



## NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH



October 21, 2016

Mr. Timothy Muir McDonald  
Director, Needham Public Health Division  
Needham Town Hall  
1471 Highland Avenue  
Needham, MA 02492

Dear Mr. McDonald,

The Needham Board of Health (the Board) takes seriously its responsibility to protect the public's health and its charge to safeguard the health and wellness of its community. In order to effectively discharge those responsibilities, the Board is empowered by the Massachusetts General Laws and imbued with the authority to make reasonable health regulations<sup>1</sup> and to "examine all nuisances, sources of filth and causes of sickness".<sup>2</sup>

To inform its actions in defense of the public's health, the Needham Board of Health requires that its Public Health Division research best practices, and review the best available data about all issues which might affect the health of Needham and its residents. The Board further charges that you, acting as our agent, and the Public Health Division as a whole, endeavor to educate, inform, and empower the community, elected officials, Town Departments, and community partners about sound public health practices and about the potential impact of actions, initiatives, and policy choices on the public's health.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Edward Cosgrove, PhD  
Chair

Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP

Jane Fogg, MD, MPH  
Vice Chair

CC: *Town of Needham Board of Selectmen*  
*Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager*  
*Christopher Coleman, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Operations*  
*Dave Tobin, Town Counsel*

<sup>1</sup> M.G.L. ch. 111, s.31, available at: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter111/Section31>

<sup>2</sup> M.G.L. ch. 111, s.122, available at: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter111/Section122>