

Easthampton Health Department

Year in Review

2022



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**EASTHAMPTON
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

General

- Opened a drive-through COVID-19 testing site at Millside Park, completing over 11,000 PCR tests over the course of the year.
- Purchased COVID-19 rapid tests and distributed 1,575 tests to vulnerable populations throughout the City.
- Ordered and distributed adult and child-sized KF94 masks.
- Purchased a second round of rapid tests and distributed tests to local businesses and the Easthampton Community Center.
- Collaborated with Hampshire HOPE to launch the Naloxbox program in city buildings and local businesses. Nine Naloxboxes, each stocked with four doses of Naloxone (commonly known as Narcan), were strategically placed throughout the City based on overdose data, proximity to the public safety complex, and hours of operation.
- Four employees attended the 'Train the Trainer' training for Narcan administration in order to offer Narcan trainings to the community.
- Offered several free Narcan trainings to residents, city employees, and local businesses.
- Responded to a possible cyanobacteria algal bloom at Rubber Thread Pond and issued an advisory.
- Contracted with Fuss & O'Neill to conduct a formal review and assessment of the Rubber Thread watershed to better understand the sources contributing to the ongoing algal blooms.
- Created and distributed a survey to gauge what services the community would like to see from the Health Department.
- Hired a Community Social Worker responsible for mental health outreach, ongoing case management, and addressing city-specific concerns such as homelessness.
- Continued to report local, county, and statewide COVID-19 data and trends on a weekly visual dashboard.
- Received 2,880 COVID test kits from the MA Department of Public Health. Tests were continuously available at the Community Center, Council on Aging, and Health Department for distribution.
- Purchased a Ford Transit Connect van to better serve the needs of the department and the increase of off-site vaccine clinics.
- Assisted over 75 residents with signing up for various COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics.
- Fully updated the *Rules and Regulation for Removal, Transport, and Disposal of Solid Waste or Recyclables in the City of Easthampton* regulations.
- Partially updated the *Regulations for Body Art Establishments*.
- Member of the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, Massachusetts Environmental Health Association, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, and the National Environmental Health Association.

Inspections

- Received, investigated, and managed 141 complaints, including but not limited to housing, COVID-19, foodborne illnesses, nuisances, cyanobacteria, lead paint, rabies exposures, etc.
- Conducted 464 inspections, 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, Title 5, etc.
- Processed 62 temporary food vendor applications.

Community Social Work

(July 2022 – December 2022)

- Received and managed 71 new referrals for individuals/families (does not include duplicate referrals for individuals already receiving services).
- Received a \$7,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development for Easthampton homelessness outreach and collaboration with Craig's Doors in Amherst.
- Hosted International Overdose Awareness Day with local vendors in August.
- Started monthly grief/bereavement group at the Council on Aging in September.
- Tabled at Mill Pond Live for public health education in September.
- Established an EHS Student Closet in October.
- Participated as a panel speaker for the Suicide Prevention event in Hadley in October.
- Organized/hosted a senior pizza party at the Council on Aging in October after receiving feedback from seniors requesting more social events.
- Coordinated holiday gift collection in collaboration with several Easthampton organizations to benefit local children/families.

Public Health Nursing

- Received, investigated, and followed up on a total of 127 communicable diseases in the City (excluding COVID-19), a 127% increase from 2021.
- Conducted contact tracing and provided assistance to 2,692 COVID-19 cases, a 31% increase from 2021.
- Oversaw the homebound vaccine program and completed over 80 home visits offering COVID-19 vaccines, flu vaccines, and general health and wellness visits.
- Held four free CPR classes for city employees and the public.
- Hosted seven trainings at the Council on Aging, including fall prevention, winter safety, and healthcare proxy information.
- Participated on the School COVID-19 Advisory Committee
- Attended annual MA Public Health Nurses Association conference.
- Assisted health inspectors on recreational camp inspections.
- Held two flu clinics totaling ~300 vaccines provided, including:
 - City employee clinic
 - Public drive-thru clinic in partnership with Public Safety
- Held several COVID-19 vaccine clinics totaling ~900 vaccines provided, including:

- Two 5-11 & 12+ clinics at Mountain View School
- 5+ clinic at Millside Park
- Booster clinic at Lathrop Community
- Booster clinic at City Hall
- Two bivalent booster clinics at Mountain View School

Animal Inspections

- Received reports, investigated, and quarantined 35 domestic animals in the City of Easthampton due to exposure or potential exposure to wildlife/unknown origin or exposure from a bite/scratch of another domestic animal.
- Responded to two 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 23 barn inspections and completed the annual 'barn book' from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources

Easthampton Healthy Youth

- Supported Easthampton youth leaders in running their own social norms campaign by surveying their peers, analyzing the results, and creating a campaign based on the data to normalize the healthy decisions Easthampton students are making.
- Created an awareness campaign to encourage residents to safely store their medicines, cannabis, and any other substances in the home. Developed a Safe Storage pledge and raffled off locking medicine boxes to those who took the pledge.
- Successfully wrote a grant with the Easthampton Learning Foundation (ELF) and received a generous \$2,700 to fund Mindfulness Mondays at the Mountain View Middle School. This program will continue throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
- Hosted a fentanyl awareness training to educate parents on how fentanyl has contaminated the drug supply, which poses a danger to anyone consuming white powdery substances, including in the form of counterfeit pills. Participants also learned how to identify an overdose and how to administer Naloxone.
- Hired a second youth intern who will work to recruit more youth to be involved with the work of the coalition.
- In response to caregiver requests, the coalition offered several presentations on varying technology topics, including online safety, internet security, and social media applications. We partnered with the Children's Advocacy Center, the Northampton Prevention Coalition, Easthampton Learning Foundation, and the Hampden County DA's office to offer these events.
- Collaborated with the Spiffy Coalition to launch a pilot program called Getting to Y. Easthampton youth, analyzed the prevention needs assessment survey (PNAS) data, and selected the most critical data points to make an action plan addressing these data. The Getting to Y core team hosted a data retreat where they facilitated an event for 30 engaged teens. Students worked together to think about the assets of Easthampton and to prioritize data from the survey. The Getting to Y core team will continue meeting in 2023.
- Held two coalition retreats. During the winter retreat, a team from the Collaborative for Educational Services facilitated a session on diverse identities and health equity. During the summer retreat, coalition Executive Committee member, Kat Glick, provided a workshop on the topic of gender identity and teens.

- Added three new members to the Executive Committee, including a community police officer, a middle school teacher, and a community therapist and expert in gender and sexuality.
- Gained six new parents to the Parenting Committee, which later transitioned to the 'Parenting Club with a Book.' This is a collaboration with the Emily Williston Library, which hosts the meetings and places the books on reserve for interested readers.
- Offered Tips Passports to every business with a liquor license in Easthampton.
- Created a survey for elementary, middle, and high school caregivers that focused on what types of programs they want to see offered.
- Conducted alcohol establishment compliance checks in collaboration with Easthampton Police Department
- Tabled at many community events, including 12 farmer's markets, Easthampton High School and Mountain View Middle School open houses, Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, Cultural Chaos, the Overdose Awareness Event, Mountain View School Grand Opening, and Public Safety's Drug Take Back event.



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