

Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

SELECT BOARD OFFICE



PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:** the goal of National Public Health Week is to recognize the contributions of Public Health Officials, and the public health system, in improving the health and wellbeing of ALL people, on a national, state and local level; and
- Whereas:** the United States and the global community are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires support for a robust public health infrastructure and workforce and collaboration among the Federal Government, State and local governments, schools, businesses, and employers to support public health measures to decrease community spread of COVID-19; and
- Whereas:** many of the leading causes of death for individuals result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health challenges; and
- Whereas:** there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from 2020; and
- Whereas:** cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke; and
- Whereas:** e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among youth since 2014, with 10.0 percent of high school students reporting e-cigarette use in 2023; and
- Whereas:** heat-related mortality for people over 65 is estimated to have increased by approximately 74 percent from 2000-2004 to 2017-2021; and
- Whereas:** studies show that small strategic investments in disease prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs; and
- Whereas:** vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and
- Whereas:** public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic; natural disasters, and other disasters, including disasters caused by human activity and public health emergencies; and
- Whereas:** public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health sector, including planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health outcomes; and

Whereas: in communities across the United States, due to public health interventions, individuals are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

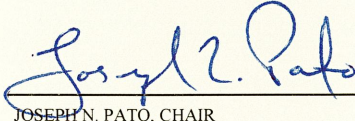
Whereas: efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE SELECT BOARD of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts do hereby proclaim the week of April 1 to 7, 2024 as

National Public Health Week

in the Town of Lexington recognizing the efforts of the Public Health professionals in Lexington and recognize the role of public health in improving the overall health of residents and the Lexington community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Lexington to be affixed herewith on the 11th of March 2024.



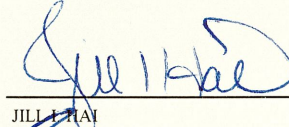
JOSEPH N. PATO, CHAIR



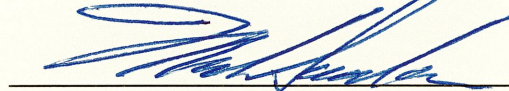
SUZANNE E. BARRY



DOUGLAS M. LUCENTE



JILL L. HUI



MARK D. SANDEEN