

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT – 2022

STAFF

Director of Public Health – Michael K. Boudreau
Senior Environmental Health Specialist – Jessica R. Cliff
Environmental Health Agent – Mishel Caisapanta
Sanitarian – Vacant
Executive Assistant – Jean M. Cotter

Public Health Nurse – Heidi Harper
Sanitarian – Caeli Tegan (Resigned Nov. 2022)
Administrative Assistant – Elaine Cheng

Substance Prevention & Outreach Program

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Karla Sangrey, PE, Chair
Donald J. Breda, PE, Clerk

Peter A Delli Colli, DMD, Vice Chair
Paige Meisheid, MD, 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 2022:

Babesiosis	3	Norovirus	1
Campylobacteriosis	8	Salmonellosis	8
Cryptosporidium	1	Shigellosis	2
Giardia	5	Tuberculosis (Latent)	2
Group A Strep	1	Viral hemorrhagic fever	10
Hepatitis A	1		
Hepatitis B	6	Influenza	95
Hepatitis C	5		
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	1	COVID-19 (Confirmed)	4716
Lyme Disease	78		
Monkeypox	1	TOTAL	4944

The Board of Health continued to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic with the response undergoing many major shifts in 2022 and remained one of this department's highest priorities. Due to a surge in COVID-19 cases at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022, the Board of Health instituted a temporary, Town-wide mask mandate which was lifted in March 2022. Throughout the year, the Health Department continued to monitor COVID-19 cases. Additional actions to address the ongoing pandemic included contact tracing of reported cases, distribution of free "at-home" test kits, advisories, and education. Our Public Health Nurse also administered 292 COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.

The immunization program saw an increase in vaccinations as 92 various adult and pediatric vaccinations were administered in 2022. The Public Health Nurse and volunteers administered 944 doses of flu vaccine. Out of those doses, 398 were administered at a drive-thru clinic held at the DPW garage on October 15, 2022. Clinical services increased as pandemic restrictions relaxed, including 18 blood pressure clinics (held at the Community Senior Center) and 2 health and wellness fairs.

The Environmental staff conducted 1,073 inspections on 508 various permitted food establishments and 2,488 other inspections, investigations, plan reviews and consultations relevant to environmental sanitation for a total 3,561. This year also presented a resurgence in the number of recreational summer camps for children to pre-pandemic participation levels and some new food services opening. The occurrences of cyanobacteria, or harmful algal blooms in Fiske Pond and portions of Lake Cochituate required staff to post notices at known access points to these bodies of water, maintain lines of communication for the public, and coordinate closely with the MA DPH Environmental Toxicology Program.

The department reviewed 763 Title 5 inspections, building applications, grease trap and septic system pump outs; reviewed and corresponded on 66 Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals cases; issued 61 quarantine notices by the Animal Inspector. The staff also issued and/or approved 1,073 various permits.

On April 30, 2022, we hosted our 36th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Among 202 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 \$245,304.24. From that total, \$158,228.75 was deposited into the Town's General Fund. The remaining \$87,075.49 was deposited into the following designated Board of Health Accounts: Immunization Revolving Fund \$29,643.69, Prevention & Outreach Fund \$3,246.00, Tobacco Revolving Fund \$4,000.00. The department also applied for and received a MetroWest Health Foundation – Municipal Public Health COVID-19 Response Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00

The Board of Health drafted new Biosafety Regulations to oversee biological research industry in the Town of Natick.

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