

Lowell Tobacco Control Report

February of 2021

Prepared by: Cesar Pungirum, M.M., J.D.
Program Director

Lowell

Inspections

I completed 23 in-store inspections this month. As I tested positive for Covid-19 on February 17th, I've suspended in-store visits and have been working from home.

Implementation of the new state law: An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control

The Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program (MTCP) has decided to forward the new guidelines for the manufacturers' letters directly to the manufacturers. The expectation is that, within 6 months, new letters conforming to the guidelines will trickle down from the manufacturers to the local retailers. Until then, we're instructed to accept the letters passed on the retailers by their distributors.

Compliance Checks

As the number of COVID-19 cases across the state, particularly in Lowell and Lawrence, continue to improve, and the vaccines become more widely available, we'll reassess whether to resume compliance checks.

Tobacco Permit Renewal

The following 3 establishments haven't completed renewal of their tobacco permits yet:

Family Dollar, 1665 Middlesex St

Family Dollar, 21 Nottingham St

The 99 Store, 180 Liberty St

All these above-mentioned stores were inspected this month again to ensure they're not selling tobacco products.