



AGENDA

Friday March 8, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Public Service Administration Building
Charles River Room**

To listen/view this meeting, download the “Zoom Cloud Meeting” app in any app store or at www.zoom.us. At the above date and time, click on “Join a Meeting”.

Meeting ID: 879 2269 8484

Passcode: 731438

Or click the link below to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87922698484?pwd=U05VcmFQN0k2TzNiREpWcGU5UDF0UT09>

	9:00	Welcome & Public Comment Period Citizens are encouraged to inform the Needham Public Health Department in advance via email (healthdepartment@needhamma.gov), telephone (781) 455-7940 ext. 224, or in person by the end of the business day prior to the meeting of their intent to participate in the public comment period. The Chair will first recognize those who have communicated in advance their desire to speak for up to three minutes. If time allows, others wishing to speak will be recognized in an order determined by the Chair for up to three minutes.
1.	9:00	Review of Minutes: February 9, 2024
2.	9:05	Emergency Condemnation and Order to Vacate Sai Palani, Environmental Health Agent
3.	9:20	Train Noise and Quiet Zones Julie McCarthy, Epidemiologist

		• Sai Palani, Environmental Health Agent • Keleigh Boudreau, Shared Services Public Health Nurse
4.	9:45	Citizens Petition • Kathy Raiz, Petitioner • Robert Fernandez, Petitioner
5.	10:05	FY25 Fee Schedule Proposal • Timothy McDonald, Health & Human Services Director
6.	10:15	FY25 Budget Update • Timothy McDonald, Health & Human Services Director
7.	10:20	Staff Updates • Shared Services (Public Health Excellence, Regional Field Training Hub, Contact Tracing/Investigating) – Kerry Dunnell, Samantha Menard, Kristin Scoble, Keleigh Boudreau, Thaleia Stampoulidou-Rocha, Rebecca Queeney • Environmental Health – Sai Palani & Tara Gurge • Nursing – Ginnie Chacon-Lopez, Hanna Burnett & Tiffany Benoit • Epidemiology – Julie McCarthy • Substance Use Prevention MassCALL3 – Carol Read & Lydia Cunningham • Emergency Management – Taleb Abdelrahim • Substance Use Prevention –Karen Shannon, Karen Mullen, Monica DeWinter, Angi MacDonnell, Vanessa Wronski • Accreditation – Lynn Schoeff • Traveling Meals – Rebecca Hall
8.	10:50	Other Items/Updates • Designation of Board of Health Agents Letter • Board of Health Charge to Educate and Inform Letter • MAHB Certificate Program BOH Member Registrations

(Please note that all times are approximate)

Next Meeting: Friday, April 12, 2024, 9:00-11:00am
Public Service Administration Building, Charles River Room



Board of Health Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Date: February 9, 2024

Location: Public Service Administration Building & via Zoom

Members: Tejal K. Gandhi, MD, MPH Chair; Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP, Member; Robert A. Partridge, MD, MPH, Member; Edward Cosgrove, PhD, Member

Staff Present: Timothy Muir McDonald, Director of Health, and Human Services; Tara Gurge, Assistant Director of Public Health; Tiffany (Zike) Benoit, Assistant Director of Public Health; Angela MacDonnell; Sainath Palani; Kristin Scoble; Julie McCarthy; Karen Shannon; Ginnie Chacon-Lopez; Kerry Dunnell; Carol Read; Lynn Schoeff; Alison Bodenheimer; Taleb Abdelrahim

Welcome & Public Comment Period

Dr. Gandhi called the meeting to order at 9:00AM and initiated a roll call. Present were Dr. Gandhi – Y, Dr. Cosgrove – Y, Dr. Epstein – Y, Dr. Partridge – Y.

According to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, as an act relative to extending certain states of emergency accommodations, as passed by the General Court, and signed into law by Acting Governor Karyn Polito, on July 16, 2022, revised Section 20 of Chapter 20, the Acts of 2021. In so doing, provided modifications to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, which allow for flexibility to hold remote only, and hybrid meetings, while preserving public access and, where appropriate, public participation. Currently, that additional flexibility will expire on March 31, 2025, unless additional legislative action occurs. As part of today's hybrid meeting, all votes will occur via a roll call.

Doug Fox, Precinct F, noted that he was previously before the Board regarding a request to study dogs and outdoor seating. He was told this would be studied but no one has yet to contact him, and he has had difficulty determining how best to contact the Board. There was discussion regarding considering this as a policy moving forward.

Review of Minutes: January 12, 2024

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Cosgrove, and seconded by Dr. Gandhi, it was voted to approve the January 12, 2024, as presented. Motion passed: Dr. Gandhi – Y, Dr. Cosgrove – Y, Dr. Epstein – A, Dr. Partridge – Y.

Peer Recovery Coach Services

Angela MacDonnell introduced the Needham Public Health Division's Peer Recovery Coach Services, including who is eligible for the services, and how referrals are made to the program.

Community Health Assessment Update

Ms. Benoit and Ms. McCarthy will present the finalized NPHD Community Health Assessment. The goal is for the Town to obtain funding to carry out its own Community Health Assessment in order to close any gaps in data. Action plans will be created for the four objective areas.

Dr. Epstein stated that these strategies are very reactive items instead of proactive items. Ms. Benoit noted that proactive approaches will be in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Amended Community Benefit Agreement – Sira Naturals, Inc.

Mr. McDonald stated that the agreement has been amended due to changes in state law, limiting voluntary and nonvoluntary contributions to town charities. Needham did not require contributions in the agreement, but it did have a host community fee. The legislature allowed host community fees if they could be specifically and directly tied to expenses related to having a medical marijuana dispensary. The Town is amending its community benefits agreement to reflect the law and to reflect actual costs to the public health budget.

Staff Updates

Accreditation Team

Ms. Schoeff stated that staff continues to work toward accreditation. Staff have also been working with a consultant to develop a new brand, including a new logo and guidelines. Material will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Alison Bodenheimer introduced herself and explained that she is working as a Senior Public Health Associate part-time to help with the accreditation process.

Shared Services

Ms. Dunnell stated that Sam Menard and Rebecca Queeney, the regional field trainers, completed 25+ hours of co-requisites, as well as the inaugural MA Public Health Intensive Training- Food Course. Both also attended a refresher session on housing.

Traveling Meals

Ms. Gurge updated the Board on the Traveling Meals program.

Nursing

Ms. Chacon-Lopez stated that staff continue to make social media posts regarding the Matter of Balance program and the AED scavenger hunt.

Epidemiology

Ms. McCarthy asked for additional thoughts on how to promote the AED scavenger hunt around town. She noted that a biosafety permit was recently submitted and there will be a Biosafety Committee meeting to consider it shortly.

Environmental Health

Ms. Gurge noted that the Environmental Health Team applied for the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Retail Flexible Funding Model (grant and was awarded \$10,000. This will allow the team to continue its work in adopting and maintaining the nine FDA Voluntary Retail Program standards. This grant funding can also be used for annual trainings for food establishments, and staff trainings and travel expenses to attend the annual Association of Food and Drug Officials and other local trainings.

Staff also reached out to the MA Division of Occupational Licensure to request support in conducting joint inspections relative to bodywork establishments in the jurisdiction. Needham has six active bodywork establishment licenses. Joint unannounced inspections were conducted last month. The state investigator fined three massage establishments for not having valid massage establishment licenses. Another round of inspections will be conducted in the coming months. Staff also worked with Lynn Schoeff on developing a customer service feedback survey to use during low-income housing inspections and complaint follow-ups. This will allow staff to gather relevant data for quality improvement.

Mr. Palani stated that he has been getting many complaints regarding rats, specifically near the train tracks. An on-site meeting was held with the owners and managers, landlords and property managers, for all food establishments located 1013 and 1027 Great Plain Ave. that share the Chapel Street trash and recycling dumpsters. Parties discussed contributing issues and potential solutions. Strategies that they will look into pursuing include switching to a different waste hauler, increasing service schedule, repairing the enclosure, taking turns monitoring and cleaning the area, educating their staff about proper procedures to take trash out, collapsing boxes for recycling, installing locks and camera on enclosure, and contacting Needham police about any dumping by the public or other private parties.

Mr. Palani noted that staff also received some complaints regarding food safety issues, including for Sweet Basil and staff will continue to work with this establishment.

Substance Use Prevention MassCALL3 grant

Ms. Read stated that the strategic plan was recently approved through Bureau of Substance Addiction Services. Staff have been sharing resources with the four towns. Staff will submit the final plan and work on implementation.

Emergency Management

Mr. Abdelrahim stated that staff were able to list Needham Junior Medical Reserve Corps under Youth & Family Services on the MyRec platform. The group also received an Emergency Management Performance Grant from MEMA for \$8,500. This will be used to fund a contractor to lead the development of an emergency operations center functional exercise regarding a hazardous materials incident at the Rosemary Recreation Complex.

Substance Use Prevention

Ms. Shannon stated that staff have continued community engagement through coalition work. The last of the six-poster series was distributed with the help of SALSA students. The coalition is also planning a community education event for parents in the spring and hopes to be part of an Alcohol Policy Academy. Teen Mental Health First Aid Training launched in January for the 10th grade at Needham High School. Students will receive a six-session training taught by four members of the Needham Health and Human Services Department and the Needham Youth Diversion Program Coordinator. Training is expected to be completed by May.

Other Items

- **Citizen Petition**

Mr. McDonald stated that there were originally two citizen's petitions submitted for the ballot, one regarding single-use plastics and one regarding a leaf blower ban. The proponents would like to present to the Board in March regarding these items.

- **Public Health Division Staff List, Updated 1.17.2024**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Upcoming BOH Meetings

- **Friday, March 8th from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Cosgrove, and seconded by Dr. Epstein, it was voted to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed: Dr. Gandhi – Y, Dr. Cosgrove – Y, Dr. Epstein – A, Dr. Partridge – Y.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29AM.

Attachment:

February 9, 2024 meeting packet



Needham Public Health Division

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



**Board of Health
Town of Needham
AGENDA FACT SHEET
MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024**

Agenda Item	Emergency Condemnation and Orders of Vacate of a Residence
Presenter(s)	Sai Palani, Environmental Health Agent

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
There was an emergency condemnation and orders to vacate of a residence due to conditions that were deemed to immediately endanger health and safety and made the residence inhabitable. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Community Sanitation Program recommends that after a residence is condemned using emergency procedures and without a Board of Health hearing prior, that a hearing is held at the next upcoming Board of Health meeting. This allows the Board of Health to be informed and to acknowledge the condemnation and orders to vacate. Affected parties are invited to the discussion but are not required to attend or to provide input.	
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HEALTH
No vote is required.	
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION:
a. Copy of Orders to Correct b. Inspection report c. Emergency Orders to Condemn and Vacate Residence	



Needham Public Health Division

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CORRECTION ORDER

Issued under the provisions of 105 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 410.000:
Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, State Sanitary Code, Chapter II

February 20, 2024



Invitation to attend Board of Health Meeting for Hearing and Housing Inspection Report

Dear [REDACTED]

Representatives from [REDACTED] reached out to our office on January 30, 2024, and requested an inspection of this residence, to assess the possible sanitary and safety concerns. An initial joint inspection was conducted on February 2, 2024, along with a Town Social Worker, after proper access was allowed and permission granted by you to an agent from the Needham Public Health Division. You were ordered by this office to address the violations noted and another inspection was performed on February 16, 2024 to verify compliance, however, sufficient compliance was not observed.

By authority of Chapter I and II of the State Sanitary Code as adopted under Chapter II, section 3 and 127A of the Massachusetts General Laws, this office has performed an inspection at this aforementioned property. Be advised that an agent of the Needham Public Health Division has determined certain portions of this residential property to be in violation of the State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.000. A list of the violations is enclosed based on observations by our office a number of which meet the threshold of Conditions Deemed to Endanger or Materially Impair Health of Safety [105 CMR 410.630 (A)], which are conditions where you make a good faith effort to correct within 24 hours of service of this order.

This letter is to inform you that our office has considered the conditions in the dwelling are so unsafe and dangerous to life or health of the occupant(s) that this dwelling will be immediately condemned without need of a hearing (105 CMR 410.650(E)). You must vacate this unit immediately and you will not be allowed to reside back in this unit until the Needham Board of Health deem the unit safe for human habitation, which will be verified at a follow-up inspection.

You and any affected parties are invited to attend a public hearing which will be scheduled at the next upcoming Board of Health meeting scheduled on March 8, 2024. The time of the hearing has been scheduled for 9:05 AM and held at Charles River Room at 500 Dedham Ave., Needham, Massachusetts 02494. You have a right to inspect and receive a copy all records concerning the matter to be heard. You have the right to be represented by your own legal counsel at the hearing. Conditions may exist which will allow the occupant of the residence to exercise legal rights outlined in the *Notice of Occupant's Legal Rights and Responsibilities* issued by the Department of Public Health Community Sanitation Program (CSP). You also have a right to request a hearing sooner

www.needhamma.gov/health

than this date, provided that our office receives written notice within seven (7) days from receipt of this notice.

We may be able to offer you resources to assist you in addressing this matter, so please do not hesitate to reach out to our office. If you have any questions, please contact this office and we would be able to discuss this matter in more detail. I may also be reached directly at (781) 455-7940 Ext. 220 or via email at spalani@needhamma.gov.

Sincerely,

Sai Palani

Sainath Palani, MPH
Needham Environmental Health Agent

**105 CMR 410.000
Housing Code Inspection Report**

Inspection(s) Performed: February 16, 2024 @ 9:00AM

Inspector: Sai Palani

Owner: [REDACTED]

Occupant: [REDACTED]

Location	Code Citation	Violation	Condition Deemed to Endanger or Materially Impair Health or Safety? [410.630(A)]	Timeframe to Correct
Entire Dwelling Unit	410.260	Both entryways/egresses to the unit were fully blocked by items. Door for one of the entrances could be propped open. Occupant must clear all egresses so they are fully unobstructed and fully accessible for general use and for first responders to safely enter.	✓ 410.630(A)(8)	<u>1 Day</u>
Kitchen Living Room Bedroom	410.570(B) 410.550(E)	There was a large number of items including but not limited to clothes, paper and plastics bags, food waste and other paper goods and recyclables that was occupying the vast majority of the floor space in the habitable rooms. There was no pathway to allow entry into the unit and it appeared that the observable rooms were not able to be used for their intended use. There were flies observed inside and coming out of the unit. There was a foul odor coming from inside of the unit as well. Dwelling unit was in an unsanitary state allowing for the attraction and harboring of pests.	✓ 410.630(A)(10)	<u>1 Day</u>

Notes: (1) The residence was only safely accessible a few feet through one of the doorways due to the accumulation of things occupying the majority of floor space in the unit. Only the kitchen and parts of the living area with a bed were observed. The residence had electricity, however no other aspects of the unit could be directly assessed. (2) A representative (social worker) from the Council of Aging and the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also attended the inspection. (3) Inspections were conducted by the [REDACTED] as

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well on November 30, 2023, December 12, 2024 and February 2 & 16, 2024. These forms are attached. (4)
Pictures taken during the inspections are attached to this report.

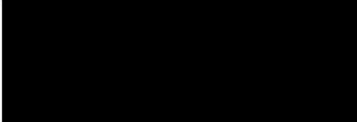
This Inspection Report is signed and certified under the pains and penalties of perjury.



Sainath Palani, MPH
Environmental Health Agent
Needham Public Health Division

Attachments: Pictures and [REDACTED], Emergency Condemnation
and Order to Vacate, Occupants Rights and Responsibilities

CC:



Needham Counsel on Aging
Jessica Moss & Jessica Rice
300 Hillside Avenue
Needham, MA 02494
Via Email

Needham Public Health Division
Timothy McDonald & Tara Gurge
178 Rosemary St.
Needham, MA 02494
Via Email



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Photos from Inspection Performed 02/16/24 at [REDACTED]

Picture of Unit from Doorway:



Kitchen observed from Doorway:



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INSPECTION FORM

Date

2/16/24

ROOM	CONDITION	
LIVING ROOM ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor / Carpet _____ Windows _____ Window Coverings _____	Doors _____ Closets _____ Other _____
KITCHEN ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor _____ Window Coverings _____ Cabinet _____ Range _____	Refrigerator _____ Dishwasher _____ Garbage Disposal _____ Plumbing _____ Counter Tops _____ Other _____
BEDROOMS ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor / Carpet _____ Windows _____ Window Coverings _____	Doors _____ Closets _____ Other _____
BATHROOMS ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor _____ Counter Tops _____ Cabinets _____	Mirrors _____ Fixtures _____ Plumbing _____ Other <i>could not get to bathroom because of excessive clutter</i>
MISC. ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Smoke Alarm _____ Fire Extinguisher _____ Screens _____ Heater _____ AC _____	Deck / Balcony _____ Other _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Failed inspection. Poor housekeeping. Excessive clutter. I could not get past the doorway because of clutter. Strong smell of garbage.

