

Health Update: March 27

Good morning,

This email provides an update on the state and federal public health emergency and our new monthly health awareness campaign.

As a reminder, the state and federal public health emergency is set to end on May 11th. COVID-19 treatment expenses and testing costs will now be based on individual health insurance coverage. The requirement for private insurance companies to cover COVID-19 tests, without cost sharing, for both over the counter and laboratory tests, will also end on May 11th. An article from [WBUR](#) reported that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Tufts Health Plan, and Harvard Pilgrim Health will no longer be offering free tests. However, tests will remain free for individuals on Medicaid programs, including MassHealth, until September 30, 2024. Lastly, COVID-19 vaccines will also be covered through private insurance, as well as Medicare Part B and Medicaid.



Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health is starting a monthly health awareness campaign, to raise awareness for important health topics. Our first month will be Skin Cancer Awareness Month in May (just next week)! We will have social media posts and fliers posted online and around the four communities. I will share these attachments next week! In addition, we have partnered with IMPACT Melanoma to have a transportable sunscreen dispenser to be used at town events. Click [here](#) for more information! We hope this initiative will increase the importance of using sunscreen to prevent skin cancer. Lastly, we will have two upcoming presentations from a local dermatologist to discuss skin cancer at the Northborough and Westborough Senior Centers.

Lastly, I am excited to announce that Gabriella Knox will be our Massachusetts Department of Public Health summer intern. Gabriella is a Master of Public Health Student at the Boston University School of Public Health. We are very excited to work with Gabriella on a food insecurity project for the region. Our goal is to create a "Food Resource Guide" that includes food pantries, free meals, and farmers' markets in the four communities, as well as other helpful food resources. More information to come!

Have a great weekend!

Best,

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