



CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Public Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Health & Human Services
Commissioner

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Public Health
Director

MONTHLY CMRPHA UPDATES
December 2018

ADMINISTRATION (ADM)

- **Duty Officer Number** – Reminder that the Duty Officer Pager System is in place for after hours and weekend emergencies. Please make sure that appropriate parties have the number, which is **508-408-5173**. This should be the process instead of calling specific environmental health staff cell phones after hours. **PLEASE ENSURE YOUR DISPATCH FOR ALL SHIFTS HAS THIS NUMBER AND ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ON PAGE PROCESS AND CMRPHA.**
- **Regional Community Health Improvement Plan** – On November 29th, the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester and the Worcester Division of Public Health, along with many key partners, reported on CHIP progress to date (2016 – 2017) to an audience of 200 people from across the region at the Worcester Boys and Girls Club. A PDF of the annual report, including CHIP updates, was attached to that email. Please review and share with your residents.
- **Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester** - The Coalition represents one of MA DPH's Community Health Network Areas (CHNAs) and is the accountability and implementation arm for the CHIP. Last week, a monthly Coalition newsletter was sent to the Alliance. Alliance communities are encouraged to sign up for the Coalition newsletter, visit their website and get more involved. If you are new to the Coalition or the CHIP, we encourage you to take the next step to learning more and getting involved:
 - [Visit the Coalition Website.](#)
 - Complete a CHIP In Form for [Individuals](#) and/or for [Organizations](#).
 - [Watch the CHIP In Orientation webinar.](#)
 - [Email us with any questions](#)
- **Hepatitis A Outbreak** – a press release was issued to the Alliance on Friday about an outbreak of Hepatitis A in the City of Worcester. We are encouraging individuals who are experiencing homelessness and / or substance use to get vaccinated. We are also encouraging those organizations who work with this population to also encourage these individuals to get vaccinated. MDPH is reporting an uptick in Worcester and Boston areas.



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- **Cremation of Unclaimed Bodies** – in July 2018, the Commonwealth amended a law that allows for cremation of certain unclaimed bodies. In late November, WDPH Medical Director and other staff met with representatives from UMass Memorial to discuss the number of unclaimed bodies in the Memorial and University Campus morgues. The City Law Department will be researching if other local Boards of Health have adopted a local regulation that requires a waiver for funeral homes to cremate. Thus far, and to our knowledge, very few funeral homes in the area have provided burials at no cost. More research needs to be done to determine if this is a statewide issue (lack of funeral homes providing this service gratis).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (EH)

- The adoption of the 2013 Federal Food Code is now official as on October 5th. You can go online to ma.gov/dph/fpp for a link to the Merged Food Code and other info.
- The EH team and Worcester Inspectional Services Team will be having an in house training on the changes in the new food code.
- Michael Mendez and Abby Graham both finished and passed the Title V Soil Evaluator training. Both are now officially Certified Soil Evaluators. Congratulations to both of them for their continued effort and ongoing training in the environmental health field.

COMMUNITY HEALTH (CH)

Events and community meetings update

Don't forget to send us information and flyers about local events so we can post them on the CMRPHA Facebook page to share with the community!

November Meetings and Events:

- November 8th Oscar de la Rosa attended a training at the Beechwood hotel titled: "An Introduction to E-Cigarettes, JUULS and Vaping: What's New? What's True?"
- November 9th Jennifer Nakijoba and Nikki Nixon attended a faculty meeting at the Leicester High School to present the results of Leicester's Youth Health Survey and provided Q&A at the end of the presentation.
- November 13th The WDPH Chief of Community Health Cassandra Andersen presented the Youth Health Survey data on the panel for the event "Middle Schoolers at Risk: What Every Family Needs To Know" organized by the Shrewsbury Coalition For Addiction Prevention & Education at Oak Middle School in Shrewsbury.
- November 28th Cassandra Andersen attended the meeting of the Coalition for a Healthy Grafton. WDPH also dropped off the Lifeskills middle school teachers curriculum and student booklets to the Grafton middle school health teacher and assisted her in signing up for a free training on implementation taking place in January. Lifeskills is an evidence based prevention curriculum that helps young people to learn how to make good decisions concerning their health such as refusing drugs.
- November 30th Nikki Nixon and Cassandra Andersen presented Youth Health Survey data on trends in Marijuana use at the Youth and Drugs Conference hosted by the Worcester Public Schools

December Meetings and Events:

- December 3rd Oscar de la Rosa and Jennifer Nakijoba attended the MDPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services Statewide Substance Use Prevention Conference at the

Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood Mass. The training event featured experts from around the nation.