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION (IF REQUIRED)

Resident _____ Date _____

Resident _____ Date _____

Manager / Agent _____ Date _____

INSPECTION FORM

Date

2/2/24

ROOM	CONDITION	
LIVING ROOM ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor / Carpet _____ Windows _____ Window Coverings _____	Doors _____ Closets _____ Other _____
KITCHEN ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor _____ Window Coverings _____ Cabinet _____ Range _____	Refrigerator _____ Dishwasher _____ Garbage Disposal _____ Plumbing _____ Counter Tops _____ Other _____
BEDROOMS ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor / Carpet _____ Windows _____ Window Coverings _____	Doors _____ Closets _____ Other _____
BATHROOMS ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor _____ Counter Tops _____ Cabinets _____	Mirrors _____ Fixtures _____ Plumbing _____ Other _____
MISC. ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☐ Immediate ☐ Later	Smoke Alarm _____ Fire Extinguisher _____ Screens _____ Heater _____ AC _____	Deck / Balcony _____ Other _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Failed inspection. Poor housekeeping. Excessive clutter. Could not get in the door. Poor conditions

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION (IF REQUIRED)

Resident

Date

Resident

Date

Manager / Agent

Date

ROOM	CONDITION	
LIVING ROOM ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☒ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor / Carpet _____ Windows _____ Window Coverings _____	Doors _____ Closets _____ Other _____ _____ _____
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BATHROOMS ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☒ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor _____ Counter Tops _____ Cabinets _____	Mirrors _____ Fixtures _____ Plumbing _____ Other _____ _____
MISC. ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☒ Immediate ☐ Later	Smoke Alarm _____ Fire Extinguisher _____ Screens _____ Heater _____ AC _____	Deck / Balcony _____ Other _____ _____ _____ _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

excessive clutter
terrible housekeeping. Failed inspection

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION (IF REQUIRED)

Resident _____ Date _____
 Resident _____ Date _____
 Manager / Agent _____ Date _____

ROOM	CONDITION	
LIVING ROOM ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☒ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor / Carpet _____ Windows _____ Window Coverings _____	Doors _____ Closets _____ Other _____
KITCHEN ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☒ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor _____ Window Coverings _____ Cabinet _____ Range _____	Refrigerator _____ Dishwasher _____ Garbage Disposal _____ Plumbing _____ Counter Tops _____ Other _____
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BATHROOMS ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☒ Immediate ☐ Later	Walls / Outlets _____ Ceiling / Light _____ Floor _____ Counter Tops _____ Cabinets _____	Mirrors _____ Fixtures _____ Plumbing _____ Other _____
MISC. ☐ Acceptable ☒ NEEDS ATTENTION ☒ Immediate ☐ Later	Smoke Alarm _____ Fire Extinguisher _____ Screens _____ Heater _____ AC _____	Deck / Balcony _____ Other _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

poor house keeping. Too much clutter.
 Failed inspection. could not get in door

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION (IF REQUIRED)

Resident _____ Date _____
 Resident _____ Date _____
 Manager / Agent _____ Date _____



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Notice of Occupants' Legal Rights and Responsibilities

This document summarizes some of the legal options that you may have when the owner of a property you live in has not fixed certain problems in your home, as required by the state Housing Code (105 CMR 410.000). **This is not legal advice.** Talk to an attorney before you decide to withhold your rent or take other action described here.

Safe and Healthy Rental Housing:

Rental housing in Massachusetts must meet minimum standards to protect the health, safety, and well-being of occupants. The Housing Code, [105 CMR 410.000](#), *Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation (State Sanitary Code, Chapter II)*, is the state regulation that sets these minimum standards. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health's [Community Sanitation Program \(CSP\)](#) issues this regulation, but the standards are enforced by local health departments.¹ CSP works with local health departments and the public to provide training and technical assistance about the Housing Code. For more information, please see mass.gov/lists/housing-community-sanitation.

Your Responsibility to Keep Your House Safe and Healthy

The Housing Code also has requirements that people living in rented homes or apartments need to meet. There are some problems like pests, mold, and keeping exits clear, that might need the owners and occupants to work together to fix the problem. For example, occupants need to make sure there is no food or garbage left out that could attract pests or keep their belongings out of exit hallways. If the local health department is doing an inspection, either by your request or for another issue, the local health department may tell you there is something that you need to fix. The local health department may issue you an order to correct and give you a certain amount of time to fix the problem.

Your Right to Safe and Healthy Housing and Protection from Retaliation

If you think that conditions in your home are unsafe or unsanitary and may violate the Housing Code, you should contact your local health department. They will conduct free inspections of your home and will order your landlord to fix any violations of the Housing Code. You can find contact information for your local health department by calling your city or town hall or visiting their website. City/town websites are listed at: mass.gov/lists/massachusetts-city-and-town-websites.

Your landlord is not allowed to raise your rent or try to evict you just because you have made a complaint to them or to the local health department about the violations. This is called retaliation, and you may be able to sue the landlord for damages if this happens (M.G.L. c.186, s.18 and c.239, s.2A).

Your Right to a Hearing

You may ask for a hearing in front of your local Board of Health. You must do this in writing and within the timeframes below. If you send a written request on time to the local health department, a hearing will be held within 14 calendar days. **If you do not make a written request within the timeframes below, you lose the right to a hearing.** The chart below shows the reasons you may request a hearing, and the timeframe you have to send the request.

Reason You May Request a Hearing	Number of Days to Make the Request in Writing
Your home was not inspected	30 days from the day you contacted health department
The inspector did not find violations you think exist	30 days from the last inspection by the health department
The inspector did not issue an order to correct violations	30 days from the last inspection by the health department
The inspector did not enforce the order to correct	45 days from when the owner received the order to correct

Within **five days** after the hearing, the local health department is required to issue a final decision on your complaint (105 CMR 410.840). If you do not agree with the decision, or at any point throughout the process, you can file an appeal in housing court.

¹ Depending on your city or town, this may also be called a Local Board of Health (BOH), Local Health Authority, or Inspectional Services Department. This is the local code enforcement authority responsible for enforcing the regulations.

Your Options if an Owner Does Not Fix the Problems

If your landlord does not fix violations of the Housing Code in your home, you may have some options as described below. These are not your only options, but they are common actions that tenants take in these situations. Before taking legal action, contact an attorney to protect yourself. If you cannot afford an attorney, **you may be eligible for free legal aid services.** Go to masslrf.org to find available options for free legal advice. To find additional information on tenant legal rights and responsibilities, visit: masslegalhelp.org/legal-tactics or madeuptocode.org.

Option 1: Go to Court

If your landlord does not fix the problems that the local health department ordered them to fix, or if you believe there are problems in your home that may be in violation of the Housing Code, you may also ask a court in your area to order your landlord to correct the problems.

To file a complaint, contact the Housing or District Court Clerk in your region. To find the closest Housing or District Court go to mass.gov/orgs/housing-court/locations or mass.gov/orgs/district-court/locations. These courts deal with cases about residential housing including eviction, property damage, and Housing Code enforcement. For help filing a complaint, you can contact Court Service Centers at mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-court-service-centers.

You can request that the court order the landlord to:

Fix the Problem: You or the local health department may file a petition in Housing or District Court to order the owner to fix the violations of the Housing Code (M.G.L. c. 111, s. 127 A, C).

and/or

Refund Rent You Have Paid: You can file a complaint requesting that your landlord pay back all or part of the rent you paid during the time that there were Housing Code violations. You can claim either 1) Breach of Warranty of Habitability or 2) Unfair and Deceptive Practices (M.G.L. c. 93A), or both.

For both claims, you will need to prove that your home had Housing Code violations, and that the owner knew about the violations and did not fix them. Breach of Warranty can also be filed by the local health department.

Option 2: Withhold Rent Until Repairs are Made

If your landlord does not correct *certain* housing code violations, you may be able to hold back some or all of your rent payment until they make repairs (M.G.L. c. 239, s. 8A). **Save the rent money you withhold.** A judge may require you to pay all or some of it back. If they do and you don't have this money, you may be evicted. If you withhold rent and your landlord tries to evict you from your home, you will need to prove, at a minimum, that:

- The violations may endanger or materially impair the health, safety, or well-being of a tenant;²
- The rental property owner knew about the violations before you started withholding your rent; and
- You did not cause the violations.

Option 3: Make the Repairs Yourself

State law allows you to use your rent money to pay for certain repairs (M.G.L. c. 111, s.127L), and not pay that amount in rent to your landlord. You cannot withhold more than 4 months' rent in a 12-month period to pay for repairs. If you withhold some or all your rent and use it to make repairs and your landlord tries to evict you from your home, you will need to prove:

- The local health department or court determined that the violations may endanger or materially impair the health, safety, or well-being of a residential tenant;²
- The landlord was issued an Order to Correct those violations; and
- The owner did not start the repairs (or to sign a contract for work) within 5 days after getting the Order and did not complete repairs within 14 days after receiving the notice of violations.

Option 4: End your Lease Early and Move

If you meet certain conditions, you may be able to end your lease or rental agreement and move out within a reasonable time. Contact an attorney to find out more about this option. If you cannot afford an attorney, **you may be eligible for free legal aid services.** Go to masslrf.org to find available options for free legal advice.

² These are serious violations which include problems such as not having heat, hot water, electricity or gas, or exits that are blocked.



**EMERGENCY CONDEMNATION AND ORDER TO VACATE
Finding of Unfitness for Human Habitation and
Determination of Immediate Danger
105 CMR 410.650(E)**

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 127A and 127B, 105 CMR 400.000: State Sanitary Code, Chapter I: General Administrative Procedures and 105 CMR 410.000: State Sanitary Code, Chapter II: Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, **Sainath Palani**, Environmental Health Agent for the **Needham Board of Health**, on **February 16, 2024** conducted an inspection of a dwelling located at [REDACTED]. A copy of the inspection report is annexed hereto.

Based on the results of that inspection, the Board of Health ("Board") finds that the dwelling is unfit for human habitation. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 127 B and 105 CMR 410.650 (E), the Board further finds that the conditions within the dwelling are such that the danger to the life or health of the occupants of the subject dwelling is so immediate that no delay may be permitted in making this finding.

Conditions found within the dwelling, which give rise to the emergency finding of unfitness and determination of immediate danger, include: ***Blocked egresses (105 CMR 410.260), Significant accumulation of refuse that contributes to accidents and the creation and spread of disease and pests (105 CMR 410.550 & 105 CMR 410.570).***

Based upon these findings any and all occupants are hereby ordered to vacate immediately and the landlord/owner is ordered to secure the subject dwelling within 24 hours after the delivery of this order.

A public hearing will be scheduled at the next upcoming Board of Health meeting **scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2024 at 9:05AM, before the Needham Board of Health. The hearing will be held at Charles River Room at 500 Dedham Ave., Needham, Massachusetts 02494.** You have a right to inspect and copy all records concerning the matter to be heard. You have the right to be represented by counsel at the hearing. You also have a right to request a hearing sooner than this date, provided that our office receives written notice within seven calendar days after the day the order was served per 105 CMR 410.800 to 410.860.

If you are unable to attend, you must notify the Board of Health at least twenty four (24) hours prior to the hearing. At the discretion of the Chairman of the Board of Health, and upon a showing of good cause, the hearing may be rescheduled.

The hearing before the Board of Health is to determine whether the order of Condemnation shall remain in effect. Your failure to attend or make other arrangements with the Board of Health may preclude your being heard in this matter.

You are advised that the Board of Health has taken no action to secure housing for the residents of this dwelling, this is the responsibility of the property owner / agent under 105 CMR 410.940 Correction of Violations by Board of Health: Expense (B) and shall be charging the responsible person or persons with any and all expenses incurred.

Furthermore, anyone who fails to comply with any order of the board of health may be subject to fines ranging from \$10-\$500. Each day's failure to comply with an order shall constitute a separate violation.

If any person refuses to leave a dwelling or portion thereof, which was ordered condemned and vacated s/he may be forcibly removed by the local board of health (MGL. c. 111, §127B), or by local police authorities at request of the board of health.

Once vacated this building may not be occupied and the placard removed without the written approval of the board of health.

Signed 
Local Board of Health

cc: Public Health Division: Tim McDonald (Director of Health and Human Services), Tiffany Zike (Assistant Director of Public Health), Tara Gurge (Assistant Public Health Director);
Building Department: Joe Prondak (Building Commissioner);
Fire Department: Tom Conroy (Fire Chief);
Council on Aging: Jessica Moss (Asst. Director Social Services & Volunteers), LaTanya Steele (Director of Aging Services)
Town Manager's Office: Katie King (Assistant Town Manager), Myles Tucker (Support Services Manager), Christopher Heep (Town Council)

THIS PROPERTY IS NOT FIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION BASED ON VIOLATIONS CITED. THE NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION FINDS THAT THIS RESIDENCE IS NOT FIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND CONDEMNNS THIS RESIDENCE ACCORDING TO 105 CMR 410.831(A & E) UNTIL FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS AND CODES IS ACHIEVED.

Corrective Orders and Right to Hearing

The above-described conditions constitute violations of the following provisions of the State Sanitary Code:

410.630: Conditions Deemed to Endanger or Materially Impair Health or Safety(A) The following conditions, when found to exist in a residence, shall always be deemed conditions which may endanger or materially impair the health, or safety and well-being of a person or persons occupying the premises:

(8) Failure to provide and maintain adequate exits, or the obstruction of any exit, passageway or common area caused by any object, including

(10) Failure to comply with any provisions of 105 CMR 410.560 and 105 CMR 410.570, which results in any accumulation of refuse, filth or other causes of sickness which may provide a food source or harborage for rodents, insects or other pests or otherwise contribute to accidents or to the creation or spread of disease.

410.650: Residences Unfit for Human Habitation; Hearing; Condemnation; Order to Vacate; Demolition

(A) Finding That a Residence or Portion Thereof Is Unfit for Human Habitation. If an inspection conducted pursuant to 105 CMR 400.100 or 105 CMR 410.600 reveals that an occupied residence or portion thereof is unfit for human habitation, the board of health shall, subject to 105 CMR 410.650(B), (C) or (D) issue a written finding that the residence or portion thereof is unfit for human habitation. The finding shall include a statement of the material facts and conditions upon which the finding is based.

(B) Prior Notification to Occupant(s) and Owner. If the residence or portion thereof is occupied, the board of health shall, prior to issuing a finding under 105 CMR 410.650(A), provide written notice to the occupant(s) and owner which shall include: (1) Identification of the residence (address and apartment number, if any); (2) A copy of the inspection report; (3) A statement that the board of health will consider issuing a finding that the residence or a specifically identified portion thereof is unfit for human habitation; (4) A statement that this finding may result in an order of condemnation requiring the owner to secure the residence or portion thereof and requiring the occupant(s) to vacate the residence or portion thereof; and (5) A statement of the time and place of a public hearing which the board of health will conduct in order to determine whether the residence or portion thereof is unfit for human habitation, and whether an order to secure and vacate should be issued.

(C) Service of Notice. The notice shall be served in accordance with 105 CMR 410.680. (D) Hearing If Residence or Portion Thereof Is Occupied. If the residence or portion thereof is occupied, then the board shall, prior to issuing a finding under 105 CMR 410.650(A), and at least five calendar days after service of the notice required by 105 CMR 410.650(B), conduct a public hearing to determine whether the residence or portion thereof is unfit for human habitation and whether an order to secure and to vacate should be issued. At the hearing the occupant(s), owner, or any other affected person shall be given an opportunity to be heard, to present witnesses or documentary evidence and to show why the residence or portion thereof should or should not be found unfit for human habitation, and why an order to vacate and an order to secure should or should not be issued.

(E) Exception to Notification and Hearing Requirements. If at any time the board of health determines in writing that the danger to the life or health of the occupant(s) is so immediate that no delay may be permitted, then the board of health may immediately issue a finding that an occupied residence or portion thereof is unfit for human habitation without providing the notification or hearing specified in 105 CMR 410.650(B) and (D). This emergency determination must include a written explanation of the conditions presenting an immediate danger. The board of health shall send the owner and each affected person a copy of the finding of unfitness for human habitation and a copy of the determination of immediate danger, which shall include a statement advising of their right to a hearing in accordance with 105 CMR 410.800(A).

(F) Condemnation, Order to Vacate, Order to Secure. (1) At the same time, or at any time after the board of health issues a finding that a residence or portion thereof is unfit for human habitation, the board may issue an order condemning the residence or portion thereof and an order to vacate the residence or portion thereof, and an order requiring the owner to secure the residence or portion thereof. (2) If the residence or portion thereof which is ordered to be secured is unoccupied, and therefore no public hearing was conducted prior to the issuance of the order, then the owner or any other affected person shall have the right to request a hearing in accordance with 105 CMR 410.800 through 105 CMR 410.860. (3) No residence or portion thereof which is ordered to be secured shall be occupied without the prior written permission of the board of health based upon the board's written finding that the residence or portion thereof to be occupied is fit for human habitation.

(G) Demolition. If, one year after the issuance of an order to secure, compliance with 105 CMR 410.000 has not been achieved, then the board of health may cause the residence or portion thereof to be demolished or removed provided the requirements of 105 CMR 410.800(A) have been met.

410.900: Condemnation, Placarding and Vacating Residences

(A) A residence or portion thereof shall be placarded as unfit for human habitation by the board of health when: (1) A written petition for a hearing is not filed in the office of the board of health within seven calendar days after an order of condemnation of any residence or portion thereof has been issued; or (2) After a hearing, the order of condemnation of a residence or portion thereof is issued. (B) No residence or portion thereof which has been

condemned and placarded as unfit for human habitation shall again be used for human habitation until written approval is secured from, and such placard is removed by, the board of health. (C) No person shall deface or remove the placard, except that the board of health shall remove it whenever the defect or defects upon which the condemnation and placarding action was based have been corrected. (D) If any person refuses to leave a residence or portion thereof which has been ordered condemned and vacated and has been placarded in accordance with M.G.L. 111, § 127B and 105 CMR 410.640 through 105 CMR 410.930, such person may be forcibly removed by the board of health or by state or local police authorities upon request of the board of health.

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នេះគឺជាឯកសារច្បាប់ដ៏សំខាន់មួយ។ វាអាចនឹងប៉ះពាល់ដល់សិទ្ធិរបស់អ្នក។
អ្នកគួរតែឱ្យគេបកប្រែឯកសារនេះ។

دا يو مهم حقوقي سند دپېداى شي ستاسو پر حقونو اغېرې. تاسو بايد د دې ژباړه ولړئ.

