

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

STAFF

Director of Public Health – James M. White, Jr.(Jan. 1 to Sep. 30, 2021) Michael K. Boudreau (Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021)
Senior Environmental Health Specialist – Michael K. Boudreau (Jan. 1-Sep. 30, 2021) Vacant (Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021)
Environmental Health Agent – Jane M. Anderson Public Health Nurse – Deborah Chaulk (resigned Oct. 2021)
Sanitarian – Caeli Tegan Sanitarian – Mishel Caisapanta
Executive Assistant – Jean M. Cotter Administrative Assistant – Ingrid C. Fosberg (resigned Dec. 2021)

Substance Prevention & Outreach Program

Catherine Sugarman, Program Manager - Elizabeth Chafin, Associate Coordinator - Astrid Dretler, Administrative Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS

Donald J. Breda, P.E., Chair Karla Sangrey, P.E., Vice Chair
Peter A Delli Colli, D.M.D., Clerk Paige Meisheid, M.D., Physician to the Board

The Natick Health Department continues to be a resource for the community by meeting the diverse health needs of the Town. This includes communicable disease, environmental contamination, substance use disorder, prevention strategies and state mandated responsibilities.

Communicable and reportable diseases reported in 2021:

Babesiosis	1	Mumps	3
Campylobacteriosis	4	Salmonellosis	4
Dengue Fever	1	Shigellosis	1
Dengue Fever	1	Tuberculosis	3
Giardiasis	1	Varicella (Chicken Pox)	3
Hepatitis A	2		
Hepatitis B	8		
Hepatitis C	16	Influenza	10
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	4		
Legionellosis	1	COVID-19 (Confirmed)	2643
Lyme Disease	42		
		TOTAL	2754

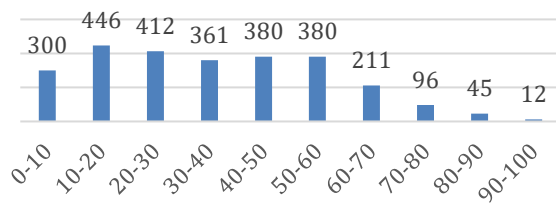
The COVID-19 pandemic underwent many major shifts in 2021 and continues to be this department's highest priority. The beginning of the year continued several of the restrictions, mandates, and safety standards established under the Governor's Declaration of Emergency and associated orders. As vaccines became available to the greater population, the Governor's Declaration of Emergency was rescinded in May 2021 along with all mandates and other requirements. The emergence COVID-19 variants of concern, Delta in late summer and Omicron in late autumn lead to an increase in positive case rates. This report will reflect upon some of those changes and the data included will show the affect the COVID-19 pandemic presented.

As COVID-19 vaccines became available, this office administered 1294 doses in early 2021. Supplies were soon allocated by the State for mass vaccination sites, including one established in Natick (on the first floor of the former Sears at the Natick Mall). We also partnered with independent contractors to provide vaccines and boosters to ages 5 and up throughout the latter half of the year. The vaccination rates for COVID-19 are some of the highest in the State.

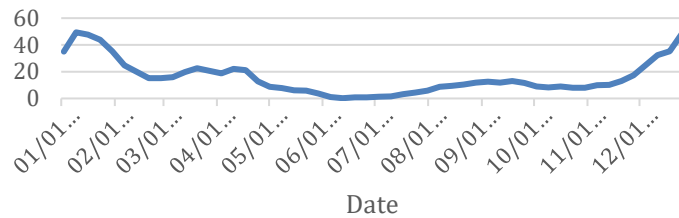
Our clinical services offered by the Public Health Nurse continued to be noticeably affected by the pandemic. The immunization program saw a decrease in vaccinations as 41 various adult and pediatric vaccinations were administered in 2021. The Public Health Nurse and volunteers administered 935 doses of flu vaccine. Out of those doses, 536 were administered at a drive-thru clinic held at the DPW garage on October 23, 2021. A reduction or pause in several other clinical services was noted; but a small number of home visits were done in addition to blood pressure clinics in 4 locations.

