

Board of Health Meeting – March 4, 2020
Community Health Division, Lowell Health Department

Community Health Coordinator (CHC)
Kate Elkins

Healthy Lowell Week

- In recognition of National Public Health Week, the Health Department (HD) will be once again coordinating “Healthy Lowell Week” taking place this year from April 6-12, 2020 in partnership with the Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Lowell General Hospital, Lowell Community Health Center, UMass Lowell, and other community partners.
 - *Event schedule can be found at <https://bit.ly/healthylowellweek>*
- Additional activities will take place during the week at the HD, such as staff participation in the Mass DPH Ounce of Prevention Conference and efforts to recognize and appreciate HD employees.

Healthy Living in Lowell

- Healthy Living in Lowell is off to a great start in the new year and episodes have been focused on the following:
 - January – Community Health Needs Assessment
 - February – Stroke and Heart Health
 - March – Women’s Health
- The CHC will continue to coordinate episodes and film in advance of maternity leave.

Access to Equitable Physical Activity

- The City of Lowell was awarded a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation to establish more equitable opportunities for physical activity in Lowell over a three-year period.
- The “Healthy Walking Trails” project is in planning stages and the CHC, Neighborhood Planner, and a representative from BCBS recently met with the Centralville Neighborhood Association to discuss routes and signage and get feedback from residents.
- Additionally, Fitness Improvements are underway at Sheehy Park and stationary equipment has been sourced and will soon be procured and installed.

Employee Health and Wellness

- The CHC is working with the city’s health and wellness committee to implement plans for programming in 2020.

Vision 2020 Grant

- The Health Department was awarded funding from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance in October to implement a new vision program within the School Health Unit. This grant will assist with better screening equipment for our youngest children and an enhanced vision referral system. The CHC wrote the grant and is now assisting the School Health Unit with some of the grant objectives.
- A Welch Allyn SPOT vision screener has been procured and testing of students 3-5 years of age has begun. The Vision Screeners are excited to have this state of the art machine to use.

- Systems flow chart, updated letters to parents, updated physician result forms, and updated letters to eye doctors are now revised and being implemented within the School Nurse Unit.

Sun Safety Initiative

- The CHC will once again work with Impact Melanoma to provide sun safety programming and education for the 2020 summer season. In addition to the five water sites where sunscreen dispense kiosks were placed, we will add up to 8 new dispensers at athletic fields and recreation camps – all dispensers are free and open to the public.

Additional Notes

- The CHC is planning a maternity leave for April – July and is actively working on planning for this process during this time.
- The CHC is working with the City Manager's office and health department leadership on planning for communications during the time of the move.