این یی حقوق شما تاثیر بگذارد. شما باید

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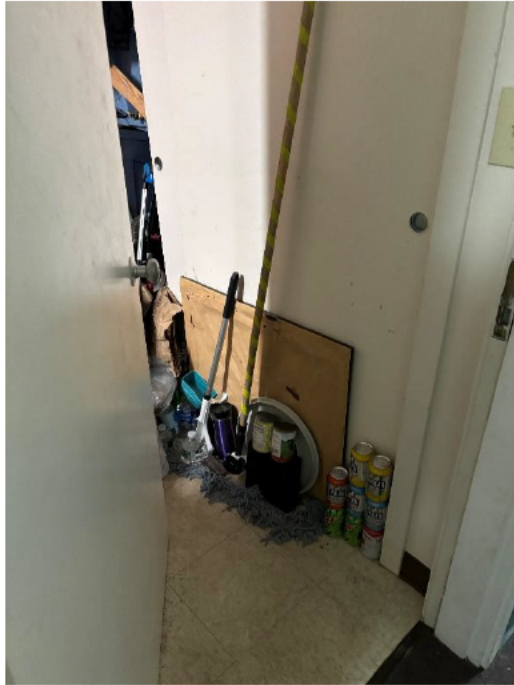
Needham Public Health Division

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Photos from Inspection Performed 02/16/24 at [REDACTED] :

Picture of Unit from Doorway:



Kitchen observed from Doorway:



www.needhamma.gov/health



Needham Public Health Division

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Board of Health Town of Needham AGENDA FACT SHEET

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024

Agenda Item	Train Noise and Quiet Zones
Presenter(s)	Julie McCarthy, Epidemiologist Sai Palani, Environmental Health Agent Keleigh Boudreau, Shared Services Public Health Nurse

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Presenters will give an overview of Federal Railroad Administration definitions, facts about the Needham commuter rail line, and a summary of their data and literature review regarding potential health impacts of train noise as well as potential dangers of establishing quiet zones.	
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HEALTH
No vote required.	
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION:
a. Memo to BOH Train Noise Quiet Zones 3-8-24 b. Presentation to BOH Train Noise Quiet Zones 3-8-24	



Needham Public Health Division

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Memorandum

To: Needham Board of Health

From: Julie McCarthy (Epidemiologist), Sainath Palani (Environmental Health Agent),
Keleigh Boudreau (Shared Services Public Health Nurse)

Date: March 8th, 2024

Re: Train Noise

Needham is an MBTA Community which is serviced by the Needham Line of the Commuter Rail. There are 4 stops in Needham: Hersey, Needham Junction, Needham Center, and the terminus of the line at Needham Heights. There are 6 crossings in town- West Street, Rosemary Street, May Street, Great Plain Avenue, Oak Street, and at Needham Golf Club. Per 49 CFR Part 222, locomotive engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds, and no more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings. Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of 2 long, 1 short, and 1 long blast and this pattern must be repeated until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing (where a railway line and road meet each other on the same level) (1). There are 16 inbound and 17 outbound trips through Needham on a weekday, starting at 5:05AM and ending at 12:39AM (2). If the horn honks according to FRA regulation at each crossing during each trip, the horn would be honking at least 792 times, totally approximately 50 minutes each weekday.

There are 29 established quiet zones in Massachusetts, 24 of which apply to the MBTA (3). According to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulation, a quiet zone must be at least a ½ mile in length and have at least 1 public grade crossing. Each crossing in a quiet zone must be equipped at a minimum with the standard convention automatic warning devices such as flashing lights and gates. Communities also may establish partial quiet zones, which restrict horn use between 10pm and 7am (1).

There are relatively few studies on the impact of train noise on human health. In a review of environmental noise exposure and health outcomes, Chen et al. found that in three studies assessed on railway noise, there was no significant association with train noise and any health outcome (4). However, in a study by Hahad et al., simulated nocturnal train noise exposure was associated with endothelial dysfunction and decreased self-reported sleep quality in healthy participants (5). In another study by Croy et al., reproduced freight train noise and vibration led to a significant change of heart rate (HR) in sleep study participants within 1 minute of exposure onset, as well as significantly more awakenings compared to the fake events (time intervals not accompanied by train event) (6).

Despite relatively few studies focusing on train noise specifically, more research is available on the burden of disease from environmental noise in general. The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe listed cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance, tinnitus, and annoyance as outcomes considered to be effects of environmental noise (7).

While the literature review indicates there may be negative health impacts associated with exposure to train noise, the impact of quiet zones on the safety of pedestrians, bikers, and drivers must be considered. An important question for consideration in this matter is whether there is an increase in accidents or deaths in quiet zones. In a report from the Federal Railroad Administration, researchers analyzed 333 quiet zones established between June 2012 and May 2018. Trespass casualties from June 2011 to May 2019 spatially analyzed in relation to the quiet zones and were classified as occurring before or after the establishment of the quiet zones. Trespass casualties at grade crossings increased by 108.7 percent (from 23 to 48) after the establishment of the quiet zones. Overall grade crossing incidents increased by 7.4% from 2,064 in 2011 to 2,217 in 2019 (8). It is important to highlight that the data used in this study does not consider other variables which may have impacted trespass accidents such as increases in rail traffic, speed of trains, population density, or changes to any of the surrounding infrastructure. Additionally, this data is not necessarily directly comparable to Needham, as there were a variety of railroad companies and railroad types involved in these accidents and we do not know how they compare to the MBTA Commuter Rail.

If the town chooses to move forward with the establishment of one or more quiet zones, we recommend implementing as many safety measures as can feasibly be provided to maximize safety to the greatest extent possible. We believe consideration should be made for extra precautions at the Rosemary St and Oak St crossings due to their proximity to the High School, the Library, and High Rock Elementary School. We recommend a public service announcement and/or other public education strategies to keep community members educated and safe, especially children.

References

1. Train Horn Rule and Quiet Zones. *U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration*. [Online] <https://railroads.dot.gov/railroad-safety/divisions/highway-rail-crossing-and-trespasser-programs/train-horn-rulequiet-zones>.
2. Needham Line. *Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority*. [Online] https://www.mbtta.com/schedules/CR-Needham/timetable?schedule_direction%5bdirection_id%5d=0#direction-filter.
3. Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad. *Quiet Zone FRAWeb Report*. 2022.
4. *Environmental noise exposure and health outcomes: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analysis*. Chen, Xia, et al. 4, s.l. : European Journal of Public Health, Vol. 33.
5. *Acute Exposure to Simulated Nocturnal Train Noise Leads to Impaired Sleep Quality and Endothelial Dysfunction in Young Healthy Men and Women: A Sex-Specific Analysis*. Hahad, Omar, et al. 21, s.l. : Int J Environ Res Public Health, Vol. 19.
6. *Effects of train noise and vibration on human heart rate during sleep: an experimental study*. Croy, Ilona, Smith, Michael G and Waye, Kerstin Persson. 5, s.l. : BMJ Open, Vol. 3.
7. Europe, World Health Organization Regional Office for. *Burden of disease from environmental noise: quantification of healthy life years lost in Europe*. 2011.
8. Administration, US. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad. *Trespass Risk in Quiet Zones*. 2020.



**Needham Public
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Train Noise and the Establishment of Quiet Zones in Needham

Presentation to
Board of Health 3.8.24



Definitions

- Federal Railroad Administration regulations:
 - Locomotive engineers must sound train horns for a **minimum of 15 seconds and a maximum of 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings.**
 - Wherever feasible, train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern:
 - 2 long, 1 short, and 1 long horn.
 - Horn must continue to sound until lead locomotive or train car occupies the grade crossing
 - Min volume: 96 decibels;
Max: 110
- Only local governments or public agencies may establish a **quiet zone**, which must be at least a 1/2 mile in length and have at least 1 public highway-rail grade crossing. (Needham has 5 public and 1 private crossing)
- Every public grade crossing in a quiet zone must be equipped at minimum with the standard conventional automatic warning devices:
 - Flashing lights and gates
- Communities may establish **partial quiet zones** restricting horn sounding between 10pm-7am.

Data sources: <https://railroads.dot.gov/railroad-safety/divisions/highway-rail-crossing-and-trespasser-programs/train-horn-rulequiet-zones>;
<https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2022-10/FRAWebReport%20%281%29.pdf>

In MA, there are 29 Quiet Zones*

- Hingham
- Norfolk
- Wilmington
- Wakefield
- Waltham
- Concord
- Wenham
- Revere
- Rowley
- Beverly**
- Somerville
- Hamilton
- Ipswich
- Belmont
- Andover
- Ayer
- Beverly**
- Weston
- Gloucester
- Melrose
- Medford
- Lincoln
- Beverly**
- Manchester
- Beverly**
- Beverly**
- Cambridge
- Reading
- Acton

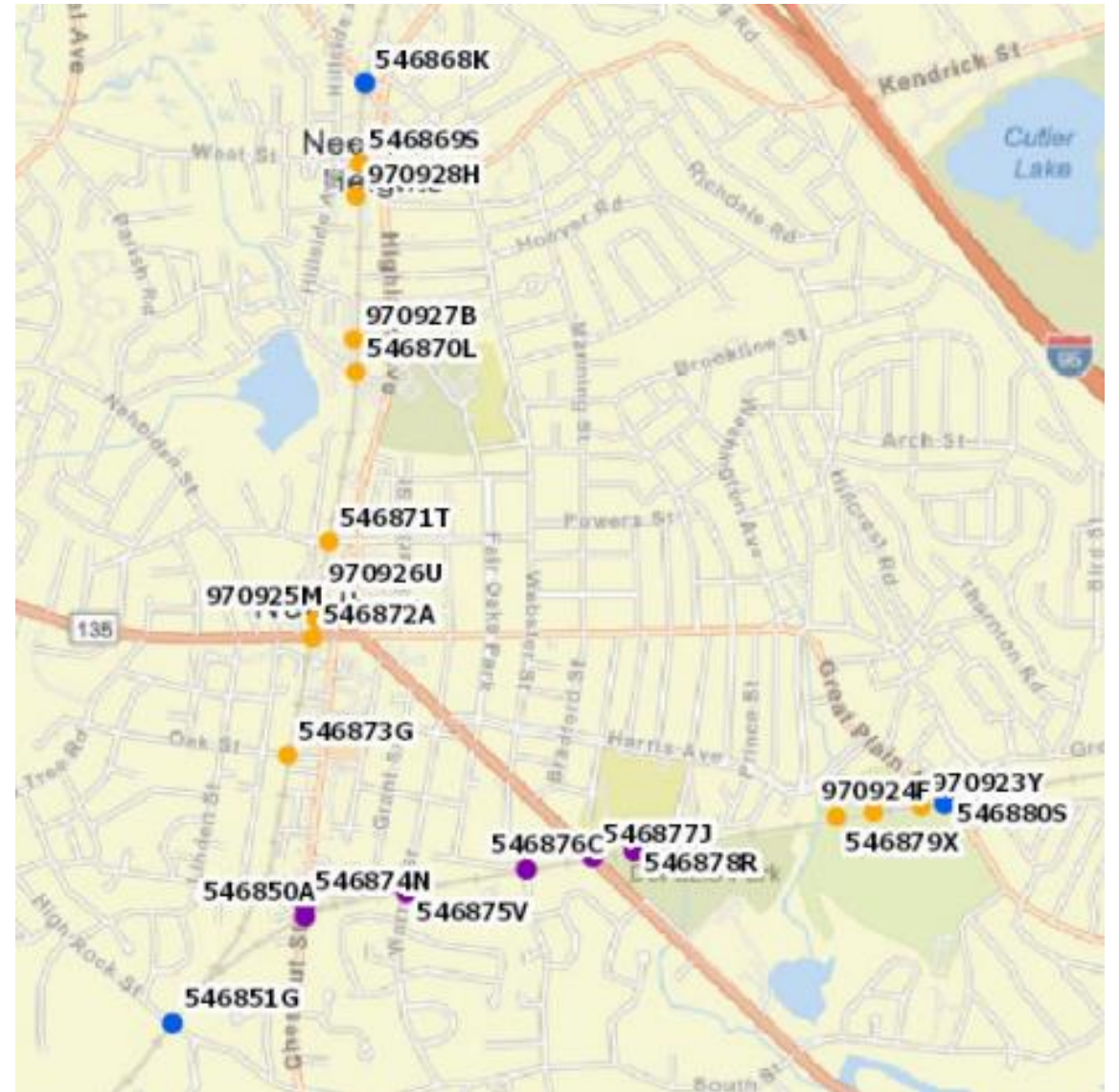
*MBTA Quiet Zones appear in **Bold**

** Some towns have more than 1 quiet zone established

Data source: <https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/quiet-zone-locations-city-and-state-1>

Needham Stops and Crossing

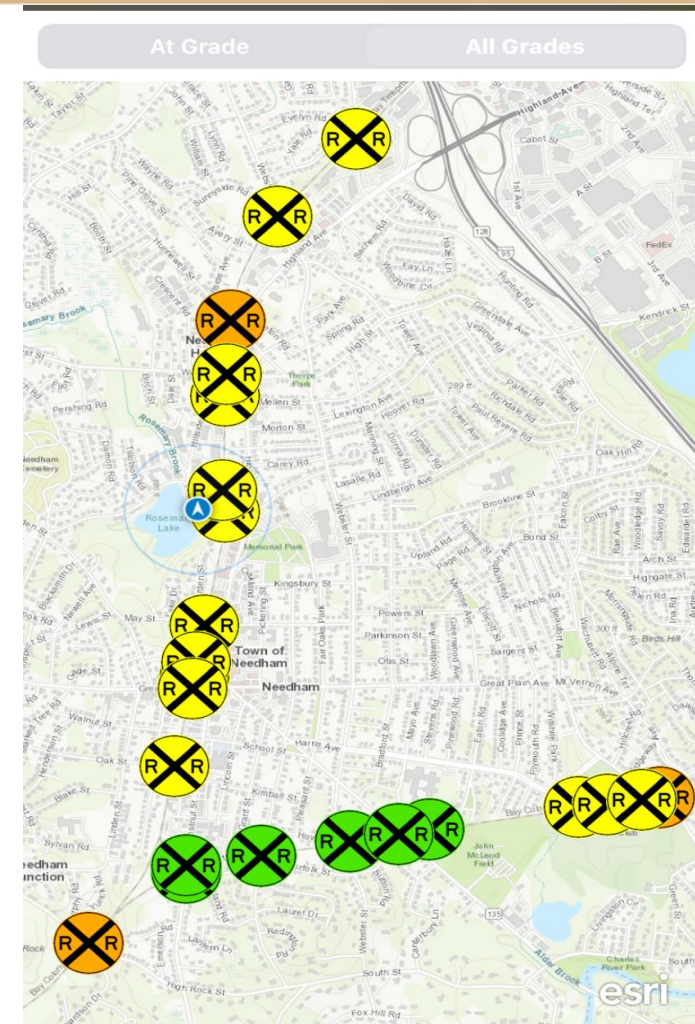
- **4 Commuter Rail stops** in Needham (MBTA/Keolis):
 - Hersey, Needham Junction, Needham Center, Needham Heights (terminus of line)
- **6 major grade crossings** in town:
 - West Street, Rosemary Street, May Street, Great Plain Avenue, Oak Street, Needham Golf Club (private)
 - Grade crossing (also called Highway crossing, etc) is where a railway line and road meet each other on the same level



Needham Line Train Facts

- 16 inbound, 17 outbound trips through Needham on a weekday
 - If horn honks per FRA regulation, the horn sounds for approximately **50** minutes, with at least **792** individual horn sounds each weekday across town
 - There are about half the amount the trips each weekend.
 - There are five (5) trips during the week and two (2) trips on weekends taking place before 7am or after 10pm

Data source: [https://www.mbtta.com/schedules/CR-Needham/timetable?schedule_direction\[direction_id\]=0#direction-filter](https://www.mbtta.com/schedules/CR-Needham/timetable?schedule_direction[direction_id]=0#direction-filter)



USDOT-FRA Rail Crossing Locator App (Apple/Android)

Peer-Reviewed Studies on Train Noise

- Relatively few studies have been done on railway noise specifically.
- Studies performed have shown (not exhaustive):
 - Exposure to simulated nocturnal train noise impaired endothelial function, sleep quality and sleep structure. Noise of passing trains induces heart rate accelerations.
 - Statistically significant relationship between night-time noise and diastolic blood pressure, with railway noise showing the strongest association.
 - Vibrations from railway freight were found to induce heartrate acceleration and cause sleep disturbances but are still poorly understood.
- Additional studies on other environmental noise, including road traffic and aircraft noise, have shown associations between exposure to noise and hypertension, ischemic heart disease, sleep disturbance, hearing impairment and tinnitus, anxiety, and annoyance.

Data sources: *Environmental noise exposure and health outcomes: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analysis.* Chen, Xia, et al. 4, s.l. : European Journal of Public Health, Vol. 33.

Acute Exposure to Simulated Nocturnal Train Noise Leads to Impaired Sleep Quality and Endothelial Dysfunction in Young Healthy Men and Women: A Sex-Specific Analysis. Hahad, Omar, et al. 21, s.l. : Int J Environ Res Public Health, Vol. 19

Effects of train noise and vibration on human heart rate during sleep: an experimental study. Croy, Ilona, Smith, Michael G and Waye, Kerstin Persson. 5, s.l. : BMJ Open, Vol. 3.

World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. *Burden of disease from environmental noise: quantification of healthy life years lost in Europe.* 2011.

Trespass Risk in Quiet Zones

- 94% of rail-related deaths are due to trespassing and railroad crossing incidents.
 - Three Main types :
 - 1. Grade Crossings
 - 2. Right-of-Way
 - 3. Attempted Suicide
- Researchers analyzed 333 quiet zones established between June 2012 and May 2018. 190 trespass casualties were observed within the quiet zones; 86 were observed before and 104 were observed after the establishment.
 - Trespass casualties at grade crossings increased by 108.7% from 23 before to 48 after.
- 74% of trespassing casualties are within 1/4 mile of a grade crossing. Casualties tend to be white males, average age of 38, with a low socioeconomic status.
- Rail Trespassing costs: ~400 fatalities each year
 - 1. Fatalities/Injuries
 - 2. Travel Time Delays
 - 3. Other Unquantified Economic & Societal Cost
- In Needham per the FRA reports, there have been a total of 4 known collisions at grade crossings, all of which were between 1975-1980 and there were no injuries reported

Data sources: <https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2020-09/Trespass%20Risk%20in%20Quiet%20Zones-A.pdf>,
<https://railroads.dot.gov/safety-data/fra-safety-data-reporting/accident-and-incident-reporting?page=0>

Accidents/Incidents: MBTA

MBTA Accidents/Incidents 2017-2023	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Total Accidents/Incidents	141	143	161	81	64	105	94	789
Total Fatalities	15	11	4	4	3	6	10	53
Total Injuries	125	114	149	68	60	77	73	666
Count of Trespasser deaths, not at Highway-Rail Crossing	10	11	2	4	1	4	7	39
Count of Trespasser injuries, not at Highway-Rail Crossing	3	2	3	5	3	1	4	21
Distinct count of Trespasser incidents, not at Highway-Rail Crossing	12	13	5	9	4	5	11	59
Count of Passengers killed in train accidents or crossing incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Count of Passengers injured in train accidents or crossing incidents	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Count of Passengers killed in other incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Count of Passengers injured in other incidents	33	38	33	14	10	18	13	159
Train Accidents (Not at Grade-Crossings)	6	8	7	6	8	12	5	52
Highway-Rail Incidents	7	10	10	4	2	16	12	61
Other Accidents/Incidents	128	125	144	71	54	77	77	676

Year	City	Crossing ID	Type of Crossing	Warning	Type of Highway User	Hwy User	Type of Equipment
2019	BRAINTREE	536887M	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pushing
2019	BELMONT*	052315W	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Truck	Passenger Train - Pulling
2019	WALPOLE	967752W	Public	None	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pushing
2019	ROCKPORT	053938J	Private	Stop Signs	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pushing
2019	BRIDGEWATER	536917C	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Pick-up truck	Passenger Train - Pushing
2019	RANDOLPH	536892J	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pushing
2019	CONCORD*	970901Y	Public	None	Train struck highway user	Pedestrian	Passenger Train - Pushing
2019	CHELSEA	053848K	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Truck-trailer	Passenger Train - Pushing
2019	BEVERLY*	926105Y	Public	None	Train struck highway user	Other	Passenger Train - Pulling
2019	WESTON*	052334B	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pulling
2020	SOUTHBOROUGH	547119K	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pulling
2020	BEVERLY*	053906D	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pushing
2020	CAMBRIDGE*	501902N	Public	Flashing Lights	Train struck BY highway user	Auto	Yard/switching
2020	BEVERLY*	054151P	Public	Gates	Train struck highway user	Auto	Passenger Train - Pulling
2021	CAMBRIDGE*	501902N	Public	Flashing Lights	Train struck BY highway user	Auto	Light loco(s)

*Denotes a city or town with a quiet zone established. Note: we do not know if the incident occurred in a quiet zone.

Highway User Action	2019	2020	2021
Went around the gate	2		
Stopped and then proceeded			1
Did not stop	3		
Stopped on crossing	4	3	
Other	1	1	
Total	10	4	1

Data sources: <https://railroads.dot.gov/safety-data/accident-and-incident-reporting/accidentincident-dashboards-data-downloads> , <https://railroads.dot.gov/safety-data/accident-and-incident-reporting/highwayrail-grade-crossing-incidents/highwayrail-grade>

Summary

- There are relatively few studies that provide an association between train horn noise and negative health impacts. Studies that have been performed show an association between train noise and increased heart rate, changes in blood pressure, sleep disruptions, and disturbed endothelial function.
- A study from the FRA showed an increase in trespass casualties at grade crossings after the establishment of quiet zones, though factors such as increases in rail traffic, speed of trains, population density, or changes to surrounding infrastructure were not taken into account.
- There were 15 MBTA accidents at crossings from 2019-2021, with 4 injuries and 2 deaths. There is no information available on how the train horn may or may not have prevented these accidents.

Recommendation

If the town chooses to move forward with the establishment of one or more quiet zones, we recommend implementing as many safety measures as can be feasibly provided to maximize safety to the greatest extent possible.

We believe consideration should be made for extra precautions at the Rosemary St. and Oak St. crossings due to their proximity to the Needham High School, the library, and High Rock Elementary School.

We recommend a public service announcement and/or other public education strategies to keep community members educated and safe, especially children.





Needham Public Health Division

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Board of Health Town of Needham AGENDA FACT SHEET

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024

Agenda Item	Citizens Petition – Single Use Plastic Bags
Presenter(s)	Robert Fernandez, Lead Petitioner Kathy, Riaz, Petitioner

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
	Mr. Fernandez and Ms. Riaz will discuss the citizens petition that was filed to prohibit single use plastic in Needham.
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HEALTH
	No vote required.
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION:
	a. Single Use Plastic Ban Bylaw Proposal b. Single Use Plastic Informational Sheet

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-laws by:

1. Adding a new Section 3.13 to read as follows:

**SECTION 3.13 POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING MATERIAL, SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC STRAWS, SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STIRRERS,
PLASTIC SPLASH GUARDS, AND WATER BOTTLES**

3.13.1 Definitions.

The following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

- a) “Department” means the Town of Needham Public Health Department.
- b) “Food or Beverage Vendor” means an operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, distributes, or otherwise provides food or beverages for human consumption, including but not limited to any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the Massachusetts Retail Food Code, 105 CMR 590, as it may be amended from time to time.
- c) “Health Agent” shall mean the Director of Health and Human Services or his/her designee.
- d) “Plastic” means a material that contains one or more organic polymer substances of large molecular weight as an essential ingredient.
- e) “Polystyrene” means any food, beverage, or other packaging materials made from a styrene monomer, including but not limited to
 - i) Expanded polystyrene (EPS), which is a thermoplastic petrochemical material utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to, fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, form molding, and extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene); or
 - ii) Clear or solid polystyrene, which is known as “oriented polystyrene.”
- f) “Prepared food” means any food or beverages, which are served, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed or otherwise prepared on the premises where the food or beverages are to be served. For the purposes of this bylaw, prepared

food does not include raw, butchered meats, fish and/or poultry sold from a butcher case or similar retail appliance.

- g) "Retail Sales Establishment" shall mean any business facility that sells goods directly to the consumer whether for or not for profit in the Town of Needham including, but not limited to retail stores, restaurants, pharmacies, food or ice cream truck, convenience, grocery stores, supermarket, liquor stores, seasonal and temporary businesses.
- h) "Single-use plastic straw"
 - i) In general – The term "single-use plastic straw" means a single-use, disposable tube made of plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources, used to transfer a beverage from a container to the mouth of the person drinking the beverage.
 - ii) Exception – The term "single-use plastic straw" shall not include straws made from non-plastic materials, including, but not limited to metal, glass, paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood, or bamboo;
- i) "Single-use plastic stirrer" – The term "single-use plastic stirrer" means a device that is used to mix beverages and designed as a single-use product made of plastic.
- j) "Single Use" means food and beverage serviceware, that is not reusable, as defined above, and are designed to be used once and then discarded, and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.
- k) "Single-use plastic splash guard" means a device that fits into the sip-hole of a beverage container lid to prevent a beverage from splashing and is designed as a single-use product made of plastic.
- l) "Single-use plastic water bottle" means any single serving container, whether sold individually or in bulk, containing non-carbonated, unflavored drinking water with a volume of one liter or less, that is made in whole or in part of plastic material, excluding the cap.
- m) "Styrofoam" is a Dow Chemical Co. trademarked form of extruded polystyrene and is commonly used to refer to foam polystyrene. These are generally used to make insulated cups, bowls, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays, foam packing materials and egg cartons. The products are sometimes identified by a #6 resin code.

3.13.2 Regulated Conduct.

3.13.2.1 Polystyrene/Styrofoam Containers.

- a. Food establishments are prohibited from dispensing prepared food or beverages to any person in single use food containers made from foam polystyrene.
- b. Retail establishments are prohibited from selling or distributing single use food containers made from foam polystyrene to customers.

3.13.2.2 Single Use Plastic Straws. A food or beverage vendor shall not provide a single-use plastic straw to a customer, unless that customer verbally or electronically requests a plastic straw.

3.13.2.3 Single-Use Plastic Stirrers. A food or beverage vendor shall not provide a single-use plastic stirrer to a customer.

3.13.2.4 Single-Use Plastic Splash Guards. A food or beverage vendor shall not provide a single-use plastic splash guard to a customer.

3.13.2.5 Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles. No retail establishment shall sell or otherwise provide to a consumer plastic water bottles containing 1 liter or less of non-carbonated, non-flavored water, except as may be required for safety, health, or emergency situations.

3.13.3 Effective Date.

Section 3.13.2.5 (Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles) shall take effect on January 1, 2026. All other provisions of this Section 3.13 shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

3.13.4 Regulations.

The Needham Public Health Department may adopt and amend rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this by-law.

3.13.5 Severability.

Each separate provision of this section shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein, and if any provision of this section be declared to be invalid by the Attorney General or a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this section shall remain valid and enforceable.

2. Amending Section 8.2.2 (Non-Criminal Disposition) by inserting a new row in the table, in appropriate numerical order, to read as follows:

3.13	Polystyrene Packaging Material, Single-Use Plastic Straws, Single-Use Plastic Stirrers, Plastic Splash Guards, and Water Bottles	\$100 - 1st Offense \$200 – 2nd Offense \$300 – each subsequent	Per Day	Director of Health and Human Services or Designee
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or take any other action relative thereto.

Additional Information:

The purpose of this bylaw is to reduce the overall environmental impact of the Town of Needham, its residents, and its businesses. Single-use plastic has a significant impact on the environment through its carbon footprint, waste management, pollution, and more. Many single-use plastic items are unnecessary because we have reusable alternatives. The best way to solve the plastic pollution crisis is to reduce the amount of plastic we produce. By banning these items, we can lower demand for plastic, limit plastic pollution, and help create a culture of reuse. The provisions of this bylaw will reduce the amount of single use plastic used throughout the Town.

Single-use Plastic Bylaw Fact Sheet

Bylaw presented in Town Meeting May 2024:

Phase I Ban to be enacted on January 1, 2025

Polystyrene/Styrofoam containers

Plastic Straws - unless they are specifically requested by patrons.

Plastic Stirrers

Splash guard

Enact Voluntary Skip the Stuff program:

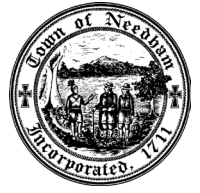
Prevents restaurants from automatically including accessories like plastic utensils, napkins, condiment packets, etc. Customers must explicitly ask for them.

Phase II Ban to be enacted on January 1 2026:

Water Bottles

Enforcement - Needham Board of Health (similar to enforcement of plastic bag ban)

Needham Bill	Alternative	Other Towns/Cities
Polystyrene/Styrofoam	Aluminum, cardboard, compostable options, recyclable containers, etc.	60 towns and cities have banned polystyrene/styrofoam.
Plastic Straws	Bamboo, Pasta, Metal, etc, but still available in plastic if the patron requests it	Andover, Brookline, Chelmsford, Gloucester, Harwich, Lexington, Melrose, Provincetown, Rockport, Swampscott
Plastic Stirrers	Wooden stirrers	Hadley, Harwich, Melrose, Nantucket, Natick, Newton, Sommerville, Swampscott, etc. Many towns include splash guards in their ban of disposable food serveware that is not recyclable or compostable.
Plastic Splash guards	Wooden coffee lid plugs/ or patron brings their own mug with lid that seals tight	Hadley, Newton, Northampton, etc. Many towns include splash guards in their ban of disposable food serveware that is not recyclable or compostable.
Ban on plastic water bottles (1 liter or less,except as may be required for safety, health, or emergency situations.)	Boxed water, water in aluminum cans	27 towns and cities; including 15 towns on the Cape, Hingham, Arlington, Brookline, Concord, etc. State agencies



**Board of Health
Town of Needham
AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024

Agenda Item	FY25 Fee Schedule Proposal
Presenter(s)	Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Mr. McDonald will discuss the proposed Permit and License Fee Schedule to go into effect starting July 1, 2024	
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HEALTH
Discussion only.	
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION:
a. FY25 Proposed Fee Schedule	



Board of Health

Kathleen Ward Brown, ScD

Edward Cosgrove, PhD

Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP

Tejal K. Gandhi, MD, MPH Robert Partridge, MD, MPH

PERMIT & LICENSE FEE SCHEDULE

Permit/License	FY24 Fee	FY 25 Fee?
Animal Permit	\$100.00	<u>\$100.00</u>
• Additional per species for laboratory animals	\$25.00	<u>\$50.00</u>
Beaver Removal Permit <i>(not subject to Late Renewal Surcharges)</i>	\$75.00	<u>\$75.00</u>
Biosafety Laboratory Initial Registration and Annual Renewal	\$500.00	<u>\$500.00</u>
• Plan Modification and Reinspection	\$250.00	<u>\$250.00</u>
Body Art Establishment	\$700.00	<u>\$700.00</u>
Body Art Practitioner Permit	\$575.00	<u>\$575.00</u>
Bodyworks Establishment Plan Review	\$200.00	<u>\$200.00</u>
Bodyworks Establishment Permit	\$100.00	<u>\$150.00</u>
Bodyworks Practitioner Permit	\$50.00	\$50.00
Breast Milk Registration <i>(not subject to Late Renewal Surcharges)</i>	\$25.00	
Camp License (For Profit Groups)	\$250.00	
Camp License (Non-Profit Groups)	\$125.00	
Demolition Permit <i>(not subject to Late Renewal Surcharges)</i>	\$100.00	\$100
Food:		<u>Take out</u>
• Bottling Permit	\$500.00	
• Farmers Market Seasonal Permit	NOTE	<u>\$50.00</u>
• Food Service – less than 50 seats	\$250.00	\$250.00
• Food Service – 50 to 149 seats	\$450.00	\$450.00
• Food Service – 150 to 250 seats	\$550.00	\$550.00
• Food Service – more than 250 seats	\$650.00	\$650.00
• Food Service – Catered Feeding Location	\$175.00	\$175.00
• Food Service – Residential Kitchen	\$125.00	\$125.00
• Mobile Food Service Vendors	NOTE	<u>\$125.00 (non-Selectboard approved vendors)</u>
• Plan Reviews for New Mobile Food Trucks (Seasonal)	NEW FEE	\$50
• Plan Reviews for All Food Service or Retail Establishments	\$225.00	\$225.00
• Retail Food Establishment – Prepackaged foods, Refrigeration	\$125.00	\$125.00
• Retail Food Establishment less than 1,500 square feet	\$150.00	\$150.00

Commented [TZ1]: Just adding this in there

Proposed May 12, 2023. Adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of Health on June 9, 2023. Effective July 1, 2023.

• Retail Food Establishment between 1,500 and 3,000 square feet	\$250.00	\$250.00
• Retail Food Establishment between 3,000 and 6,000 square feet	\$450.00	\$450.00
• Retail Food Establishment between 6,000 & 10,000 square feet	\$550.00	\$550.00
• Retail Food Establishment more than 10,000 square feet	\$750.00	\$750.00
• Temporary/One Day Event Permit	\$50.00	\$50.00 Non-profit vendors, Town or <u>School</u> Events <u>Free</u>

Permit/License	Proposed	
Hauler Company (Grease, Medical, Rubbish, Septic)	\$150.00	\$150.00
Hotel/Motel	\$250.00	\$250.00
Marijuana:		
• Plan Review (Treatment Center or Cultivation/Processing Site)	\$1,000.00	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
• Plan Review (Storage/Disposal)	\$1,000.00	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
• Plan Review (Continuity of Business/Continuity of Operations)	NO FEE	
• Plan Review (Security)	NO FEE	
• Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC) Initial Permit Application	\$2,500.00	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
• Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC) Annual Permit Renewal	\$1,250.00	<u>\$1,250.00</u>
• Marijuana Home Cultivation Permit (Home Permit)	\$150.00 ¹	<u>Same?</u>
Pre-Residency Housing Inspection ² (not subject to Late Renewal Surcharges)	NO FEE	<u>\$80.00 (and add 50% off for non-profits.) NHA-free.</u>
Sharps Permit	\$100.00	<u>\$75.00</u>
Swimming Pool:		
• Public/Semi-Public Pool – Permit (Annual)	\$250.00	\$300.00
• Public/Semi-Public Pool – Permit (Seasonal)	\$175.00	\$200.00
• Public/Semi-Public Pool – Plan Review (includes 2 free revisions)	\$250.00	\$250.00
• Public/Semi-Public Pool – Plan Revisions	\$50.00	\$50.00
• Public/Semi-Public Pool – Re-Inspection	\$125.00	\$125.00
• Public/Semi-Public Pool – Variance Initial Application	\$150.00	\$150.00
• Public/Semi-Public Pool – Variance Renewal	\$75.00	\$75.00
Tanning (Indoor Tanning):		
• Initial Permit Application	\$500.00	
• Permit Renewal (per Tanning Bed/Booth)	\$125.00	
Title V/Septic: (not subject to Late Renewal Surcharges)		
• Installer's Annual Permit (new- including exam)	\$250.00	\$250.00
• Installer's Renewal (no exam)	\$125.00	\$125.00
• Installer's Recertification Test (biennial)	\$50.00	\$50.00
• Soil Application Inspection (less than 2 hours)	\$425.00	\$425.00
• Soil Application (each additional hour over 2 initial hours)	\$75.00	\$75.00
• Septic Construction Permit (Major)	\$350.00	\$400.00
• Septic Construction Permit (Minor)	\$125.00	\$125.00
• Septic Plan Review (includes one free revision)	\$275.00	\$275.00
o Addition to home with Septic	\$75.00	\$75.00
o Deed Restriction	\$125.00	\$125.00
o Additional Plan Reviews for Septic Design	\$50.00	\$50.00
• Septic System Excavation & Trench Permit	\$50.00	\$50.00

Commented [TZ2]: Random but does this include spray tanning?

