

Easthampton Health Department

2021

Year in Review

COVID-19

- Supported the regional vaccine clinic in Northampton
- Assisted 165 residents in signing up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments
- Continuously communicated with the public via Facebook, the public access channel, Code Red emergency calls, flyers, the city website, etc. about the COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccine updates and information
- Held an informational COVID-19 vaccine forum in February with the Easthampton Public Health Nurse, Dr. Joanne Levin (CDH), and Dr. Estevan Garcia (CDH)
- Created a COVID-19 data dashboard that was posted weekly on Facebook & the city website giving the public an overview of the city's current COVID-19 data and trends
- Partnered with the Town of Amherst to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to homebound individuals, eventually offering homebound vaccinations in-house
- Received \$8,769.60 in grant funds to support COVID-19 efforts. This money was used to bring on additional contact tracers and a local epidemiologist to assist with the creation of the weekly data dashboards
- Sat on the COVID Response Team with the school district
- Opened a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at Millside Park after a significant increased need for local PCR testing
- Held several COVID-19 vaccine clinics including:
 - Two 12+ COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Easthampton High School
 - Two 5-11 COVID-19 vaccine clinics at Easthampton High School
 - One 1st dose, 2nd dose, & booster clinic at the Boylston Rooms
 - Two 1st dose, 2nd dose, & booster pop-up clinics at Big E's
 - Two 1st dose, 2nd dose, & booster pop-up clinics at the Community Center

Flu Clinics

- Held several flu clinics including:
 - City employee clinic
 - Public drive-thru clinic in partnership with Public Safety
 - Public clinic in partnership with the Council on Aging

Inspections

- Received, investigated, and managed 163 complaints including but not limited to: housing, COVID-19, foodborne illnesses, nuisances, cyanobacteria, lead paint, rabies exposures, etc.
- Conducted 504 inspections, a 19% increase from 2020, including routine inspections and complaint-based inspections. Routine inspections include but are not limited to: food establishments, temporary food, mobile food trucks, public & semi-public pools, body art establishments, tanning salons, recreational camps for children, etc.

Public Health Nursing

- Received, investigated, and followed up on a total of 2,056 communicable diseases in the city (including COVID-19), a 115% increase from 2020.
- Conducted contact tracing and provided assistance to 1,312 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 503 close contacts, 75 probable cases, and 80 suspect cases totaling 1,970 COVID-19 related cases.

- Signed onto the Hampshire County Public Health Collaborative (HCPHC) grant, a regional grant focusing on unifying and strengthening local health department's ability to respond to public health issues

Animal Inspections

- Received reports, investigated, and quarantined 33 domestic animals in the City of Easthampton due to an exposure or potential exposure to wildlife/unknown origin or exposure from a bite/scratch of another domestic animal
- Responded to three calls regarding rabies exposures that resulted in those specimens being sent to the MA Rabies Lab to be tested for rabies after a human/domestic animal exposure
- Conducted 19 barn inspections and completed the annual 'barn book' from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources

Easthampton Healthy Youth

- Added four new members to the Executive Committee, including one parent representative, one liaison to the school committee, and two newly hired teens
- Hired an Outreach Coordinator who has been largely responsible for building the Executive Committee and the new parent committee
- Launched a parent advisory group that has been meeting monthly to respond to parent and family needs, goals, and concerns.
- Offered alcohol server training at a subsidized rate to our local restaurant, bar and package store owners
- Tabled at many community events, including Easthampton Youth Soccer, the Planning Department's Bike Rodeo event, the High School Diversity Club's Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, Drug Take-Back Day at the Public Safety Complex, the Easthampton Health Department's flu clinic, and at a high school guest speaker event on a topic related to the coalition
- Supported Easthampton High School in bringing in a guest speaker for students and parents/caretakers to provide cannabis education
- Supported Easthampton High School by working with a group of student leaders on a social norms campaign, which is planned to be launched in 2022
- Currently initiating the campaign 'Safe Storage, Safe Youth, Safe Easthampton,' which encourages the Easthampton community to have a plan to keep their medicines and/or drugs safely stored.
- Hired two student employees who will sit on our Executive Committee and who will support the coalition in staying in tune with youth. One student serves as the social media ambassador and one serves as the student engagement ambassador



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT**