatric cases seen at the Henry Street clinic and 61 adult cases seen at Optimus/Stamford Hospital pulmonary clinic jointly with a Health Department TB nurse. Optimus /Stamford Hospital bills the State Department of Public Health for the TB services.

Norwalk: All TB cases in Norwalk are seen at the Norwalk Hospital Clinic which bills the State Tuberculosis Program for all visits. However, the mandatory investigations and follow-up are conducted by the Norwalk Health Department.

Stratford: All TB cases in Stratford are seen in the Health Department Tuberculosis clinic and the Health Department bills the State Tuberculosis Program and is reimbursed at the Medicaid rate. All mandatory investigations and follow-up are conducted by the Stratford Health Department.

We are proposing to charge a \$10 office visit fee for pediatric and adult TB office visits (Table 11) until we are able to bill Medicaid. This proposal will require the City obtaining full Medicaid billing privileges and an EMR.

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

Table 8. Tuberculosis Office Visit

	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Norwalk	Stratford
Pediatric TB physician office visit	\$10	\$0	N/A	Bills DPH
Adult TB physician office visit	\$10	\$0	N/A	Bills DPH

The program also provides TB skin testing for adults who require skin testing for work or entry into a shelter. Compared to surrounding towns, as see in Table 12 below, the fee in Stamford is much less. *We are proposing to increase the fees and in the future to bill insurance for these services.*

Table 9. Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST)

Test	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Norwalk	Greenwich	Westport
TST	\$30	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$57

Well Child Program. Fees have never been charged in the past for Well Child services. In Fiscal year 2017-2018, there were 600 visits made to the Well Child Clinic. Vaccines provided to children are obtained free of charge from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. The goal of this service is to provide care only for children who either have no insurance, or their insurance will not cover these services.

Table 10. Well Child Office Visits

	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Norwalk	Greenwich
Vaccine administration fee non-resident	\$10	\$0	\$20	NA
Vaccine administration fee person with insurance	NA	\$0	NA	\$60
Physicals for persons with insurance	NA	\$0	NA	\$60
Physicals for non-resident	\$10	\$0	NA	

*Norwalk Health Department does not provide physicals.

Greenwich Health Department provides both physicals and vaccinations to uninsured and underinsured persons for free and \$60 to anyone with insurance

Department of Health Fee Comparisons & Proposed Fee Changes for 2018

Adult Immunization. While the surrounding municipalities charge a fee for adult immunizations, the current fee schedule in Stamford is the lowest. Unlike pediatric vaccines, the City purchases these vaccines with City funds. We are proposing to increase the current fees for adult vaccines and to bill insurance in the future for these services (Table 11).

Table 11. Adult Immunization Fees

Vaccine	Stamford Proposed	Stamford Current	Norwalk	Greenwich	Westport
Consultation and administration Fee	\$15	\$0	\$25/visit	\$21/visit	1 person \$50 2 persons \$75 3 or more \$100
Tetanus and Pertussis	\$70	\$55	\$70	\$60	\$85
Hepatitis A	\$85	\$75	\$80	\$87	\$90
Polio	\$55	\$45	\$50	\$50	\$71
Meningitis	\$125	\$100	\$125	\$130	\$152
Measles, Mumps, Rubella	\$80	\$55	\$80	\$80	\$118
Tetanus	\$65	\$35	\$45	NA	\$82
Chickenpox	\$125	\$85	\$125	\$150	\$165