Commented [SP3R2]: No it would not

¹ Ibid.

² Pre-Residency Housing Inspections as required by state and federal housing assistance programs only, unless specifically approved by the Director of Health & Human Services.

• Septic System Local Upgrade Approval Request	\$150.00	\$150.00
Tobacco Permit	\$700.00	\$700.00
Well Application – Geothermal, Irrigation <i>(not subject to Late Renewal) Surcharges</i>	\$250.00	<u>\$250.00</u>

Notes

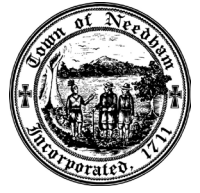
- In order for a permit or license renewal to be considered by the Needham Public Health Division, it must be:
 - submitted with all required documentation and attachments;
 - complete and accurate; and
 - inclusive of payment in full.
- Permit and license renewals (which are accurate and complete and which include payment) will be reviewed and approved promptly. The processing time for applications is at least 15 business days, but every effort will be made to review applications promptly and those which are complete and accurate and inclusive of full payment may be processed in less time (potentially substantially less time).
 - **Delayed License/Permit Renewals** are those submitted within 15 business days of permit/license expiration.
 - **Late License/Permit Renewals** are those submitted within 10 business days of permit/license expiration.
 - **Last-Minute License/Permit Renewals** are those submitted within 5 business days of permit/license expiration.
- Expedited reviews of permit and license renewals may be ordered at the applicant's discretion to avoid a possible gap in licensure, but that is not required.
- Non-profit organizations may, upon request and when approved by the Director of Health & Human Services, receive a discount of up to 50% on the applicable fees.
- In extraordinary circumstances, the Director of Health & Human Services or the Board of Health's designated agent may modify or reduce the fees noted above if, in that person's opinion, it is the best interests of the Town of Needham. The Director or the designated agent will inform the Board of any modifications and the rationale for such actions at the Board's next meeting.
- Mobile Food Vendor permits and permits for the Farmers Market are the subjects of an extended cooperative program with other Town Departments and community partners that includes a bundled or simplified fee, and thus any fees may be waived if approved by the Director of Health & Human Services.

<u>Surcharges</u>	<u>New</u>
• Delayed License/Permit Renewal	\$75.00
• Late License/Permit Renewal	\$150.00
• Last-Minute License/Permit Renewal	DOUBLE FEE
• Noncompliance Re-inspection <i>(unless otherwise specified)</i>	\$150.00
• Inspection following Noncompliance for Operating without a Permit	DOUBLE FEE



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Board of Health Town of Needham AGENDA FACT SHEET

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024

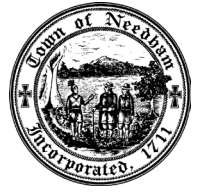
Agenda Item	FY25 Budget Update
Presenter(s)	Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Mr. McDonald will discuss the updates regarding the FY25 Health and Human Services budget, and the Finance Committee recommendations.	
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HEALTH
Discussion only.	
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION:
None.	



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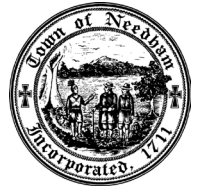


Board of Health Town of Needham AGENDA FACT SHEET

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024

Agenda Item	Staff Updates
Presenter(s)	Public Health Division Staff

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Each area within the Public Health Division will give a brief update on current topics, projects, events and more that they are working on.	
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HEALTH
Discussion only.	
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION:
a. Shared Services (Public Health Excellence, Regional Field Training Hub, Contract Tracing/Investigation) - Kerry Dunnell, Samatha Menard, Kristin Scoble, Keleigh Boudreau, Thaleia Stampoulidou-Rocha, Rebecca Queeney b. Environmental Health – Sai Palani, Tara Gurge c. Nursing - Ginnie Chacon-Lopez, Hanna Burnett, Tiffany Benoit d. Epidemiology – Julie McCarthy e. Substance Use Prevention MassCALL3 – Carol Read, Lydia Cunningham f. Emergency Management – Taleb Abdelrahim g. Substance Use Prevention – Karen Shannon, Karen Mullen, Monica DeWinter, Angi MacDonnell, Vanessa Wronski h. Accreditation – Lynn Schoeff i. Traveling Meals – Rebecca Hall	



Unit: Shared Services Grants – Public Health Excellence and Contact Tracing

Date: 2/29/2024

Staff members: Kerry Dunnell, Samantha Menard, Keleigh Boudreau, Rebecca Queeney, Kristin Scoble, Thaleia Stampoulidou-Rocha

Activities and Accomplishments:

Activity	Notes
Shared Services- Charles River Health District (Towns of Dover, Medfield, Needham, and Sherborn)	Staff Update- Thaleia Stampoulidou-Rocha has resigned from her position as Regional Health Agent. Her last day with the Department will be March 8th. Regional Environmental Health- Regional Health Agent Thaleia Stampoulidou-Rocha assisted Needham with various routine food establishment inspections, re-inspections, and Title V inspections. Thaleia has also been working on document to summarize the tobacco enforcement history, by-laws and policies for each community. Sam Menard continues to convene bi-weekly meetings with Needham Environmental Staff to discuss inspectional best practices and standard practices. Sam Menard and Thaleia Stampoulidou-Rocha attended the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association's Annual Title V seminar on Feb. 21st. Communities were provided with a list of programming opportunities and asked to prioritize them. Strategic planning ranked high during discussion. Staff compiled a list of environmental health inspection supplies and equipment t for review by communities to identify any immediate needs. Intermunicipal Agreement –Final review with Needham Town Counsel should be complete by March 8. Completion and adoption of an intermunicipal agreement among the four communities (Dover, Medfield, Needham, and Sherborn) is a key deliverable for this year. As the host community for the Charles River Health District, Needham has the first legal review. Once Needham review is complete, the document will be shared with the other three communities and their counsel for review.

	Regional Public Health Nursing – Keleigh Boudreau continues to shadow Needham's full time Public Health Nurse as part of her onboarding. Activities for this month have included, Stop the Bleed training, home visits, vaccinations, and MAVEN coverage for Needham and Medfield. Keleigh has also been involved in planning for the next steps for the Samaritan Boxes (SAMBOXes), which contain Narcan and a face shield mask for CPR to be used for possible overdoses. Keleigh was also able to shadow the public health nurse in Medfield and assisted in that town's weekly blood pressure monitoring clinic. She will assist with this clinic monthly. In response to an identified need for a Medical Director for the Charles River Health District and a request from the funder for information about responsibilities and costs, Keleigh solicited information from several communities and shared services arrangements. The resulting chart includes community name, medical director and any contractual arrangements. An additional project is focused on training noise in Needham. Keleigh has collaborated with other NPHD staff to create a presentation and draft policy memo for the March 8 Board of Health (BOH) meeting. Additional areas of practice addressed this month include a presentation from DPH about maternal mental health at the South East chapter's Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses (MAPHN) meeting, emergency preparedness planning session with the Region 4AB Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC). General Program Support – Kerry attended Board of Health meetings for the Towns of Medfield, Dover, and Sherborn to provide information about the IMA and the process for adoption. Staff attended the Needham Board of Health meeting.
Shared Services- North Central & MetroWest Field Training Hub (FTH)	Sam and Rebecca have been conducting food inspections for Needham as a field training opportunity to use Foodcode Pro. Kerry, Sam and Rebecca reviewed a housing survey draft intended to be sent to communities participating in the public health excellence program and gave feedback to the Central Trainers at the State Training Hub.

(serving the 39 communities in the Charles River Health District, Greater Boroughs, MetroWest Public Health Coalition, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, Norfolk County-7 Public Health shared services arrangements)	Rebecca is researching community characteristics for all communities in the NorthCentral & MetroWest Field Training Hub region. The resulting community profiles will be helpful tools identifying needs and planning training schedules.
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Needham Public Health Division

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Unit: Environmental Health

Date: February 2024

Staff: Tara Gurge, Sai Palani, Monica Pancare, Pamela Ross-Kung

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Staff Trainings and Seminars	Sai and Tara attended the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) annual Title Five Septic Seminar in Taunton, MA.
Housing Hearing	Sai performed an inspection a joint inspection on February 2nd after the owner had reached out to our office on January 30th about issues with the unit. Unsafe and unsanitary conditions were observed that were in violation of the State Sanitary Code (105 CMR 410.000) and conditions deemed to endanger materially impair health or safety were present and the responsible party was ordered to corrected within 24 hours of the service of the orders. Within these orders it made note that if the violations were not corrected in the timeframes ordered that it may lead to orders to condemn and vacate the residence. On February 16th, an inspection of the unit did not show the violations noted to be corrected. At this time, Sai indicated to the responsible party, in this case the occupant, that our office would start to draft paperwork to condemn the residence. Sai said he could stop by after the long weekend, and if the violations were corrected by that time that the orders to condemn would not be sent. On February 20th another site visit was performed at which time some progress was made however the violations noted were still present and occupant was told that they would not be allowed to live in the residence after condemned, although they could go in to address the violations. After the Emergency orders to condemn and vacate were delivered via constable by hand, the unit was placarded on February 22nd at around 3 PM.
Retail Tobacco, retail beverage and CBD store spot check inspections conducted	Tara and Sai attended the recent virtual MassCALL3 Connections monthly meeting featuring guest speaker Cheryl Sbarra, Esq., Executive Director of the Mass. Association of Health Board (MAHB). Cheryl gave a very informative in-depth discussion on a variety of new tobacco and nicotine products, as well as hemp-derived Delta-8 and Delta-10 synthetic drugs, etc. that local Health needs to watch out for. After conducting some spot checks, we found that 3 out of our 6 permitted retail tobacco vendors were selling Zyn nicotine pouches, specifically, Smooth and Chill 'unflavored' products, along with Newport's new, 'Non-



Needham Public Health Division

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	Menthol' cigarettes offered for sale to the public. These products are in the process of being tested by staff and results of testing will help determine whether these products are considered to exhibit a characterizing flavor, contrary to what the manufacturers have stated. We also discovered that our one CBD store in town, who's owner initially agreed back in 2019 not to sell edibles or beverage products in her store, was selling edible hemp-infused gummies and seltzer beverage products, along with hemp-infused pet products. These food and beverage products are not allowed per our local BOH Article 22, Synthetic Drug regulation, and they are also not allowed to be sold per Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). We are in the process of working with the CBD stores Corp. lawyer and store owner in removing those products off the shelves. We will also be looking at revising our 2016 Board of Health Article 22 Synthetic Drug regulation in the coming month(s).
Meeting with French Press Bakery	Brought the owner of French Press Bakery in for a meeting with Tim, Tara and Sai to discuss ongoing food safety issues observed on a recent food establishment inspection report. Tara and Sai were able to set up a plan of action with the owner to address the food safety items. Deadlines were also discussed. Owner has submitted a draft Time as a Public Health Control procedure for some of the baked potentially hazardous foods being left out with no temperature controls and the procedures have been conditionally approved with some conditions and edits. The owner agreed to continue to work with the establishment to ensure that food safety compliance is met in a timely manner.
Developed Nutritionally Needham customer feedback survey	Tara and Sai worked with Lynn on developing a customer service feedback survey to use to gather helpful feedback from our recent Nutritionally Needham healthy eating month. This will allow us to gather relevant data for Lynn's quality improvement project for our pending Accreditation. This survey has been sent out and our office is waiting on responses.
Relavent/Food Code Pro scoring and fees pilot	Continued with our piloting of the new routine food establishment inspection scoring system. Scoring was adjusted since we determined that the initial scores set for Priority, Priority Foundation, and Core items were set a bit too high in point values, and so we were able to adjust those values down to accurately show a more realistic score which would allow a greater chance for the restaurant owners and managers to be able to achieve a certificate, or a score of 91 or above. We are still working with Relevant in coming up with a way to add our fines for the specific violations and how those can be incorporated into our Food Code Pro inspection software. We will continue to monitor our scoring and fine system, once incorporated, during the remainder of our pilot program, and continue to work out the kinks, and gather data on how the pilot is working. We will continue to keep the Board in the loop on our progress.



Other Public Health Division activities this month: (See report below.)

Activity	Notes
Demo Reviews/ Approvals	3- Demolition signoffs: - #235 BROOKLINE ST. - #126 FAIRFIELD ST. - #233 WARREN ST.
Disposal of Sharps Permits	0 – Disposal of Sharps Permits issued.
Septage/Grease Waste Hauler Permits Issued	0 – Septage/Grease Waste Hauler Permits Issued.
Trash/Recycling Waste Hauler Permit issued	3 - Trash and Recycling Waste Hauler Permit issued: - H.A. SANCOMB TRUCKING CO. - E L HARVEY & SONS INC. - Wellesley Trucking Service, Inc.
Medical Waste Hauler Permits Issued	0 – Medical Waste Hauler Permits issued:
Food - Plan reviews/Follow- ups/Pre-operation inspections	7 – Food Permit Plan Reviews/Follow-ups conducted for: - The Rice Barn - UPDATE: Reached out in mid-February and they are still looking for a plumber. Spoke with landlord and they requested copies of all recent records we have related to the Rice Barn. - Just Salads - Pre-opening inspection has been completed. - Panella's Mobile Food Trailer – Met with ZBA staff and discussed possible process to approve a special permit to allow Panella's to operate in the lot of their old location. - Common Room (Formerly Latina) - Pre-opening inspections have been completed. - Kids and Company – They are looking into converting one of the offices into a kitchenette. Waiting on plans to be sent to our office. - Blue on Highland – Expansion is being reviewed by Planning Department and Zoning and amendment to their special permit is being processed. - French Press – We had a formal meeting to discuss most recent food establishment inspection report and use of Time as Public Health Control procedures.
Food – Temporary Food Event Permits issued	2 – Temporary Food event online permit application reviews and permits issued to: - Sunita Williams Elementary Family Movie Night - The Center at the Heights: ACC Patient Meeting
Food Complaints/ Follow-ups	4 – Food Complaints received: - Wingate: Pests in dining area. - Little Spoon: Illness complaint, Investigated - Blue on Highland: Illness complaint, investigation upcoming



	- Cook: Illness complaint, investigation upcoming
Housing - Complaints/Follow- ups, etc.	(4/8) - New Housing Complaints/Follow-ups conducted at: - <u>Marsh St. (0/0)</u> - No updates this month. - <u>Greendale Ave. (0/1) - Update:</u> Site visit performed at end of January and another one is planned to take place in March. Occupants have indicated that they would plan to make more significant progress in the spring. - <u>Central Ave. (0/1) - Update:</u> Relatives of responsible party have agreed to assist, and they are looking into correcting violations to allow release of responsible party back home. Reinspection of residence will be scheduled once unsafe and unsanitary conditions are addressed. - <u>St. Mary's St. (0/0)</u> - No updates this month. - <u>Redington Rd. (0/0) - Update:</u> Staff is planning on reaching out in March. - <u>Hoover Rd. (0/0) - Update:</u> Resident had agreed to a joint inspection with a social worker and environmental health staff. Property had appeared to have been cleared out by a third-party contractor. Inspection has yet to be scheduled. - <u>Yurick Rd. (Needham Housing Authority/NHA) (0/1)</u> - NHA authority staff have agreed to create work orders about the issues noted. Occupant confirmed work has started. - <u>Bonwood Rd. (1/1)</u> - Occupant was experiencing respiratory symptoms and thought there was an environmental cause in the home. Fire Department and Health responded and did not observe anything obvious contributing to symptoms described. - <u>Hamlin Way (1/0)</u> - Unsanitary and unsafe conditions referred to Health Division by property owner. Property owner will contact office if they would like our involvement in case. - <u>Hillside Ave. (1/1)</u> - Occupant(s) were experiencing respiratory symptoms with chronic viral infections for several months. Occupants believed there was an environmental cause for it in their house, and inspection was performed and there were no obvious causes. - [REDACTED] (0/1) - Update: Inspections were performed with town associates. Due to unsafe and unsanitary conditions present, residence was condemned using emergency procedures. - <u>Gage St. (2x) (0/2)</u> - Two complaints were filed at once on this street. We followed up by performing exterior site visits. One case was referred to town social workers and no issues were observed from public view. Update: One of the residences does not appear to present as an issue at this time from public view and conversation with occupants. Other residence still appears to present as an issue and is in the process of being followed up on. - <u>Charles River Landing (1/0)</u> - Occupant was calling for an inspection due an apparent health issue. After conversing with complainant, it was identified that there was likely no issue present, but occupant could schedule an inspection if they still wanted one. They will call back if they decide they want an inspection.



