



Cambridge  
Public Health  
Department

January 15, 2019

Louis A. DePasquale  
City Manager  
Cambridge City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Manager DePasquale,

I am pleased to submit the **Cambridge Public Health Department's annual report to the City of Cambridge.**

The health department achieved national accreditation in August, becoming one of the first health departments in the Commonwealth to meet the Public Health Accreditation Board's rigorous national standards for delivering quality programs and services to the community. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the strong commitment at all levels of city government to improve the health and well-being of residents.

Other notable accomplishments in 2018:

- **CHIP Year 3:** The enclosed report describes Cambridge's progress in meeting the Year 3 objectives of the *2015 City of Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan's* four identified priority areas: healthy eating and active living; mental health and substance abuse; violence; and healthy, safe, and affordable housing.
- **Opioid Crisis:** The health department staffed an 18-member opioid working group, established by the City Manager in April, that developed recommendations for strengthening the local response to the opioid crisis. The department also published the city's first comprehensive opioid overdose data report, which showed where overdoses are occurring in Cambridge and populations most impacted.
- **Children's Oral Health:** The redesigned *Healthy Smiles* program, which had previously served elementary school children, began providing classroom education and screenings to public school children in grades 1, 3, 6, and 9 to reach students at different stages of tooth development. Children are now screened for oral cancer and improper alignment of teeth, in addition to a visual exam to detect tooth decay.
- **Hoops 'N' Health:** The department celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Hoops 'N' Health sports tournament and health fair in June. The event drew over 300 players who participated in health workshops, screenings, and the basketball tournament.
- **Climate Change:** The department produced a mini-documentary, *Climate Change and Health: The Port Neighborhood*, which featured reflections from people who live and work in the Port about the impacts of extreme heat and flooding on the neighborhood, and how to better support one another and strengthen social networks.

119 Windsor Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617.665.3800 | Fax: 617.665.3888  
[www.cambridgepublichealth.org](http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org)



- **Mold Concerns in Schools.** Staff met with administrators, teachers, and parents on multiple occasions to address moisture and mold issues in three public elementary school that emerged over the summer. Staff provided guidance to contractors on safe removal of mold-contaminated materials, recommended testing methods, and helped develop strategies to identify and prevent excessive humidity in the schools in the future.

The department continued providing valuable services to the community, which included:

- Providing flu shots to over 850 people at public flu clinics and other venues.
- Following up on 150 communicable disease reports.
- Handling over 2,100 tuberculosis patient visits at CHA Cambridge Hospital.
- Handling over 51,000 student visits for illness, injury, and other care at the Cambridge Public Schools.
- Issuing over 1,000 licenses and permits.

The Cambridge Public Health Department maintained a national presence through the National Association of County and City Health Officials' Council of Past Presidents and the Public Health Accreditation Board, in which we are honored to have Claude A. Jacob, Chief Public Health Officer, serve on the board of directors.

Thank you for your continued support of the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Cambridge Public Health Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick R. Wardell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick R. Wardell  
Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge

cc: Claude A. Jacob  
Chief Public Health Officer