

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

STAFF

Director of Public Health – James M. White, Jr.
Senior Environmental Health Specialist – Michael K. Boudreau
Environmental Health Agent – Jane M. Anderson
Sanitarian – Jessica R. Cliff
Public Health Nurse – Leila J. Mercer
Substance Prevention & Outreach Program Manager – Catherine Sugarman
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 use disorder, prevention strategies and state mandated responsibilities.

Communicable and reportable diseases reported in 2018:

Babesiosis	5	Legionella	2
Borrelia Miyamotoi	1	Lyme Disease	115
Campylobacteriosis	9	Mumps	1
Cryptosporidiosis	2	Norovirus	4
Ehrlichiosis (HGE)	1	Pertussis	2
Giardiasis	2	Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	1
Group A Strep Invasive	1	Salmonellosis	6
Group B Strep Invasive	0	Shigellosis	1
S. pneumonia	2	Varicella (Chicken Pox)	5
Hepatitis A	2	Vibrio	2
Hepatitis B	10	Influenza (Lab Confirmed)	
Hepatitis C	26	Type A	105
Haemophilus Influenzae	2	Type B	42
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	2	TOTAL	288

During the annual fall flu clinic season, the Public Health Nurse, volunteers and School Nurses administered 1,560 doses of flu vaccine. This included school based clinics held at Natick High School, Wilson Middle School and Kennedy Middle School and a family based clinic at the High School on October 30. The immunization program also included various additional 57 pediatric and 217 adult vaccinations; noted was the sharp increase in doses of the Shingles vaccine from 17 in 2017 to 180 administered to adults age 50 and older in 2018.

The Public Health Nurse reported a total of 553 office visits for services, evaluations and blood pressure checks, 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 1,190 inspections on 419 food establishments and 3,779 other inspections, investigations, plan reviews and consultations relevant to environmental sanitation for a total of 4969. This shows a relatively high volume of output by the staff and for the second consecutive year this department has met the state mandate for food service inspections.

The State Legislature adopted significant revisions recommended by the Department of Public Health to the Camp and Food Codes in 2018. In an effort to assist and advise the camps and food establishments with these changes, this department initiated two Food Code training sessions in November and will be offering additional sessions early in 2019 for the food establishments and drafted new policies and procedures to accommodate the camp revisions.

The department reviewed 1101 reports for asbestos removal, pre-demolition pest control inspections, Title 5 inspections, water sub-metering, building applications, grease trap and septic system pump outs. In addition the staff approved and issued 1,385 various permits.

Annual receipts to the department totaled \$244,684.23. From that total, \$205,693 was deposited into the Town's General Fund; the remaining \$38,991.23 was deposited into the following designated Board of Health Revolving or Gift Accounts: Immunization Revolving \$22,991.23, Tobacco Revolving \$5,000, Prevention & Outreach Gift Fund \$1,000 and Health & Wellness Gift Fund: \$10,000.

The Health Department is involved in many phases of construction projects and the pace hasn't shown any signs of slowing. Residential additions and teardown/build ups are still very active. There are several large projects that have either begun or in the process of seeking approval. Large projects currently in construction are Exponent on Route 9, The Avenu in Natick and Marriott Residence Inn at Speen Street/ Route 9 and McHugh Farm Subdivision on Wayside Road. The Kennedy Middle School and West Natick Fire Station are planning to begin construction in 2019. Developments in the planning process are Windy Lo Subdivision, 212 West Central Street Townhouse Project and the Residence at Natick Assisted Living Community on East Central Street. These projects alone will keep this department busy for some time.

There recently has been a documented increase in the rodent population throughout the MetroWest Area and beyond. We have provided an abundance of information on our website in an effort to assist residents in controlling this problem. We will continue to provide assistance and research the best practices available to help alleviate this issue.

The Substance Prevention & Outreach Program has been moved within the Health Department under the Board of Health as of July 1, 2018, placing additional responsibilities on the department. In August the Drug Free Community branch of SAMSA informed the Town that we were successful in our application for a community grant. The duration of the grant is for five year totaling \$625,000. The plan is to utilize the funding to hire additional staff to assist and expand the Program while increasing resources within the community. There will be an effort to coordinate all current resources and further expand collaboration within town departments, schools, town officials, community organizations and community members. A complete report can be found under the Opioid Task Force annual report.

The four communities within MOAPC (Natick, Framingham, Ashland and Hudson) became the first public health departments in the state to offer free Narcan (Naloxone) training and dispensing; the program officially began on March 1, 2018. The Narcan was purchased through a grant from the MetroWest Health Foundation. Members of the staff attended a "train the trainer" program provided by JRI of Framingham in order to offer the training and dispensing to the public. To date, the Natick Health Department staff has trained and supplied Narcan kits to 60 individuals and provided 9 group trainings totaling 112 attendees to various town departments, businesses and organizations where an additional 22 Narcan kits were provided for each group's base locations.

As mentioned in previous reports, the kiosks utilized for disposing of used sharps/syringes and unwanted pharmaceuticals continue to increase at a rapid pace. The good news is the Town has received an earmark grant from Senator Karen Spilka and a portion of that grant will be used to offset the cost of disposing the contents of those kiosks. In 2018, a total of 1152 one quart sharp containers were purchased for utilization through the program. . The pharmaceutical kiosk, located in the police station lobby, is a joint venture between the Police Department and Board of Health. Twenty-four (24) boxes totaling 840 lbs. were filled of unwanted medications and properly disposed of by way of the kiosk this past year.

The Board of Health is in the process of crafting a local regulation for Adult Use Recreational Marijuana since the Town has decided to move forward to zone, permit and regulate the industry. The regulation will provide the town with oversight of any marijuana establishment or operation that may locate within the community. The goal is to have the regulation approved and in place by the end of February. The Board of Health did adopt Medical Marijuana regulations in June of 2014; currently still in effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Bread, PE, Chairman
Ian L. Wong, MSPH, Vice Chairman
Peter Delli Colli, DMD, Clerk
Paige Meisheid, MD, Physician to the Board
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