



## *Department of Public Health*

Monroe County, New York

**Cheryl Dinolfo**  
*County Executive*

**Michael D. Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS**  
*Commissioner of Public Health*

October 4, 2019

Jesse Knoth  
SEAC Executive Director  
630 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14607

Dear Mr. Knoth,

The Monroe County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) continues to implement the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). MCDPH has enhanced those services over recent years by providing increased availability for in-person meetings and field visits with individuals, neighborhoods, and various community associations to inspect areas with rat problems and provide education and guidance to help tackle these issues as a community. IPM is a way of thinking about pest management that focuses on the removal of the pests' food, water and shelter to reduce rodents in the community.

MCDPH has not discontinued the application of pesticides to control rodents. These actions remain as one of the tools at our disposal and MCDPH continues to have staff certified by the NYSDEC as commercial pesticide applicators in order to complete this work responsibly. It is important to consider that pesticide treatments used may contain strong chemicals that can be harmful to people and pets, especially if they are used improperly. MCDPH continues to apply pesticides on a limited basis as determined to be appropriate by the Department's trained staff. Nothing has changed in this regard. However, property owners are responsible for controlling rodent infestations on their own property. In some cases, this may require hiring a professional extermination service to mitigate the infestation.

MCDPH investigates rodent concerns by assessing the property for rodent entry points and sources of food, water and shelter. MCDPH does this in order to protect public health, by helping residents of Monroe County stay in compliance with the Monroe County Sanitary Code. MCDPH continues to work cooperatively with the City of Rochester, and all other municipal code enforcement offices throughout the County. Code enforcement offices have the responsibility to enforce the Property Maintenance Code under the state Uniform Code. Sometimes, investigations are done jointly with MCDPH and local code enforcement officials. Each situation will have its own unique

circumstances and sometimes, MCDPH may need to enforce the sanitary code using citations or fines. Sometimes, the city, town, or village Code Enforcement Office may need to enforce their codes.

Any individuals, neighborhood groups, or community associations experiencing a problem with rats are encouraged to call MCDPH's Housing and General Sanitation office at **753-5171** to get in touch with trained inspector who can investigate their unique situation and help provide solutions. A summary of the MCDPH program with tips about pest management can be found on the informational flyer available on our website:

<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/files/health/Rodent%20Prevention%20info%20-%2085x11.pdf>

For pest management to be successful, a community effort works best, where everyone in the neighborhood works together to implement proven strategies. MCDPH is proud to be a continued resource and is available to help in these matters.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS  
Commissioner of Public Health  
Monroe County Department of Public Health

