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## MEMORANDUM

To: Individuals Interested in MDPH's Public Health Activities Related to Type 1 Diabetes

From: Suzanne K. Condon, Associate Commissioner  
Director, Bureau of Environmental Health

Subject: Status Report/Update on Type 1 Diabetes Investigation in Weston, Wellesley, and Newton

Date: October 2010

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Bureau of Environmental Health's (BEH) statewide K-8 surveillance of pediatric diabetes in elementary and middle schools and its exploratory investigation in Weston, Wellesley, and Newton.

As part of the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (EPHTP), BEH staff completed collection of year 3 data on the number of children with diabetes in elementary and middle schools across the Commonwealth for the 2009 – 2010 school year. BEH anticipates beginning diabetes surveillance for the 2010-2011 school year in January 2011. Nearly 100% of the schools surveyed participated in the last two years of surveillance.

The exploratory investigation of type 1 diabetes in Weston, Wellesley, and Newton is being conducted using data from pre-schools, high schools, health care providers, and hospitals serving these three communities in order to include ages 0 through 19 in the prevalence estimates for these communities. Information from families and health care providers are being used to estimate prevalence. From two mailings conducted by school nurses on behalf of MDPH (Spring 2009 and Spring 2010), BEH received consent forms from 67 families in Weston, Wellesley, and Newton. The mailings went to public and private pre-schools, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in these communities. In addition, following three requests, eight health care providers submitted counts of children and adolescents from Weston, Wellesley, and Newton with type 1 diabetes that are treated at their respective facilities. By obtaining data from hospitals and clinics as well as pre-schools and high schools, BEH can supplement the statewide surveillance data for these communities to include children/adolescents who are not yet in school, in high school, or attend private schools outside of their community of residence.

MDPH/BEH is preparing a report that will provide prevalence estimates for type 1 diabetes in the three community area. The report will also include a discussion of the spatial pattern of diabetes in the three communities and known risk factors for type 1 diabetes, including summary statistics on the role of family history in the development of type 1 diabetes in children in these communities. Using information provided by parents who responded to the mailings, an analysis of residential history and a discussion of the spatial distribution of residences of children with type 1 diabetes with respect to population density patterns, hazardous waste sites, and rights of way in Weston, Wellesley, and Newton will be included. Only summary statistics will be reported so as to protect the privacy of children and families included in the evaluation.

If individuals are not already on the MDPH mailing list for updates on BEH activities related to type 1 diabetes in children and adolescents in Massachusetts, please call 617-624-5757 and ask for the Community Assessment Program to be included for future updates.