Housing Pre-occupancy inspections	0 – Housing pre-occupancy inspections conducted.
Nuisance complaints/Follow-ups	(6/7) – New Nuisance Complaints/Follow-ups: - <u>Chapel St./Antons (0/1)</u> - Report of additional pest activity identified across from French Press Bakery. Received report of someone leaving out bags of birdseed to feed the birds. Will be talking to individual to discourage that ongoing practice. Owner of Anton's is about to install security cameras to catch culprit and it has been recommended to install signage to help deter this individual. <u>Latest update:</u> Spoke with manager at Antons who is struggling to catch person on camera and Needham Police have yet to catch anyone. Issue still exists. Will continue to monitor. - <u>#50 Dedham Ave. (Shared Dumpster – Sweet Basil/former Latina Kitchen/Little Spoon) (0/1)</u> - We received another concern from an occupant that abuts the shared dumpster regarding trash overflow and unsanitary conditions. We conducted a site visit and spoke to the property manager about issue. They are in the process of switching waste haulers due to insufficient servicing and leaving waste on the ground after servicing, etc. They will also be increasing the trash and recycling pick-up schedules with the new waste hauler, due to the new establishment taking over the former Latina Kitchen site, specifically, The Common Room. - <u>Great Plain Ave./Dedham Ave. (1/1)</u> - There was a sewage odor in the basement of Little Spoon, and it is intruding into some of the basements of other neighboring restaurants. It appears to be coming from the grease trap. Little Spoon is looking into addressing this as soon as possible. - <u>South St. (1/1)</u> - Received a noise complaint around this area. It was discovered that there was some significant development on two sites on this road that involved the blasting and hammering of ledge. Scope of work that let was passed on to the complainant. - <u>Pickering St. (0/1)</u> - Landlord has pumped catch basins in the parking lot. The catch basins were likely clogged leading to significant flooding and standing water in the parking lot. - <u>Riverside St. (1/1)</u> - Appliances and equipment was being left out for a few months. Agents discussed matter with tenants and items were picked up shortly afterwards. - <u>Crescent Rd. (1/1)</u> - Complaint about dust accumulation in one the suites. It was discovered that suite next door was performing extensive renovations and were sanding floors without proper controls in place creating a massive plume of dust. Health agent ordered work to stop and building inspector was contacted and they confirmed that there were no permits pulled by the contractors. Permits would be pulled prior to the start of work. - <u>Lindbergh Ave. (1/0)</u> - Complaint was received about flooding and erosion issues from a neighboring lot after the removal of several trees. Agents will follow up if ends up becoming a public health concern. - <u>Longfellow Rd. (1/0)</u> - Complaint was received about pest activity in this area. Resident will reach out to the health department to schedule a site visit.
Indoor/Outdoor pool spot check inspections	0 – Indoor/Outdoor pool spot check inspections conducted.



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Planning Board Special Permit review	1 – Planning Board review conducted: - <u>Needham Farmers Market Special Permit Request</u> (Moving back to Town Common & Garrity Way)
Septic Certificate of Compliance (COC)	0 – Septic Certificate of Compliance final signoffs issued for:
Septic – Construction permits issued	0 – Septic Construction Permits issued.
Septic Failure Letters	0 – Septic system failure letters sent.
Septic Installation inspections	0 – Septic installation inspections conducted.
Septic Deed Restrictions	0 – Septic Deed Restrictions received.
Septic Installer Exam/Permit Issued	1 - Septic System Installer exam and permit issued. - Paul Luttazi
Septic Addition/Reno. to a Home on a Septic reviews	0 – Addition/Reno. to a Home on a Septic reviews conducted.
Septic Plan Reviews/Approval issued	0 – Septic Plan reviews conducted/approvals issued.
Septic – Soil/Perc Tests	0 – Septic Soil/Perc Tests conducted.
Septic Trench permit issued	1 – Septic Trench permit issued for: - #1688 Central Ave.
Septic – Abandonment Forms	0 – Septic abandonment/connection to sewer forms received.
Tobacco spot check inspections conducted	3 – Tobacco retail vendor spot check inspections conducted at: - Speedway - 7-Eleven - Mobil – Great Plain Ave. Gas
Well Permit online plan review	1 – Well permit online plan review conducted for: - #1886 Central Ave. - Received an online well permit application for 2 closed-loop geothermal wells to be installed. (Update: Still being reviewed by Water and Sewer Dept.)



Zoning Board of Appeals plan reviews	0 – Zoning Board of Appeals plan reviews conducted.
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FY 24 Priority FBI Risk Violations of Interest

Establishment	Date	Violation(s)	Corrective Action/Follow-up
Micromarket at the Exchange	2/7	One food item was past it's use-by date.	Item was voluntarily discarded.
Avita	2/10	Improper storage of chemicals	Reinspection performed and violation was corrected.
Blue on Highland	2/17	Expired food present.	Food was voluntarily discarded.
Cook	2/22	Staff observed to not wash hands after changing tasks that would contaminate hands and then went back to prepare food. Knife was observed to not be properly ware washed and then used for food preparation.	Staff were educated by agent about proper procedures.

Hearth Pizzeria	2/24	Expired food was present.	Food was voluntarily discarded.
Mandarin Cuisine	2/28	Lack of handwashing observed throughout inspection and after the preparation of raw meats. Staff was observed touching ready-to-eat food with bare hands. Dishwasher was not heating up properly to be able to sanitize. Staff were wiping down food contact surfaces without a sanitizing step. Many food items were out of temperature. Staff were treating for pests themselves and open poison bait was observed in the kitchen.	All unsafe food was voluntarily discarded. Training was provided to staff and PIC. PIC agreed to use 3-bay to sanitize dishes and to fix dishwasher by next reinspection. Due to numerous violations present, next steps were discussed internally amongst staff. Reinspection scheduled for early in March.



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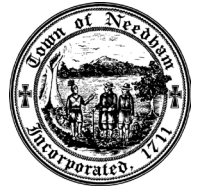
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Category	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY'24	FY'23	FY'22	FY'21	FY '20	FY' 19	FY' 18
Biotech registrations/Plan rev./Insp.	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1					5	3	3	0	1	1	1
Bodywork Estab. Insp.	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0					7	5	5	6	7	14	11
Bodywork Estab. Permits	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0					4	6	5	13	9	9	6
Bodywork Pract. Permits	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	1					8	5	8	12	23	21	22
COVID 19 Complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	0	3	123	0	0	0
COVID 19 Follow Ups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	0	3	122	0	0	0
Demo reviews	18	9	13	10	2	7	8	3					70	53	89	76	73	104	105
Domestic Animal permits	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0					4	17	15	29	1	21	19
Domestic Animal Inspections	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0					1	1	10	8	3	22	3
Food Service Routine insp.	20	24	7	25	17	17	23	18					151	214	194	134	149	200	225
Food Service Pre-oper. Insp.	1	3	5	2	0	2	1	2					16	22	22	16	48	12	32
Retail Food Routine insp. Or 6 month check in	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0					3	13	11	12	33	46	60
Residential Kitchen Routine insp.	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0					4	8	5	5	3	6	8
Mobile Routine insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	10	10	10	4	17	13
Food Service Re-insp.	11	9	4	4	13	8	9	11					69	37	27	7	21	28	53
Food Establishment Annual/Seasonal Permits	1	0	2	0	35	82	4	0					124	130	138	134	155	140	171
Temp. food permits	9	2	6	0	3	1	0	2					23	33	37	9	67	134	163
Temp. food inspections	9	1	3	0	0	2	0	0					15	16	9	3	10	37	29
Farmers Market permits	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0					5	11	16	15	14	14	14
Farmers Market insp.	19	11	14	9	0	0	0	0					53	73	149	124	158	229	127
Food Complaints	0	2	4	4	0	1	5	4					20	11	13	7	49	18	20
Follow-up food complaints	0	1	2	4	0	1	5	2					15	12	15	8	48	21	21
Food Service Plan Reviews	3	3	2	2	5	1	1	4					21	75	13	12	14	20	42
Food Service Admin. Hearings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	0	2	1	3	0	0
Grease/ Septage Hauler Permits	0	0	0	0	4	20	0	0					24	29	22	13	20	21	24
Housing (Chap II Housing) Annual routine inspection	1	0	0	6	3	1	0	0					11	9	10	7	7	0	14
Housing Follow-up insp.	1	0	0	2	3	3	0	6					15	13	3	2	0	0	5
Housing New Complaint	2	1	3	3	0	5	6	4					24	26	41	40	41	22	22
Housing Follow-ups	5	3	2	6	4	8	10	8					46	69	65	63	56	28	24
Hotel Annual inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0					3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Hotel Follow-ups	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					1	2	0	1	15	0	0
Nuisance Complaints	5	2	3	4	1	2	2	6					25	36	35	45	34	55	42
Nuisance Follow-ups	11	6	6	8	3	4	4	7					49	58	41	60	55	69	42
Pool inspections	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	0					13	14	15	15	13	20	12
Pool Follow up inspections	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0					4	5	4	5	3	12	7
Pool permits	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0					7	14	15	17	11	19	12
Pool plan reviews	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	5	0	5	0	3	44
Pool variances	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0					4	7	6	5	6	5	7
Septic Abandonment	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0					3	4	9	17	21	9	5
Addition to a home on a septic plan rev/approval	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0					1	2	15	5	5	2	2
Septic Install. Insp.	4	0	8	8	1	2	0	0					23	22	19	11	13	21	28
Septic COC for repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	2	3	2	5	3	1
Septic COC for complete septic system	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0					4	3	4	1	3	4	3
Septic Info. requests	7	5	4	8	6	3	4	6					43	62	64	86	61	62	51
Septic Sol/Perc Test.	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0					2	6	5	8	1	1	2
Septic Const. permits	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0					3	5	6	6	6	6	5
Septic Installer permits	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0					6	16	11	8	6	8	9
Septic Installer Tests	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1					4	9	4	3	2	5	3
Septic Deed Restrict.	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0					3	0	0	4	1	1	3
Septic Plan reviews	2	2	0	3	4	2	0	0					13	29	21	14	8	9	23
Septic Trench permits	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1					6	11	12				
Disposal of Sharps permits	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0					9	10	7	8	7	7	9
Disposal of Sharps Inspections	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0					6	12	8	8	7	7	7
RMD	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					1	2					
Planning Board Subdivision Sp Permit Plan reviews/Insp. of lots	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1					4	19	21	20	4	1	1
Subdivision Bond Releases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Special Permit/Zoning	3	0	0	2	1	2	0	0					8	19	21	18	17	34	15
Tobacco permits	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0					6	7	6	7	10	10	11
Tobacco Routine insp	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0					6	7	12	7	8	14	18
Tobacco Follow-up insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3					3	0	0	1	8	3	3
Tobacco Compliance checks	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0					6	6	6	6	30	30	41
Tobacco complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	6	0	0	2	3	4
Tobacco Compl. follow-ups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	6	0	0	1	3	4
Trash Hauler permits	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3					6	20	23	16	15	17	14
Medical Waste Hauler permits	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0					4	6	2	2	2	2	1
Well - Plan Reviews, Permission to drill letters, Insp.	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0					5	14	10	11	2	6	2
Well Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	1	4	1	1	1	0



Needham Public Health Division

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Unit: Public Health Nursing

Date: February 2024

Staff: Hanna Burnett, Ginnie Chacon-Lopez

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Community Outreach	A Matter of Balance (MOB) class is ongoing with full class at Needham Housing Authority (NHA). Feedback has been very positive. Connecting with North Hill about MOB there in April. Hands-only CPR and AED training at the Needham Public Library and at both NHA places. AED Scavenger Hunt for community.
Education	Hanna: Overdoses involving Xylazine mixed with Fentanyl: Clinical and Public Health implications. (CDC COCA Call). Perinatal Mental Health (MDPH). Ginnie: Various webinars; Equity Workshop hosted by Wayside Youth and Family.
DVAC	Email distribution list revamped based on survey responses. Bentley University Intern working on a resource binder for survivors that can be utilized by providers as well. Scheduling <i>Conversations</i> in a couple of places. Cable series slowly working towards completion.
Other	American Heart Association's Hands-only CPR video sent to all town employees via email. Feedback was positive. Boston College RN student continues her clinical with Hanna. Regis College PH student continues with Ginnie.

Notes: Needham Observer write up of the CPR event at the library:

https://needhamobserver.com/seeking-heartsafety-in-needham/?utm_medium=email

10 residents were positive for RSV in a Needham skilled nursing/long-term care facility. None of the residents were vaccinated and were experiencing mild symptoms, according to the Director of Nursing and Administrator. Facility took necessary infection control measures.

Potential Foodborne Illnesses	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2024	2023	2022
Amebiasis													0	0	0
Calicivirus/Norovirus							<5	<5					<5	5	<5
Campylobacteriosis	<5	<5		<5		<5	<5						8	9	6
Cryptosporidiosis													0	0	<5
Cyclosporiasis	<5												<5	<5	0
Enterovirus													0	0	0
Giardiasis													0	<5	0
Listeriosis													0	0	<5
Salmonellosis		<5		<5		<5		<5					<5	5	<5
Shigellosis													0	0	<5
Vibrio spp		<5											<5	<5	<5
Arbovirus	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2024	2023	2022
Arbovirus (other)													0	0	0
Babesiosis	<5												<5	<5	<5
Borrelia miyamotoi													0	0	<5
HGA/Anaplasmosis													0	<5	<5
Lyme Disease Suspect	14	<5		5	<5	<5	<5	<5					30	58	N/A
Lyme Disease Probable	6	5		<5	<5	<5	<5	<5					21	19	51
West Nile Infection													0	0	0
Other Communicable Illnesses	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2024	2023	2022
Group A streptococcus													0	0	0
Group B streptococcus													0	<5	<5
Haemophilus influenzae						<5							<5	0	<5
Hepatitis A													0	0	0
Hepatitis B Confirmed/Probable				<5				<5					<5	<5	9
Hepatitis B Contact													0	<5	0
Hepatitis C Confirmed													0	0	0
Hepatitis C Probable		<5		<5									<5	<5	<5
Influenza Confirmed	<5	<5			7	29	46	32					117	193	51
Malaria						<5							<5	-	-
Legionellosis	<5												<5	<5	<5
Mumps													0	0	0
Novel Coronavirus Confirmed	20	25		41	18	49	49	26					228	980	4153
Novel Coronavirus Probable	<5	<5		<5	<5	8	6	6					33	188	484
Pertussis (Bordetella spp.)													0	<5	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae													0	0	<5
Latent TB Infection Confirmed	<5	<5		5		7	<5	<5					23	31	24
Latent TB Infection Suspected	<5			<5				<5					<5	14	10
Active TB Infection Confirmed					<5								<5	-	-
Active TB Infection Contact					<5								<5	-	-
Active TB Infection Suspect					<5								<5	-	-
Varicella	<5	<5		<5			<5						5	<5	<5
Other (specify in narrative)													0	<5	-
Totals	54	44	0	62	39	101	115	73	0	0	0	0	488	1528	4819
Reported Cases later Revoked	3			1			1	1							

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2024	2023	2022
Immunizations/Injections															
B12			1			1	1	1					4	3	14
Influenza			201	535	34	1							771	719	812
Tdap													0	1	3
Covid-19				5	177	25	1						208	461	3792
VFC													0	0	4
Other						3							3	0	0
Total	0	0	202	540	211	30	2	1	0	0	0	0	986	1184	4625

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2024	2023	2022
Animal-to-Human Bites															
Dog													0	3	4
Cat													0	0	0
Bat													0	0	1
Skunk													0	0	0
Racoon													0	0	0
Other													0	0	0
Total Bites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2024	2023	2022
Assistance Programs															
Food Pantry													0	4	0
Friends													0	0	0
Gift of Warmth	2	2	3	0	5	3	1	1					17	51	23
GoW Amount	350	2070	1486	0	2882	1035	700	458					8981	25921	13141
Parks & Rec													0	0	0
Self Help													0	6	1

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2024	2023	2022
Education															
CPR Education	9	9	11	19	2	13	1	20					84	197	53
Matter of Balance Graduates													0	34	10
Narcan		41	7	67	1	9	3	0					128	25	-

Donations:	250
Gift Cards Distributed:	0

www.needhamma.gov/health



Unit: Epidemiology

Date: February 2024

Staff: Julie McCarthy

Activities and Accomplishments

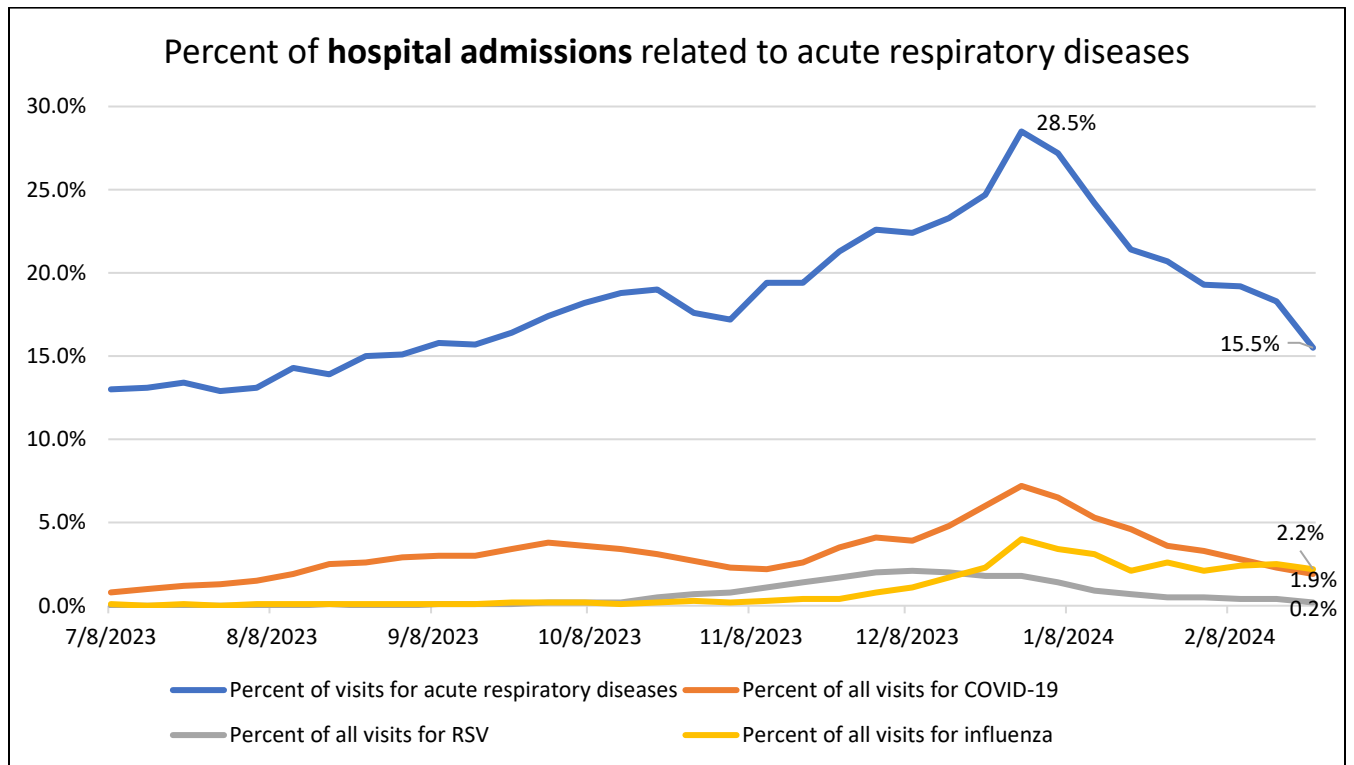
Activity	Notes
Biosafety Committee/Regulation	Biosafety Committee meeting was held on 2/27 to review Biosafety Permit application for Invicro. Application was recommended for approval. Sai and Julie continue to work on inspection checklists, using Boston and Cambridge as inspiration. Biosafety Committee will meet to discuss checklist prior to starting inspections.