- December 4th Cassandra Andersen and Oscar de la Rosa spoke at the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery 13th Annual Membership and Holiday Celebration at Mechanics Hall. This event focuses on engaging the recovery community in policy and advocacy around treatment.
- Oscar de la Rosa attended the City of Worcester's Coalition Against Bias and Hate meeting on December 7th. This Board focuses on mitigating inequities, which is tied to our CHIP.
- The Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention and Education monthly meeting will be attended by WDPH staff on December 10th to work on strategies for youth substance use prevention.
- On December 10th WDPH staff will attend a the Leicester Wellness Committee Meeting at the Primary School Library to work on strategies for youth substance use prevention.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (EP)

- We've ordered Emergency Preparedness tote bags and Fred the Preparedness Dog activity books on behalf of the Alliance; both items have proven popular in the past. If you'd like these materials to distribute, please contact Alissa Errede, Chief of Emergency Preparedness, at erredea@worcesterma.gov.
- To request Worcester Regional MRC volunteers for a real world emergency such as a sheltering operation, or for a community event such as a senior health fair, please contact Alissa at erredea@worcesterma.gov Note: Grafton has its own Greater Grafton MRC unit.
- Once again, all communities in Massachusetts were tasked with completing a facility set-up drill for their Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS). Staff are available to assist Alliance towns with this deliverable; Millbury's and Shrewsbury's have been completed. For more information, please contact Katrina Stanziano at stanzianok@worcesterma.gov.
- The Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coalition provides reimbursement for certain Public Health conferences, including the upcoming NACCHO Preparedness Summit in St. Louis. If you're interested, please contact Katrina Stanziano at stanzianok@worcesterma.gov to determine eligibility.
- If your community needs Public Health Emergency Preparedness equipment and supplies (such as replacement pads for an AED or an iPad to stay connected) and is interested in using grant funds to purchase them, please contact Alissa at erredea@worcesterma.gov for more information and to determine eligibility.

NURSING (PHN)

- State supplied influenza vaccine can be used for all children through 18 years of age or for uninsured adults seen at health department sponsored clinics. Influenza clinics scheduled as follows:
- **Town of Grafton:**
 - Pat Bruchmann, RN staffed a table at the Student Wellness Resource Fair—November 20th at the high school from 9:30-10:15am.

- **Influenza clinics were completed at the schools on 11/14 and 11/15:**
 - Grafton High School—11
 - Grafton Middle School—10
 - North Street Elementary School—40
- **Town of Leicester:**
 - Nazareth Home flu clinic, 11/28/18—22
 - Amelia Houghton held a B/P clinic & educational event at the Leicester Senior Center on 11/14/18 which was well received by the attendees
- **CMRPHA Flu Clinics:**
 - Weekly on Tuesdays from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the City of Worcester, Division of Public Health Offices at 25 Meade Street, Worcester
- Amelia Houghton, RN is working on collaborative efforts with the Holden, Leicester, Shrewsbury and Grafton Senior Centers
- CMRPHA Regional Nurses are exploring ways to increase collaboration with the schools beyond episodic communication with the school nurses related to vaccine preventable disease reports.

Regional Public Health Nursing Events:

- Blood Pressure Clinic for *Grafton Housing Authority* December 12, 2018
9 Forest Lane, Grafton, from 3:30PM until 5PM
- Blood Pressure Clinic for *Grafton Senior Center* December 20, 2018
30 Providence Road, Grafton, from 11:00AM until 12:30PM