

2022 Annual Report of the Quabbin Health District

District Board of Directors:

Name	Title
William Pula	Chair
John Desmond	Vice Chair
Leeanne Connolly	Clerk
Jennifer McMartin	Member
Katrina Velle	Member
Colleen Duroshea	Member
Kenneth Elstein	Member
Hope Guardenier	Member
Jim Potter	Member
Melissa Nazzaro	Member
Richard Hall	Member

District Personnel:

Name	Title
Andrea Crete; MPH, RS	Director of Public Health
Sai Palani; MPH	Health Inspector
Kirsten Krieger; RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Betty Barlow	Administrative Assistant/Treasurer
Mary-Jo Grenier	Senior Clerk

Background:

The Quabbin Health District is a comprehensive regional health department serving the communities of Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware. The district was established in 1980 by a Town meeting vote and was formed under the Section 27A of Chapter 111 of the MGL. It is a joint effort by the three communities' local boards of health to provide their towns with the public health professionals and services needed to create healthy communities. The District provides public health services for the roughly 26,267 residents within these communities' 120 square mile radius. The district provides each town with the shared personnel, equipment, and other resources to carry out the required public health duties.

The Quabbin Health District employs one full time Director of Public Health, Andrea Crete who was hired on May 16, 2022 replacing Stephen Bell who resigned on March 25, 2022; a full time Health Inspector Sai Palani; a part time Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger who was hired on July 5, 2022; one full time Administrative Assistant, Betty Barlow who staffs the Ware Board of Health office Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 4PM; and a part time Senior Clerk who staffs the Belchertown Board of Health office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8AM-2PM.

The Quabbin Health District is governed by a Board of Directors, which is composed of the elected Board of Health members from all three communities within the District. The Health Director, Health Inspector, and Public Health Nurse work in all three communities and maintain

fully functional workplaces in both the Ware and Belchertown Town Halls. The District provides administrative / clerical personnel at both locations as well

The Quabbin Health District provides services to the member Towns including but not limited to communicable and reportable disease surveillance via an online epidemiological network (MAVEN), public health investigations, public health messaging, 24-7 public health emergency response, seasonal flu vaccination clinics, tobacco control, substance abuse prevention programs, and State mandated public health inspections and complaint management. You can visit the Quabbin Health District website for more information on services at <http://quabbinhealthdistrict.com>

The report below details the services the Quabbin Health District provided to the member Towns for the 2022 calendar year. Please contact the District office by phone at 413-967-9615 or email bbarlow@townofware.com with any questions, comments, requests for additional information, and to relay any specific public health concerns.

Pioneer Valley Tobacco Control Collaborative:

In September Director of Public Health Andrea Crete attended the PVTC meeting and submitted the member Towns forms to join the Collaborative. The PVTC is a MA DPH funded Coalition with Northampton being the fiduciary. The PVTC works with local Boards of Health to create tobacco control regulations based on evidence-based strategies to reduce youth access to tobacco products. The Coalition has three Tobacco Officers who do biannual tobacco merchant education; youth compliance checks; and pricing surveys of tobacco products in the member communities. There are over 300 inspections done by PVTC. The District joined the PVTC Collaborative in September. Official membership will take place in early 2023 at which time the Tobacco Officers will start to go out to conduct the field work in the member Towns. Belchertown and Ware Board of Health conversations have taken place about updating their current Tobacco Sales regulations which will continue into 2023.

Community Naloxone Purchasing Program (CNPP):

The CNPP allows many eligible programs to obtain naloxone (Narcan) through the State Office of Pharmacy (SOPS) for reduced / no cost. Local boards of health are eligible to receive naloxone at no cost with a requirement to submit training and dispensing data monthly to the state of Massachusetts. The Quabbin Health District applied for and was approved in December 2022 as a naloxone distribution site in order to receive free naloxone and to train individuals in the district on recognizing the signs of an opioid overdose and responding with naloxone. The PHN along with the Director of Public Health Andrea Crete, have developed a training presentation for businesses and groups in the community to include understanding addiction, types of opiates, reducing stigma, and recognizing, and responding to an overdose with naloxone. The PHN also developed a shorter version to be done with individuals that includes the above listed items. Once training has been completed attendees or individuals can be given naloxone for no cost.

Vaccines for children (VFC) program:

The Public Health Nurse worked with the Western Mass Vaccine Equity Initiative to obtain funding for the purchase of a pharmaceutical grade refrigerator, freezer, and transporting cooler

(total of about \$4,000) in order to be eligible for the VFC program to receive state-funded childhood vaccines to be able to administer them to anyone in the district who is under age 19, uninsured or underinsured, or qualifies for Mass Health. She is awaiting final approval and a site visit from the Dept. of Public Health vaccine program representatives to be able to fully participate in the program and offer vaccines to students in the schools and in the community within the district.

