



BOH Forms:12a. BOH Meeting Special Topics

This **Checklist** highlights many suggestions/ proposals for special topics at Board of Health meetings.

Overview

- **MA Boards of Health** are responsible for disease prevention and control, health and environmental protection, and promoting a healthy community under MA general laws, state, and local regulations.
- **Board of Meetings** are public forums that provide an opportunity for the Board to execute their responsibilities
- **The agenda** is typically set by the Chair of the Board and lists the items that will be discussed by the Board during the meeting. The items for considerations are usually a combination of Board related obligations such as approving meeting minutes, passing regulations, announcements, etc. and discussions regarding relevant public and environmental health matters.

Categories for Discussion Topics

Note: Board of Health Meeting topics can be determined by numerous factors

- **Recurring Issues/ Complaints:** Common complaints and issues in the community may reflect a need for the Board of Health to intervene. Intervention can include outreach, education, bylaws, and or regulations
- **Climate/ Season related:** The current season or climate can indicate upcoming hazards, events, or health induced concerns that correlate to the weather. These things can include matters such as ice storms or other extreme weather instances, drought/ flooding seasons, asthma, tick/mosquitos, camps, etc.
- **Community Demographics:** The community’s population can influence health-related behaviors or concerns that the Board may want to explore. Examples include vaping amongst youth and childhood vaccinations.
- **Trending Topics/ Current Events:** The current state of society can provide potential sources of topics that the Board of Health could aid in. For instance, considering the authorization of temporary emergency sheltering in churches to target the current homeless/ displacement crisis.
- **Outbreaks:** Depending upon the severity of the outbreak, the Board of Health may need to intervene to protect public health. Intervention methods can include outreach/ education on influenza or issuing mandates.

Impact Considerations

Note: Take into consideration the impact that the proposed topics can have on the community

- **Social Justice:** Fair and equitable distribution of rights, resources, and opportunities amongst the people can decrease inequalities, improve well-beings of others, and promote inclusivity.
- **Environmental:** The effects of human activity can cause imbalances on the environment as seen with pollution, waste production and other environmental nuisances.
- **Public Health:** The impact of policies, programs, and projects can influence the health outcomes of a population.

Potential Topic Proposal Resources

- **National Health Observances Calendar:** Each month a different health awareness campaign runs in hopes of raising awareness about different health conditions in the country. These campaigns can provide platforms for conditions that may be impacting your community
- **Professional Associations:** Experts and specialists within the same industry join the organization to network and stay current with the latest developments and trends within their industry. Often the association releases such updates that can provide relevant information on the status of public and environmental health.
- **Creditable News/ Media Outlets:** Media outlets depict trending and current issues within the community that may benefit from further investigation and discussion.

Potential Topic Suggestions

- **Health:** Influenza, Heart health, and men’s health
- **Social Justice:** sheltering/ housing crisis, climate change, and food insecurity
- **Environmental:** mosquitoes, clean air, and water quality