

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT – 2016

STAFF

Director of Public Health – James M. White, Jr.
Sr. Environmental Health Specialist – Michael K. Boudreau
Environmental Health Agent – Jane M. Anderson
Sanitarian – Jessica R. Cliff
Public Health Nurse – Leila J. Mercer
Executive Assistant – Jean M. Cotter
Department Assistant – Ingrid C. Fosberg
Animal Inspector – Keith A. Tosi

Communicable and reportable diseases reported in 2016:

Anaplasmosis (HGA)	2	Lyme Disease	68
Babesiosis	3	Malaria	1
Campylobacteriosis	4	Mumps	2
Cryptosporidiosis	1	Norovirus	3
Dengue Fever	2	Pertussis	2
Giardiasis	2	Salmonellosis	4
Group B Strep Invasive	5	Typhoid Fever	1
S. pneumonia	1	Varicella(Chicken Pox)	7
Hepatitis B	6	Influenza (Lab Confirmed)	
Hepatitis C	31	Type A	52
Legionella	1	Type B	18

TOTAL: 242

During our annual flu clinic season 1392 doses of flu vaccine were administered, the majority of which were subsidized by our Immunization Revolving Account. This revolving account also benefited our pediatric and adult immunization programs where 87 and 119 doses were administered, respectively. Including the highly priced shingles vaccine where 47 doses were provided to residents where insurance would not cover all or a portion of the cost.

The Public Health Nurse reported a total of 589 office visits and walk-ins for services, evaluations and blood pressure; conducted 108 home and field visits for contagion or community health assessments; resulting in 48 referrals to private physicians and/or state agencies.

Construction in Natick continues on a torrid pace making for another busy year. The health department is involved in many phases of the process adding to the increase in workload. It appears this trend may continue for some time.

The environmental staff conducted 1140 inspections on 397 food establishments of all types; additionally 3664 various inspections, investigations, plan reviews and consultations relevant to environmental sanitation were conducted for a total of 4804 inspectional staff services for 2016.

The department issued 1398 various permits and deposited a total of \$201,288.27 into the town general fund for fees collected in calendar year 2016.

The Health Department has been appointed by the Board of Selectmen as an active member of the newly created Opioid Task Force Team. The Task Force has been charged with providing resources and assistance to individuals and families dealing with this public health epidemic of addiction and to end the stigma surrounding this disease. Though we are in the early stages of operations the Board and department are fully committed to this effort.

During their July meeting the Board of Health adopted a new regulation governing the practice of Bodyworks. This business has been suspected of being a haven for prostitution and human trafficking of young women. The regulation will enable this department and the Natick Police to oversee the legitimate practices and to cease the operations of the unlawful, non-certified businesses.

This past year we joined into a Reciprocal Household Hazardous Waste agreement with several communities. This initiative was spearheaded by the Department of Environmental Protection that offers residents additional options to dispose of their waste products. We will continue to sponsor our annual spring collection day but do plan on participating in this program in 2017.

This department has recently received an electric vehicle for the inspectional staff to share. A big thank you to the Sustainability Coordinator Jillian Wilson Martin for leading the efforts as we join the ranks of going green!

Looking forward, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is currently in the process of revising several state codes and regulations including the much anticipated food code, day camps and lead paint. These regulations are enforced at the local level and any significant changes may have a direct effect on the health department's processes and procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian L. Wong, MSPH, Chairman

Donald J. Breda, PE, Vice Chairman

Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Clerk

James M. White, Jr., CPH, RS/REHS, Director of Public Health