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National Public Health Week - April 5, 2024

Dedham Health Dept. Recognizes National Public Health Week

The Dedham Health Department is celebrating National Public Health Week (NPHW), a national awareness week led by the American Public Health Association (APHA). This year's campaign, "Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health", calls attention to the fact that public health is more than just health care. Public Health teams work tirelessly to support and protect communities, neighborhoods, and environments from pollution through various efforts to ensure our food and water are safe to consume. "It's also the relationships we foster in our communities," said the American Public Health Association. "We're all interconnected. When we all come together to support public health, all of us — individuals, families, communities and the public health field — can achieve the goals of public health."

National Public Health Week, Day 5 is Department Spotlight

To continue National Public Health Week, we want to take this opportunity to share the following highlights of the Dedham Health Department.

The Health Department's mission is to serve the Dedham community by promoting community wellness, health equity, safety, and overall quality of life in a transparent and collaborative manner.

- *** Our Role as Inspectors:**

- * The Department conducts routine inspections and investigates complaints about food establishments, public and semi-public pools, tobacco retailers, housing, domestic animals (including chickens), dumpsters, Title 5 septic systems, cryogenic chamber therapy establishments, body art establishments, nuisances, and more. The Department enforces federal, state, and local health regulations and issues a wide range of permits.

- *** Community-First Programs:**

- * The Public Health Nurse manages immunization programs (influenza and childhood immunizations), a medical sharp recycling program for residents, communicable disease investigations, conducts home visits after opioid related overdose incidents, and helps manage the Dedham Drug Free Communities Program Grant. We also host an annual Household Hazardous Waste Day every fall.

- *** Ongoing Prevention Efforts:**

- * The Dedham Drug Free Communities Program Grant provides funding for DOSA (Dedham Organization for Substance Awareness) that aims to reduce community substance use by increasing community collaboration and utilizing evidence-based prevention strategies, especially among youth.

Learn More!

More information about the Health Department can be found online at www.dedham-ma.gov/health.

Continue to follow us on social media for more #NationalPublicHealthWeek posts and resources. For more information about this week, please visit www.nphw.org.

About National Public Health Week

During the first full week of April each year, APHA brings together communities across the United States to observe National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation's health. For over 25 years, APHA has served as the organizer of NPHW. Every year, the Association develops a national campaign to educate the public, policymakers and practitioners about issues related to each year's theme. APHA creates new NPHW materials each year that can be used during and after NPHW to raise awareness about public health and prevention. Learn more about National Public Health Week at NPWH.org.

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