

January 15, 2016

Richard C. Rossi  
City Manager  
Cambridge City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Manager Rossi:

I am pleased to submit **Cambridge Public Health Department's annual report to the City of Cambridge**. The Cambridge Public Health Department continues to serve as a model nation-wide for other public health departments. Its major accomplishment for 2015 was undertaking the City's first ever community health improvement plan; a culmination of a two-year collaborative effort between residents, community-based organizations, and city government to jointly identify Cambridge's major health needs and develop feasible solutions. Through its planning, the Community Health Improvement Plan identified community health needs in the areas of mental health/substance use, violence, healthy & safe affordable housing, and healthy eating & active living. The enclosed report provides further details and initiatives implemented and planned to meet these needs.

Additional accomplishments in 2015 include development of various policies to help residents live a healthier life including policies focused on:

- **Tobacco control:** Raising the purchase age of tobacco products and e-cigarettes to age 21 and restriction on smoking in certain public parks;
- **Protecting Youth from Head Injury:** The department promulgated regulations to protect youth from head injury in organized sports and athletic activities that take place at city-owned facilities;
- **Reducing fluoride levels** in Cambridge drinking water by 30% in line with new federal guidelines.

These accomplishments topped a busy year for the department which included:

- Administering over 1,000 flu vaccines at sites throughout the city;
- Following up on 253 communicable disease reports;
- Facilitating over 1,800 tuberculosis patient visits to the Cambridge Hospital
- Providing 2,837 dental screenings to elementary school children;
- Seeing over 48,000 student visits for illness or injury at the Cambridge Public Schools; and
- Issuing over 1,000 licenses and permits.

The department has increased the community's access to their programs and initiatives by incorporating social media as a tool. Residents are encouraged to follow the department on twitter to learn more about its initiatives including *Cambridge in Motion*, the Overdose Prevention and Education Network (*OPEN*), *Let's Talk*, and Massachusetts Emergency Preparedness Region 4b.

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