

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

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
Administrative Assistant – Ingrid C. Fosberg

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 abuse disorder, prevention strategies and state mandated responsibilities.

Communicable and reportable diseases reported in 2017:

Babesiosis	1	Legionella	1
Campylobacteriosis	6	Lyme Disease	115
Cryptosporidiosis	2	Mumps	1
Enterovirus	1	Pertussis	2
Giardiasis	4	Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	2
Group A Strep Invasive	2	Salmonellosis	11
Group B Strep Invasive	1	Shiga Toxin-prod E Coli	2
S. pneumonia	2	Shigellosis	1
Hepatitis A	1	Varicella (Chicken Pox)	7
Hepatitis B	9	Influenza (Lab confirmed)	
Hepatitis C	36	Type A	100
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	2	Type B	28
			TOTAL: 337

During the annual fall flu clinic season, the Public Health Nurse, volunteers and School Nurses administered 1,402 doses of flu vaccine. This included school based clinics held at Natick High School, Wilson Middle School and Kennedy Middle School. The immunization program also included various additional 87 pediatric and 72 adult vaccinations.

The Public Health Nurse reported a total of 553 office visits for services, evaluations and blood pressure checks. The Public Health Nurse conducted 94 home and field visits for contagion or community health assessments; resulting in 75 referrals to private physicians and/or state agencies.

The Environmental staff conducted 1,177 inspections on 411 food establishments and 3,842 other inspections, investigations, plan reviews and consultations relevant to environmental sanitation for a total of 5,019. In addition, the department reviewed 566 reports of asbestos removal, pest control, Title 5 inspections, grease trap and septic system pump out reports.

The Health Department staff approved and issued 1,457 various permits.

Annual receipts to the department totaled \$210,937.59. From that total, \$183,538.05 was deposited into the Town's General Fund and the remaining \$27,399.54 was deposited into the three Board of Health Revolving Fund Accounts as follows: Immunization \$19,879.39, Tobacco \$5,400.00 and Public Health Emergency Preparedness \$1,970.15.

The 31st Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day, on June 10, 2017, sold out of all 300 pre-registration tickets. In addition, 12 non-residents from several communities within the MA DEP Reciprocal Waste Collection Program participated in the event. The day collected the largest quantity of waste for proper disposal in over ten years.

As mentioned in previous annual reports, the pace of construction throughout the town continues to increase the Department's workload. The Health Department is involved in multiple aspects of the process including case review for Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission: review of every building application; soil evaluation for foundation elevations and drainage and multiple inspections prior to final occupancy approval. The increased workload has been apparent for several years with no end in sight.

First brought to the Board's attention by a citizen's petition and subsequently addressed by Town Meeting, the Board of Health adopted a new regulation in May promoting a reduction in the use of certain plastic bags. The Board researched Massachusetts communities with reductions or bans in place and received input from Natick retail businesses prior to approval of the regulation.

The Department has been involved in substance abuse prevention efforts for many years. The Health Department is represented on the Natick Opioid Task Force, Natick Together for Youth, Metrowest Opioid Addiction Prevention Coalition (MOAPC) and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SAPC); the latter two are regional approaches to providing resources and reducing substance addiction. The addiction crisis has no borders.

The Natick Public Health Director serves on the subcommittee working on the strategic plan for the Town of Natick's Substance Abuse Outreach and Prevention Program. To address the Town's efforts to combat substance abuse, the Town of Natick's Substance Abuse Outreach and Prevention Program, including the Outreach and Prevention Coordinator and any potential subsequent position(s), will be placed under the Health Department and the Board early in 2018.

The four communities within MOAPC (Natick, Framingham, Ashland and Hudson) received a grant from the MetroWest Health Foundation to purchase and dispense free Narcan (Naloxone) to families fighting the disease of addiction and to public access locations where overdoses may become prevalent. Natick has been chosen to pilot the grant because of our advanced preparedness and will be the first public health department in the state as a community based supplier of this front-line overdose antidote. The hope is to begin dispensing Narcan by February 1, 2018.

The kiosks for used sharps/syringes and unwanted pharmaceuticals continue to have an increase in usage for disposing of their respective products. The original contracted pickup schedule was on a monthly basis but both kiosks have had to increase the schedule to twice per month. This year to date, a total of 736 gallons of used sharps have been properly disposed through the program. The pharmaceutical kiosk, located in the police station lobby, is a joint venture between the Police Department and Board of Health.

In 2018, the Board has requested an increase in education and awareness for Lyme and other tick-borne related diseases and the use of vaping products by youths, especially juuling. Natick has seen the highest number of confirmed Lyme disease cases of town residents in any calendar year. It is time to re-convene the Lyme disease committee and make effort towards reduction in this epidemic.

Adolescent youth surveys conducted by the MetroWest Health Foundation have indicated there is concern amongst public health officials that vaping products such as juuling are on the rise. These vaping products can be utilized as a nicotine delivery service, potentially in a much higher concentration form, and also may be used to deliver marijuana products as well. Some vape products are designed to mimic everyday commonly used items such as pens, markers and thumb drives which are difficult to detect. Although no long term information is currently available, early indications point to potential nicotine addiction and harmful side effects from known and unknown additives to the vaping materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Chairman
Donald J. Breda, PE, Vice Chairman
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