Health Update: August 25

## **Community Health Equity Survey:**

Have you taken the Community Health Equity Survey yet? It helps inform new solutions to community problems. This survey is an opportunity for residents to share their experiences and priorities to help shape the future of our health.

Just <u>click here</u> or visit our website <u>www.mass.gov/chei</u> to get started.

We would love your help in spreading the word! We want to have a robust response to the survey because the Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health plans to use survey results to improve existing programs, make decisions about funding and resources, and support policies to improve health inequities.

Please reach out to Isabella Caruso (<u>icaruso@town.northborough.ma.us</u>) with any questions!

## **COVID-19 Update:**









Although COVID hospitalizations remain low, the wastewater levels of COVID — an indicator of the overall incidence of COVID in the area — have increased in the last month. For more information about the MWRA wastewater data, <u>click here</u>. The increased detection in wastewater is an important predictor of community transmission, however it is not cause for immediate concern. We will continue to monitor the respiratory infections in our region as students return to school, and flu season begins in early Fall.

As for COVID vaccines, on June 15, 2023, the FDA Vaccine committee unanimously voted that the vaccine composition would be updated to a vaccine, specific to a lineage of the Omicron variant. This recommendation will be an update for the COVID-19 vaccines in the United States beginning in the fall of 2023 (FDA, 2023). The FDA and CDC are expected to issue approvals for updated COVID-19 vaccines and schedules in the coming weeks. I will provide any new recommendations once we receive the latest guidance.