27 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Needham February 2024 (**50** cases last month, **63** cases in January 2023)

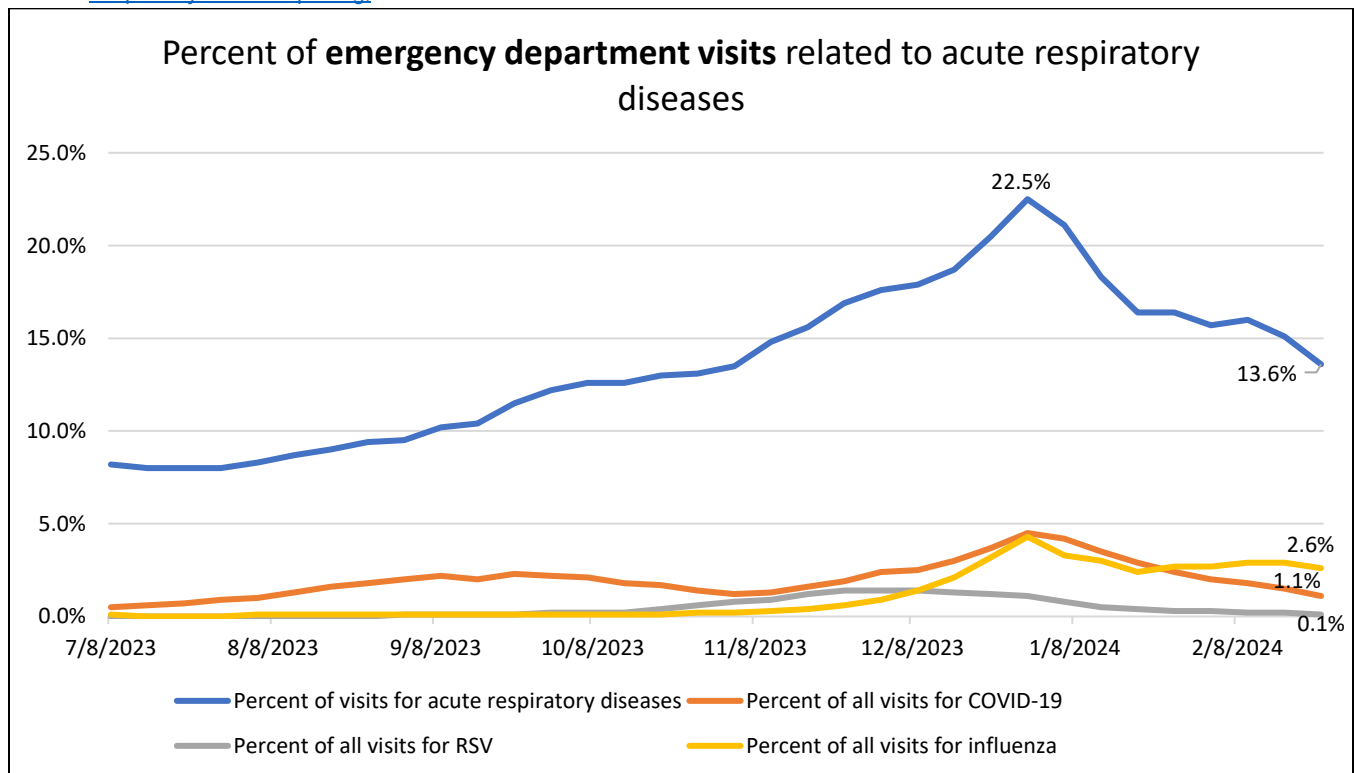
Immunizations for Respiratory Diseases:

Age	Population Estimate	Proportion vaccinated- COVID	Proportion vaccinated- flu	Individuals vaccinated- RSV
Under 5 Years	1,811	20-40%	40-60%	150
5-19 years	7,385	20-40%	60-80%	*
20-34 years	3,428	20-40%	40-60%	*
35-49 years	5,960	20-40%	40-60%	*
50-64 years	7,308	40-60%	40-60%	255
65-79 years	4,286	60-80%	60-80%	1,286
80+ years	1,910	60-80%	80-95%	508
Total vaccinated	32,091	40.5%	62.5%	2,248

Source: [Respiratory Disease Immunization Data](#), MDPH



Source: [Respiratory Illness Reporting](#), MDPH



Source: [Respiratory Illness Reporting](#), MDPH



Needham Public Health Division

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Unit: Substance Use Prevention MassCALL3 grant: Dedham, Needham, Walpole, Westwood

Date: February 2024

Staff members: Carol Read, M.Ed., CAGS, CPS & Lydia Cunningham, MPH, CHES®

Activity	Notes
John Schlittler , Chief of Police, Town of Needham- 2/5	Review and discussion: Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) processes, resident Behavioral Health support services (all ages) and capacity building across town service providers.
Infusing Equity in the Strategic Prevention Framework Training Series , Session 3: <i>Moving Forward from Here: Infusing Equity into Strategy Implementation and the Next Steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework</i> - 2/5 Sandra Del Sesto, Dodi Swope, & Debra Morris, Education Development Center	Presentation: multiple contexts of racism- internalized, interpersonal, institutional, systemic. Health equity, cultural humility, community logic models, actionable steps for infusing equity into planning, recruiting centered population members, convening focus groups. Discussion of solutions to common challenges based on group experience and best practices.
Timothy McDonald , Director, Health and Human Services, Town of Needham- 2/5	Discussion: upcoming MassCALL3 Connections meeting, local adult health data, NPHD and HHS FY25 budget, NPHD Strategic Plan and Community Health Improvement Plan.
MassCALL3 Connections Monthly Meeting - 2/6 Cheryl Sbarra, Esq., Mass. Association of Health Boards (MAHB) Local access nicotine and synthetic product sales.	Presentation: Hemp-derived cannabis (synthetic) products, overview of Delta-8, Farm Bill 2018, new tobacco/nicotine products selling locally- Zyn/nicotine salts, Elf Bars (vape) Kratom (synthetic) FDA restrictions and state regulation review, strategies to restrict local access.
NPHD Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Objective Meeting - 2/6 Rebecca Han, BME Strategies & Alison Bodenheimer, Senior Public Health Associate, NPHD	Completion of action plan document of FY2024 activities related to NPHD CHIP objective “use education and health promotion efforts as a tool for prevention and harm reduction,” activity, date range, process indicators and status, resources needed, potential partners.
Jessica Goldberg , MPH, LICSW Prevention Solutions @ Education Development Center- 2/6 Consultant, MassCALL3 grant	Review and discussion- Final BSAS comments MassCALL3 strategic plan (approved January 25, 2024) Incorporation of all feedback and draft required abstract page. Goal: Creation of highlight version of final MC3 Strategic Plan to share with community partners.
Becky Manseau Barnett , Community Relations Manager, Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline -2/7	Review and discussion: similarities and differences between MA BHHL and William James Interface programs, risk rating scale and process, expected

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	wait time and follow up time, mobile crisis procedure, warm hand-off procedure, database of care providers, payment and insurance overview.
Network of the National Library of Medicine: Health Literacy of People Living with Mental Health or Substance Use Disorders -2/7 Dr. Tayla Degan, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (AUS), Nora Barnett, NNLM.	Agenda: overview of health literacy, health literacy within the context of mental health and substance use disorders, how health literacy impacts outcomes, the health literacy questionnaire, review of recent literature, toolkit: examples of tools and strategies.
Chris Burnham , Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Town of Needham- 2/7	Review and discussion: MassCALL3 photovoice flyer distribution at Parks and Rec. summer hiring fair, student hiring/recruitment strategies and contact sharing.
Monthly Supervision, Tiffany Benoit, Assistant Director, Needham Public Health Division - 2/8	Review and discussion: NPHD accreditation requests, MassCALL3 PhotoVoice and Youth Engagement Intern supervision updates, MassCALL3 Strategic Plan updates, progress update on employee goals.
Lisa McDonough, Town Accountant, Town of Needham – 2/8	Review and discussion: January expenses by UFR line, EIM submission, January invoice for reimbursement. FY24 Line item amendment plan-May 2024.
Needham Board of Health - 2/9 Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services, Tiffany Benoit & Tara Gurge, Assistant Public Health Directors, Virginia Chacon-Lopez, Public Health Nurse.	Agenda: Welcome and public comment period, review of minutes: January, Peer Recovery Coach services, Community Health Assessment update, amended Community Benefit Agreement- Sira Naturals Inc., staff updates, citizen petition, Public Health Division staff list update.
BSAS Office Hours: Strategic Planning Wrap-Up/Implementation - 2/12 Ben Spooner, Co-Director, Center for Strategic Prevention Support, Ivy Jones-Turner, Co-Director, Center for Strategic Prevention Support, Andy Robinson, Lead Program Coordinator, Substance Misuse Prevention, DPH-BSAS, Scott Formica, PhD SSRE	Discussion: evaluation timelines, markers of success at short, medium, and long terms, parent/caregiver surveys- questions on phone use and attitude toward child phone use, readiness assessments, formal and informal qualitative data collection, documenting immediate change indicators through informal measures.
Infusing Equity in the Strategic Prevention Framework, Session 4: Addressing Ongoing Challenges with Infusing Equity in Prevention – 2/12 Debra Morris, Dodi Swope, Sandra Del Sesto, Education Development Center	Overview and discussion: strategies to infuse equity into participant generated case studies, group work- sharing experiences related to equity challenges and providing recommendations, engagement of centered population and capacity building with centered population, developing

	personal capacity for building equitable prevention, engaging youth in coalition work.
Rep. Denise Garlick, 13th Norfolk, State of the Union Address- 2/12 Needham Town Hall	2023 Goals - achievements: Content to be added
MassCALL3 Monthly Supervision, Tiffany Benoit, RN, MPH, Assistant Director, Needham Public Health Division- 2/13	Review and discussion: NPHD accreditation requests, MassCALL3 PhotoVoice project updates and recruitment, supervision of Youth Engagement Intern, FY25 budget and RFP for strategy implementation. NPHD next steps: Needham high school intern, marketing and branding project updates, new strategic planning software.
Needham Public Health Division Staff Meeting: Branding Update- 2/13 Tiffany Chen, Jill Caruso, & Julia Gould, MORE Advertising	Presentation: PHAB accreditation requirements, accreditation and branding research summary, revised logo, brand guidelines- font, colors, incorrect uses of logo, social media, timeline for implementing new changes, question and answers, staff updates.
Addiction Trainings for the Workforce Serving Youth and Young Adults: School to Prison Pipeline- 2/13 J. Leon Smith, JD., Executive Director & Joshua Dankoff, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Citizens for Juvenile Justice	Data includes: impact of pipeline on students with disabilities, racial disparity impact on students of color in Massachusetts, current efforts to dismantle school to prison pipeline- including legislation, action steps taken.
Walpole Prevention Coalition Leadership Team- 2/14 Melissa Ranieri, Health Director, Town of Walpole & Amanda Decker, Bright Solutions LLC	Action Plan review: Drug-Free Communities grant goals, objective setting, activities and sectors responsible. Upcoming application release date and planned submission date, overview of next steps for leadership team members.
Bright Solutions and Walpole- 2/14 Melissa Ranieri, Health Director, Town of Walpole & Amanda Decker, Bright Solutions LLC	Review and discussion: Drug-Free Communities application release preparation- anticipated questions and required attachments, commitments from each sector representative, budget and expense overview, program manager salary and job description, short-term data collection plan.
Charles River Health District Collaborative Shared Services: Needham, Medfield, Dover, Sherborn- 2/15 Kerry Dunnell, MPH, Shared Services & Field Training Hub Manager - Samantha Menard, MPH, REHS Assistant Manager Charles River Health District Manager- Needham Public Health Division	Meeting content will be added

MassCALL3 Strategic Plan Reveal and Implementation Planning – 2/15 Ben Spooner, Center for Strategic Prevention Support & Jessica Goldberg, Prevention Solutions @EDC	Review and discussion: finalized MassCALL3 strategies, implementation timeline for each strategy, “kickoff” meeting for planning team members, youth engagement, public health messaging consultant recommendations and scope of work.
Care Massachusetts: The Opioid Abatement Partnership Office Hours - 2/15 Cheryl Sbarra, Esq., Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards	Presentation: “Changes in Legislation and Accounting for Abatement Funds,” overview of legislation related to stabilization funds, impact on municipalities, best practices for using funds in accordance with State Subdivision Agreement.
Parenting Tips for a Teen Loneliness Epidemic: Child Mind Institute - 2/21 Matthew Biel, MD, Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, MedStar Georgetown and Chief Medical Officer, Fort Health & Zach Rausch, Associate Research Scientist, NYU.	Meeting content will be added
Youth Mental Health First Aid , Chelmsford Health Department- 2/22 Taryn Angel, MPH, Public Health and Wellness Coordinator, Chelmsford Health Department & Maria Ruggiero, CPS, Prevention Program Manager, Town of Tewksbury	Training: Course objectives and overview, introduction to Youth Mental Health First Aid, responding in non-crisis situations, mental health first aid action plan, helpful and unhelpful approaches, responding in crisis situations, warning signs of suicide, overdose signs and response, auditory hallucination exercise, self-care planning, reflection and emergency contact information.
Middlesex County District Attorney Ryan Opioid Task Force - 2/22 Marian Ryan, District Attorney, Jon Kelley, Director of Communications and IT, Pridestar Trinity EMS, Pauline Hoegler, RN, Founder & Executive Director, Golden Opportunities for Independence,	Meeting content will be added
FY24 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Informational Webinar - 2/22 Helen Hernandez, Assistant Director, Office of Drug-Free Communities, ONDCP, & Karen Voetsch, Branch Chief, Drug-Free Communities Branch, Division of Overdose Prevention, CDC	Meeting content will be added
Norfolk County Sheriff McDermott Prevention Task Force - 2/26 Kathryn	Agenda: Welcome, updates, introductions, Recovered Souls overview: funding offered for

Hubley, Community Affairs Coordinator, Tina Cahill, Executive Director, Recovered Souls	professional development, skill setting, higher education process support, enrichment opportunities, peer support, meetings, sober living facilities, health and wellness memberships, referral process. Angi MacDonnell, Needham Public Health Division, Peer Recovery Coach services overview.
MetroWest Substance Awareness and Prevention Alliance- 2/27 , Amy Turncliff, PhD, Rockfern Scientific Next meeting: March 26, 2024	Agenda: Welcome and introductions, potential upcoming in-person meeting logistics, policy updates: H113 Cannabis Billboards, Gov. Healy's municipal relief package, MAPC meeting, MAPC Legislature Edu 101 event for youth, collaborative letter to MIAA regarding substance use infractions, Norfolk County D.A. training grant.
BSAS & CSPA Update/Check-in- 2/27 Ben Spooner, CPS, Technical Assistance Provider, Center for Strategic Prevention Support and Amal Marks, Contract Manager, DPH-BSAS	Review and discussion: CADCA Annual National Forum, upcoming MassCALL3 Strategic Plan "kickoff" meeting, next steps for plan implementation, ongoing PhotoVoice recruitment efforts and processes, social media and landing page sharing.
Walpole Prevention Coalition- 2/27 Melissa Ranieri, Health Director, Town of Walpole & Amanda Decker, Bright Solutions LLC Next meeting: March 26, 2024	Agenda: MassCALL3 grant updates- strategic plan kickoff meeting, request for social media engagement, Drug-Free Communities grant application update- requests of coalition members, application release and deadline, Walpole Police Dept. update- traffic and substance use prevention grants, local police data sharing.
Massachusetts Alcohol Policy Coalition (MAPC)- 2/28 David Jernigan, PhD, Boston University School of Public Health & Elizabeth Parsons, M.Ed., CDC Alcohol Science	Agenda: study participant recruitment, Massachusetts alcohol use data, local level policy & regulation strategies to impact underage access: Happy Hour bill, letter to Attorney General on Meta underage alcohol algorithms, Farm Bill loophole.
Needham Community Crisis Intervention Team Quarterly Community Partners meeting- 2/28 Deputy Chief Baker – Sargent Michael Lamb, Needham Police Department, Newton Wellesley Hospital Lauren Lele, MPA Kathy BIDN Susannah Hann, RN, Director Needham Public Schools. Deputy Fire Chief Donald Anastasi, Jonathan Steeves, EMS Supervisor. Sari Musmon, LMHC Jail Diversion Clinician.	Data sharing: Police and EMS incident and Hospital ED admission by IDC- 10 CM codes. Community support resources, review of hospital protocols and psychiatric bed (adult- youth) Core Team meeting 2/28 Case review residents navigating acute and chronic substance use disorders and/or mental health conditions. Deputy Chief Chris Baker, Michael Lamb, NPD, Jess Moss, LICSW Ageing Services, Emily Turnbull LICSW Needham Law Enforcement Clinical Support.

