

MICHAEL V. O'BRIEN
CITY MANAGER



CITY OF WORCESTER

FROM: City Manager Michael V. O'Brien

TO: Worcester City Council

DATE: April 22, 2009

RE: Travel Immunization Clinic

My Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Recommendation reduces staff levels within the Division of Public Health by 44 percent and stabilizes resources to address those functions required by law. Those core functions are: tuberculosis case management, infectious disease surveillance and reporting, sign-off on death certificates, and body art (tattoo) regulation. The functions of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and Medical Reserves are proposed to be transferred to Emergency Management in the Department of Emergency Communications. Though the core responsibilities will continue, as I indicated in my budget presentation there will be significant impacts upon various public health programs and services.

I have notified the Public Health Nurses that a total of five nursing positions are proposed to be eliminated from the Division. As is the case with all collective bargaining units, I have presented a reform package that includes a change in contribution rate to 75/25, plan design changes, and a zero percent wage increase for Fiscal Year 2010. A partnership with this union would allow me to restore critical nursing positions, however to date we have not been able to reach agreement.

My FY2010 Budget Recommendation sustains two nurse positions to be dedicated to infectious disease surveillance and reporting, as well as TB case management, as we have identified as core mission. One of those two sustained nurses is currently on leave. Our analysis indicates two nurses are required to perform the aforementioned functions and in light of one nurse's leave status, I intend to take action to restore one Public Health Nurse position and will be required to identify funding for that position within the 2010 Budget. This will require a reduction in personnel or services elsewhere in the 2010 Budget. I intend to forward this recommendation to City Council in the near future.

Please also be advised that the City's Travel Immunization Clinic will not open on Thursday, April 23, 2009 and until further notice, as a result of the impact of budget reductions. The Clinic had provided residents and non-residents with immunizations for international travel. As listed below, there are five community-based clinics that offer immunizations for children and/or adults available in the city. Additionally, the Worcester Public Schools offers 12 school-based health centers that offer immunizations for public school students.

**Saint Vincent Hospital Ambulatory Clinic
121 Providence St.
Worcester, MA 01604 Tel. 508-363-6199
Thursdays 2-4 PM**

**Family Health Center
26 Queen St.
Worcester, MA 01610 Tel. 508-860-7700**

**Great Brook Valley Community Health Center
19 Tacoma St.
Worcester, MA 01605 Tel. 508-854-3260**

**UMass Memorial Travel Clinic
Memorial Campus
119 Belmont St.
Worcester, MA 01605 Tel. 508-334-5481**

**Individual Physician Referral
Worcester District Medical Society
321 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01608 Tel. 508-753-1579**

I continue to evaluate opportunities to stabilize the Division of Public Health through partnerships and will apprise City Council and the community accordingly. I will also provide a full Division of Public Health impact statement in advance of the Budget Hearing on May 5, 2009.