Emergency Preparedness:

In 2022 the Quabbin Health District joined the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition. The HPHPC works collaboratively to enhance communities' collective capacity to share resources and respond to public health threats and emergencies, including terrorism and outbreaks of infectious diseases. It strives to improve local and regional public health emergency preparedness, and meet deliverables set forth by the Department of Public Health.

HPHPC includes Boards of Health and Health Departments in the Massachusetts Preparedness Coalition Region 1C. Funding is provided through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with a grant from the Centers for Disease Control. Coalition activities and expenditures are overseen by an executive committee which includes members who represent the broad geographic diversity of the region. Ex-officio members include representatives from Cooley Dickinson Hospital and UMass Amherst. The HPHPC grant is managed by the Northampton Health Department as the Host Agency. The Coalition is closely aligned with other regional response partners including Hampshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (HREPC), Western Regional Advisory Group (WAG), Western MA Medical Reserve Corps Advisory Group (MAG) and the Pandemic Flu Committee of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC).

Member Communities in the HPHPC include Amherst, Belchertown, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Goshen, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Northampton, Pelham, Plainfield, South Hadley, Southampton, Ware, Westhampton, and Worthington.

Public Health Excellence Grant:

The Quabbin Health District is the grantee of the MA DPH's Public Health Excellence Grant (PHE) which allows the District to provide a part time Public Health Nurse and the services provided through public health nursing which is summarized in this report under "Public Health Nursing Report," and a tablet based inspectional software program called Win Wam which allows all food inspection reports to now be done electronically. The Win Wam system stores the inspection reports and can generate data gathered using the reports to show where there are gaps in compliance with the Food Code that may need to be addressed in food establishments and what trainings may need to be provided in order to increase compliance and reduce food borne illness risk factors. Inspection reports will be published starting in 2023 on the Quabbin Health District website for public access and viewing.

2022 Activity & Inspections:

	Belchertown	Ware	Pelham
PercTest / Deepholes and Soil Evaluations	68	37	8
Septic Application Review (New Construction)	33	8	1
Septic Application Review (Repair)	51	21	7
Septic Installation Inspections and Re-inspections	61	27	6
Well Application Review	36	N/A	1
Housing Inspections (upon complaint) And Re-inspections	27	41	1
Lead Paint Inspections	0	0	0
Condemnations (#of units)	1	1	0
Voucher Housing Inspections	0	9	0
Housing Court Appearances	0	0	1
Food Service Inspections (routine and complaint) Including School Cafeterias	71	92	3
New or Remodeled Food Plan review	2	0	0

Mobile/Temporary Food Inspections	32	12	0
Beaver Permits Applications	4	3	0
Nuisance Complaints Received and Investigated and Orders issued as warranted	6	9	1
Tanning Bed Licensure	2	0	0
Children Recreational Camp Inspections and Licensing	0	0	0
Tattoo/ Body Art Establishments	N/A	1	N/A
Public Pool and Sauna Inspections Public Beaches	5	0 Not opened	N/A
Meetings/ Hearings	13	14	7

Quabbin Health District 2022 Communicable Disease Report

The Public Health Nurse is responsible for and has been conducting MAVEN infectious disease surveillance. This requires checking in daily for notifications of infectious diseases occurring in the District. It also requires doing case investigations for diseases other than Influenza or COVID-19 by contacting hospital infection preventionists if a person hospitalized, contacting case and/or PCP office to determine potential means of exposure, contact tracing if applicable.

The types and numbers of communicable diseases reported in the District for 2022 are listed below. They are listed by the disease/illness and the number of cases (residents suspected (S), probable (P), and confirmed (C) to have an infectious illness/disease.

Total event count by disease

Diseases Year 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022	Belchertown	Pelham	Ware
Babesiosis	0	0	1C
Calicivirus/Norovirus	2C	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	1C, 1P	0	3C
Encephalitis	0	0	1S
Giardiasis	0	0	1C

Group A Streptococcus	1C	0	0
Hepatitis B	3P	0	1S
Hepatitis C	4C, 2P	0	4C, 1P
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	2C, 3S	1C	4C
Influenza	139C, 1S	2C	206C, 4S
Legionellosis	1C	0	0
Lyme Disease	9P, 36S	3P, 2S	4P, 21S
Melioidosis	0	0	0
Monkeypox	1P	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0
Novel Coronavirus	1932C, 375P, 53S	70C, 5P, 1S	1369C, 192P, 29S
Salmonellosis	3C	0	3C
Shigellosis	0	1C	0
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	0	0	1C
Tuberculosis	11C, 3S	0	0
Varicella	2S	0	2S

I would like to thank members of the District Board of Directors for their continued support in all the great work that the District staff do. I look forward to continuing being a part of such a great organization and expanding its services to improve upon the health needs of the member Towns.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Crete; MPH, RS
 Director of Public Health
 Quabbin Health District