



Cambridge
Public Health
Department

January 13, 2017

Louis 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 department's major accomplishment for 2016 was completing Year 1 strategies of the *City of Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan*, which is setting the city's health agenda through 2020. The enclosed report describes Cambridge's progress in meeting the objectives of the plan's four identified priority areas: mental health and substance abuse; violence; healthy, safe, and affordable housing; and healthy eating and active living. In addition to highlighting Year 1 achievements, the report also explains the challenges encountered in trying to address these complex issues at the local level.

Other notable accomplishments in 2016:

- **National Accreditation:** The department's application for national accreditation was officially accepted by the Public Health Accreditation Board, a milestone in the journey to become one of the first accredited health departments in the Commonwealth.
- **Mumps Outbreak:** In response to the Harvard mumps outbreak, epidemiology and nursing staff interviewed over 50 people with suspected or confirmed mumps, and over 150 of their close contacts.
- **Opioid Crisis:** The department continued to provide timely information to the community about opioid prevention, intervention, and treatment, as well as collect and analyze local overdose data.
- **Social Media:** The health department's newly launched Twitter account (@Cambhealth) promoted city events and shared information on topics ranging from Zika virus and extreme weather to health equity and civic unity.
- **Let's Move! Cambridge** earned a #1 ranking in preventing childhood obesity from *Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties*, part of First Lady Michelle Obama's campaign to ensure that kids can grow up healthy.

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

- Providing flu shots to over 800 people at sites throughout the city.
- Following up on over 335 communicable disease reports.
- Handling over 1,900 tuberculosis patient visits at CHA Cambridge Hospital.
- Screening over 2,900 elementary school children for dental caries.
- Handling over 44,000 student visits for illness, injury, and other care at the Cambridge Public Schools.
- Issuing over 1,000 licenses and permits.

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The Cambridge Public Health Department maintained a national presence through the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in which we are honored to have Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, Chief Public Health Officer, as President.

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-Alix Jacob, MPH
Chief Public Health Officer