The major focus of the Public Health Nurse remained on the pandemic. From January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, Natick reported 2643 positive COVID-19 cases. Each case requires extensive contact tracing in order to identify and quarantine close direct contacts to prevent further spread. The majority of the reporting and contact tracing responsibility falls to the local health departments, mainly the public health nurse. In October, 2021, our Public Health Nurse, Deborah Chaulk, resigned, but continued to provide vaccination, contact tracing, and public health data collection services on a part-time basis. The full-time Public Health Nurse position remains vacant at this time.

2021 COVID-19 Confirmed and Probable by Age Group



Average Daily Rate from January 2021 to December 2021



Natick Vaccination Rates as of December 31, 2021:

Age Group	Population %	Proportion of town population	Individuals with at least one dose	Individuals with at least one dose per capita	Proportion of town individuals with at least one dose	Fully vaccinated individuals	Fully vaccinated individuals per capita	Proportion of town fully vaccinated individuals	Partially vaccinated individuals	Partially vaccinated individuals per capita	Proportion of town partially vaccinated individuals	Individuals with booster doses	Individuals with booster doses per capita	Proportion of town individuals with booster doses
5-11	2905	8%	2511	86%	7%	2027	70%	7%	484	17%	12%	-	0%	0%
12-15	1842	5%	1849	>95%	5%	1734	94%	6%	115	6%	3%	11	1%	0%
16-19	1595	4%	1807	>95%	5%	1627	>95%	5%	180	11%	5%	638	40%	4%
20-29	4157	12%	3711	89%	11%	3226	78%	11%	485	12%	13%	1248	30%	8%
30-49	9334	26%	9853	>95%	29%	8858	95%	29%	995	11%	26%	5046	54%	32%
50-64	8080	22%	7700	>95%	22%	6975	86%	23%	725	9%	19%	4438	55%	28%
65-74	3446	10%	3923	>95%	11%	3475	>95%	11%	448	13%	12%	2532	73%	16%
75+	2468	7%	2931	>95%	9%	2487	>95%	8%	444	18%	11%	1834	74%	12%
Totals	36016	100%	34285	>95%	100%	30409	84%	100%	3876	11%	100%	15747	44%	100%

Daily operations of the Environmental Inspection Program continued to be affected by the pandemic as most of the responsibility of initiation, guidance and enforcement of the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders continued to be handed down to the local level and ultimately the local health departments. In addition to the Executive Order responsibilities, the staff continued to carry out daily operations, although limited due to the pandemic. The staff conducted 810 inspections on 372 various permitted food establishments and 4584 other inspections, investigations, plan reviews and consultations relevant to environmental sanitation for a total of 5394.

The department reviewed 875 Title 5 inspections, building applications, grease trap and septic system pump outs; reviewed and corresponded on 77 Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals cases; issued 75 quarantine notices by the Animal Inspector. The staff also issued and/or approved 1,124 various permits.

On May 8, 2021, we hosted our 35th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Among 287 residential households took part in disposing of their materials in an effort to protect our environment. Natick continues to participate in the multi-community reciprocal collection program sponsored by Department of Environmental Protection.

Annual receipts to the department totaled \$311,450.23. From that total, \$177,214.78 was deposited into the Town's General Fund; the remaining \$134,235.45 was deposited into the following designated Board of Health Accounts: Immunization Revolving \$33,307.05 Tobacco Revolving \$3,800.00, Prevention & Outreach Gift Donation Fund \$1,864.05, Health and Wellness Donation Fund \$2,000.00.

The department also applied and received the following grant funds in 2021:

Legislative COVID-19 Earmark Grant – \$43,411.35

MHOA COVID-19 Grant –\$19,853.00

MetroWest Health Foundation – COVID-19 Assistance & Relief Grant \$15,000.00

MetroWest Health Foundation – Equity and Diversity Grant under the Substance Prevention & Outreach Program \$15,000.00

The department has recently signed into an agreement to participate in an 8 community shared public health services program, providing access to a public health nurse, epidemiologists, and inspectional services. The program is funded through a three-year state grant.

Our long serving Director, James M. White, Jr, took a well-deserved retirement after nearly 43 years of working for the Town of Natick in many capacities. We wish him the best and look forward to his future collaboration with the Town

The annual report of the Substance Prevention and Outreach Program under the administration of the Health Department is located in a separate report.