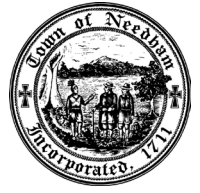
Town of Needham – High School Intern program meeting- 2/29 High School student, assigned to Public Health Division.	Overview of MassCALL3 grant, responsibilities to fiscal agent, funder, and communities, PhotoVoice and youth engagement projects, services provided by NPHD.
Care Massachusetts: The Opioid Abatement Partnership - "Office Hours" Session- 2/29 Carly Briden, JSI, Joanne Peterson, Founder and Executive Director, Learn to Cope	Learn to Cope overview: organization structure, funding sources, services provided- education, resources, support for children, grandparents raising grandchildren, Naloxone training, support from municipalities, strategies for community engagement, advocacy approaches.
David Tucker, Gloucester Youth Leadership Council- 2/29	Review and discussion: MassCALL3 grant staff structure and budget, youth recruitment and engagement, project structure/materials sharing and suggestions, strategies for one-time youth event.

Holiday: (1) February 19th President's Day

*All processes related to on-boarding and supervising part-time Youth Engagement Intern

* NPHD January Report- Monthly activities (NPHD- MassCALL3)

*NPHD Accreditation requests and NPHD intern engagement



Unit: Emergency Management

Date: February 2024

Staff: Taleb Abdelrahim

Activities and Accomplishments

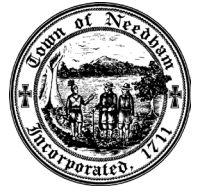
Activity	Notes
Grant	Request for Quotes drafted for a contractor to lead a Functional Exercise (FE) of the Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
2023 EOC FE – AAR/IP	Started to go through the 2023 EOC FE - After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP). The goal is to conduct improvements to the IP items.
Winter Storm Response	The Town did hold a Storm Preparation/EOC meeting in advance of the February 13 winter storm to review the Town's preparedness actions. The storm was less impactful than forecasted.
Storm Ready Certification	We submitted the Needham Storm Ready application for review by the National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Ready certification.
Training	Taleb Abdelrahim attended Massachusetts Emergency Management Director Orientation Program (MDOP) course offered by MEMA. Valuable information was provided.

Other Public Health Division activities this month:



Needham Public Health Division

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Unit: Substance Use Prevention

Date: February 2024

Staff: Karen Shannon, Karen Mullen, Monica De Winter, Angi MacDonnell, Vanessa Wronski

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
SPAN Projects/Events	SPAN meetings: Action Teams met as follows: Education Action Team: 2/13 Mental Health Action Team: 2/7 Policy Action Team: 2/7 Steering Committee: 2/6 Highlights: the Education Action Team spring parent education event is planned for May 14, the Policy Team hosted Liz Parsons, Director of the Center for Advancing Alcohol Science to Practice, who led a presentation on alcohol policy fundamentals. SPAN social media – new posts on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SPANNeedham/
Needham Public Health Peer Recovery Coach	4 Referrals – 3 substance use, 1 family member Referred from Police (1), Direct Contact (3) Highlights this month include: • Needham Housing authority presentations at Linden Chambers & Sea Beds Way – 10 total in attendance • Regular meetings with: ○ Peer Recovery Coach Supervisor, Cory O'Brien of Turning Point Recovery Center in Walpole (provided as technical assistance by C4 Innovations funding) ○ Aging Services Clinicians Supervisory meeting • Needham Housing Authority residents requested a monthly group meeting • Visit to Turning Point Recovery Center Walpole, MA • Meeting with Needham's Veterans Representative • Interview with Needham Observer: https://tinyurl.com/yfm8neyr
STOP Act grant	SAMHSA grant: STOPing Underage Access and Use of Alcohol: Codifying Youth, Parent and Retailer Education and Compliance in Needham, MA: Alcohol compliance – • TIPS Training at Powers Hall, 35 in attendance. Facilitated by Mike Marcantonio, contract TIPS trainer on 2/5/2024. • Meeting with Needham Police Chief Schlittler and Lt. M. Forbes to plan 2024 compliance check schedule.

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	• STOP Grant Progress Report submitted on 2/28 to SAMHSA. Grant staff met continue working with Julie McCarthy to improve the alcohol compliance summary for tracking compliance check outcomes and TIPS training attendance for Needham licensees.
SALSA	SALSA members contributed 108 hours of service in Needham in February. SALSA received \$3,000 stipend from MA DPH/The 84 Movement to fund the Tobacco Retailer Density Project. Youth will conduct community mapping tours and bring findings/data to life through mixed media arts storytelling. The goal is to capture how Tobacco retailer density affects the community health and wellness (storytelling through mural arts, videography, photography, dance etc).
Public Health High School Intern	Angi MacDonnell met with Isabel Tashie, the Needham High School student who is interning with the Public Health Division this semester.
Mental Health First Aid	Three new requests for Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) received from community organizations. The Needham Community Council would like their entire staff trained, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Needham has a mental health education goal to host youth and adult MHFA for hospital staff and community members, and Needham Housing Authority has requested training for their staff. Karen Shannon and Sara Shine are working together to finalize the training dates. At least two requests will be fulfilled this spring. Karen Shannon conducted Teen Mental Health First Aid sessions at Needham High School 10th grade Wellness classes.
Parent Al-anon group	SPAN community resource for parents navigating their child's substance use addiction. Meetings held every Monday evening. Attendance remains steady averaging 6- 14 people each week. Hometown Weekly continues free publishing of meeting announcements in Needham edition.

Summary for Month of February 2024: Focus this month included the Recovery Coach Services, STOP grant activities and SPAN Action Team planning.

Needham Alcohol Compliance Summary

Business	12/2022 CC	4/2023 CC	5/2023 TIP	9/2023 CC	10/2023 TIP	12/2023 CC	02/2024 TIP
Bin Ends	Pass	Pass	1	Fail	1	Pass	0
Blue on Highland	Pass	Pass	1	Pass	0	Pass	0
Cappella	Fail	Pass	0	Pass	7	Pass	0
The Common Room							7
Cook Needham	Fail	Fail	3	Pass	0	Pass	2
French Press Bakery	Fail	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	0
Fuji Steakhouse	Pass	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	1
Gari	Pass	Pass	0	Pass	1	Pass	0
Gordons Fine Wines	License but not operating	License but not operating	0	License but not operating	0	License but not operating	1
Hearth Pizzeria	Pass	Pass	1	Pass	0	Pass	1
Little Spoon	Fail	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	5
Mandarin Cuisine	Pass	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	1
Masala Art	Pass	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	0
Needham Fine Wines	Fail	Pass	0	Pass	0	Fail	3
Needham Golf Club	Open not accessible	Open not accessible	0	Pass	0	Open not accessible	1
Needham Wine & Spirits	Pass	Pass	0	Pass	0	Fail	2
Ray's New Garden	Pass	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	0
Residence Inn	Pass	Open not accessible	0	Open not accessible	0	Open not accessible	1
Reveler Beverage	Fail	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	0
Sheraton Needham	Fail	Open not accessible	6	Pass	4	Pass	1
Spiga	Pass	Pass	3	Pass	0	Pass	0
The Farmhouse	Pass	Open not accessible	0	Pass	0	Pass	3
Homewood Suites	Open not accessible	Open not accessible	2	Open not accessible	0	Fail	1
The James	Pass	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	3
V.F.W.	Pass	Pass	1	Pass	1	Pass	0
Village Club	Open not accessible	Open not accessible	0	Open not accessible	0	Open not accessible	0
Vinodivino	Fail	Pass	0	Pass	0	Pass	2
Volante Farms	Pass	Pass	6	Pass	0	Pass	0

Open not accessible means the business is operating but was either closed for a private event or not open during the compliance check.

License but not operating means the business has a license but is not yet open for business.



Unit: Accreditation

Date: March 2024

Staff: Lynn Schoeff, Alison Bodenheimer

Activities and Accomplishments

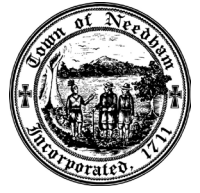
Activity	Notes
Strategic Plan and Community Health Improvement Plan	• Completed the series of meetings with the NPHD teams to finalize activities in Action Plans • Worked with VMSG (Vision to input our Action Plans into their software, which include the Strategic Plan and Community Health Improvement Plan objectives • Drafted goal-level indicators
Performance Management	• Had initial training and planning a series of tailored trainings about software program designed to support health departments in establishing performance management systems to meet PHAB requirements for accreditation • Drafted SMARTIE versions of the Community Health Improvement Plan objectives to support implementation and make sure we're prioritizing equity and inclusion • Drafted objective-level indicators to finalize with teams
Communication plan	• Continuing work on communication plans
Branding strategy	• New logo for NPHD • New letterhead and templates for NPHD documents
Policies	• Alcohol Compliance Checks - final • SAMBOX maintenance – in progress • Updating NPHD website - updated

Other Public Health Division activities this month:



Needham Public Health Division

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Unit: Traveling Meals Program

Date: February 2024

Staff: Rebecca Hall

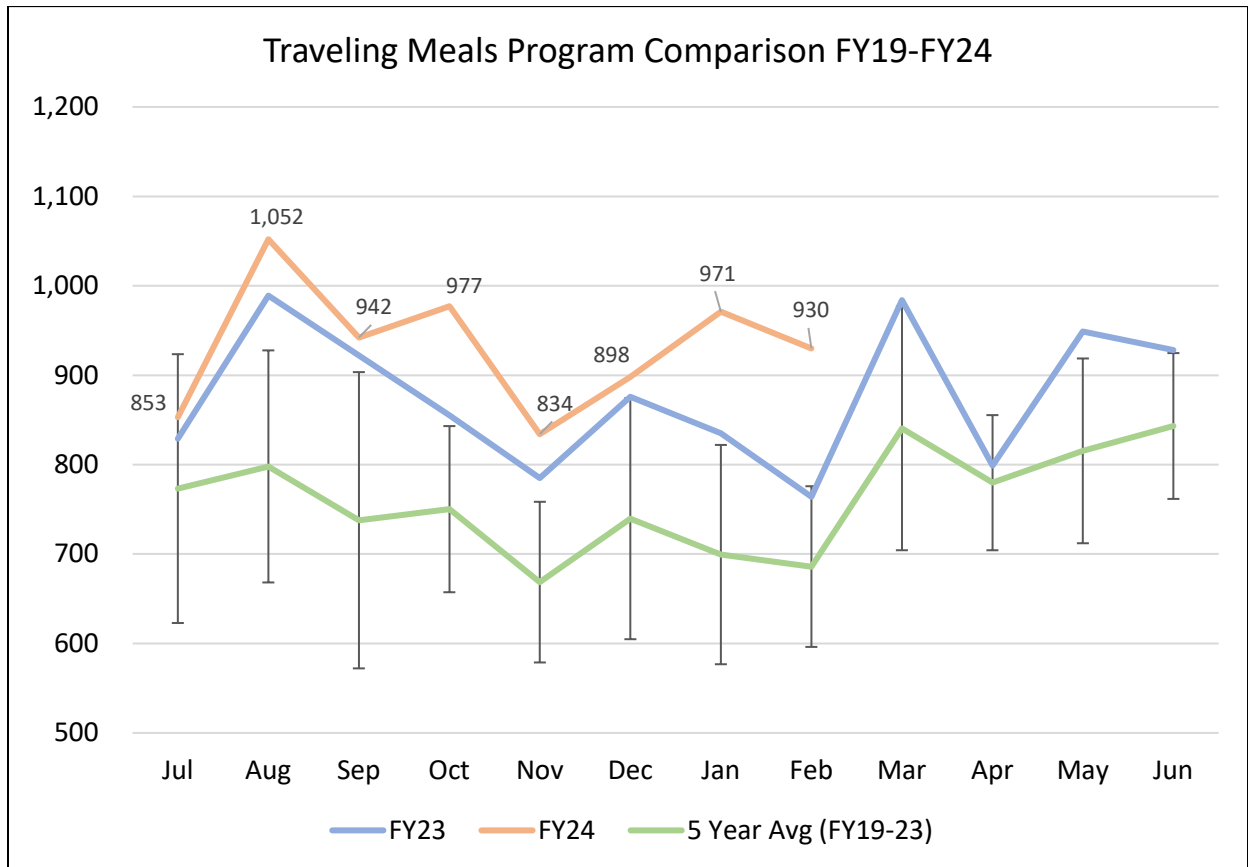
Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Volunteers delivered meals to homebound Needham residents in need of food.	Meal delivery for month by 28 Volunteer Drivers and Community Partners Ave. 8 Clients per Volunteer each Day Ave. 5 Stops per Volunteer each Day
930 Meals delivered in February 2024 57 Clients at end of February 47 Springwell Consumers 10 Private Pay Consumers 4 New Clients (3 Springwell, 1 Private) 6 Cancelled Program (4 Springwell, 2 Private)	No 911 calls initiated
Included flyers about Taxi Program at CATH in meal bags	Program offers one round-trip ride per week to medical appointments Mon.-Fri., including appointments in Boston

Other Public Health Division activities this month:

Summary overview for the month:

Graph of Meal Deliveries for the month February 2024



Graph of Meal Deliveries for FY19-FY22 (Covid Years) and FY24

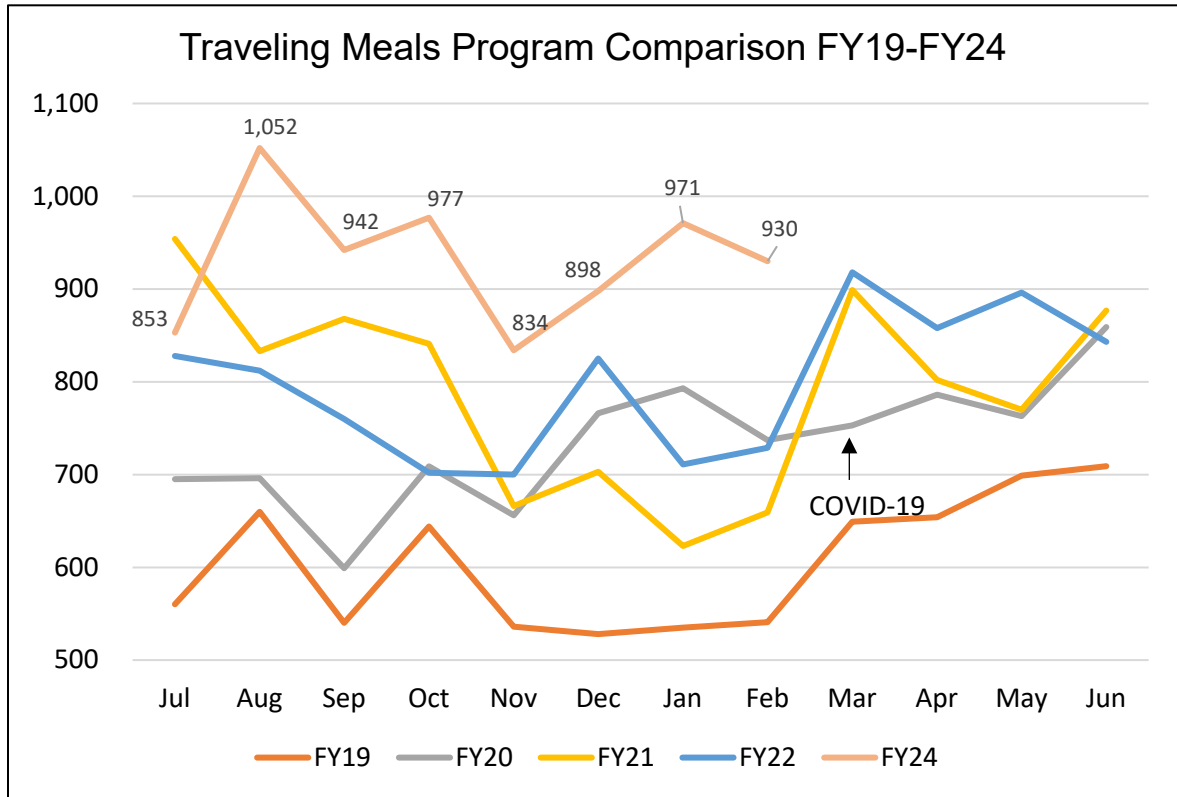


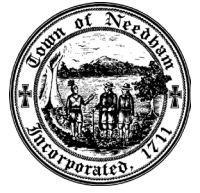
Table 1: Number of Meals Delivered by Month from FY19-FY24

Month	# Meals FY19	# Meals FY20	# Meals FY21	# Meals FY22	# Meals FY23	# Meals FY24
<u>Jul</u>	560	695	954	828	829	853
<u>Aug</u>	660	696	833	812	989	1,052
<u>Sep</u>	540	599	868	760	922	942
<u>Oct</u>	644	709	841	702	855	977
<u>Nov</u>	536	656	666	700	785	834
<u>Dec</u>	528	766	703	825	876	898
<u>Jan</u>	535	793	623	711	835	971
<u>Feb</u>	541	737	659	729	764	930
<u>Mar</u>	649	753	899	918	984	
<u>Apr</u>	654	786	802	858	799	
<u>May</u>	699	763	770	896	949	
<u>Jun</u>	709	859	877	843	928	
Totals:	7,255	8,812	9,495	9,582	10,515	
YOY Change:	-6.9%	17.7%	7.2%	0.9%	8.9%	



Needham Public Health Division

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Board of Health Town of Needham AGENDA FACT SHEET

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024

Agenda Item	Other Items/Updates
Presenter(s)	Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Mr. McDonald will discuss the updates regarding an updated letter of the Designation of Bard of Health Agents, Board of Health Charge to Educate and Inform Letter and the MAHB Certificate Program for Board of Health members.	
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HEALTH
Discussion only.	
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION:
None.	