



# TOWN OF MILTON

## MILTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

525 CANTON AVENUE  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186



### Board of Health

Caroline A. Kinsella, BSN, RN, RS  
Health Director

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October 16, 2025

### RE: Follow-up on Immediate Healthcare Capacity Audit of South Shore/Norfolk County

Dear Community Partner,

The South Shore, and Milton in particular, need a short-and long-term healthcare capacity plan now.

The healthcare capacity on the South Shore continues to deteriorate since we wrote to you on January 15, 2025, requesting a plan and a healthcare capacity audit. We did not receive a response until 4 months later on April 2, 2025. DPH Commissioner Robbie Goldstein M.D. acknowledged our concerns were well warranted considering planned housing initiatives and resulting population growth. We emailed again to follow up on May 28th and received no response from the Department of Public Health.

The South Shore has lost nearly 600 in-patient hospital beds. Quincy is now the only major city in Massachusetts without a hospital. Carney and Norwood Hospitals are closed. We have lost emergency rooms and other important resources, including Carney Hospital's 70 psychiatric beds during a mental health crisis.

Our community hospitals are an essential component of our public health infrastructure as they collaborate with public health agencies to address community needs. They provide direct care and prevention, provide public health partnerships, improve overall community health, enhance emergency response, support underserved communities and participate in public health initiatives. Hospitals save lives.

At a July 22, 2025, Selectboard meeting, video at (1:34) Milton Police Chief King expressed concerned about the overcrowding at the Beth Israel Deaconess Milton Hospital Emergency Room. He stated that there is a "ongoing high volume [of] calls" and that "We go there a lot, that hospital is very busy".

Hospital staff are overwhelmed, and ambulances are traveling longer distances to transport patients because there are fewer hospitals and in-patient hospital beds.



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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Recently, Governor Healey stated: "My view is we're just going to continue to do everything we can to support public health very quickly."

"My job is to represent, fight for, protect the people of Massachusetts. And frankly, as a Governor, there's no more sacred responsibility than looking after the health and the well-being and the security of residents in my state.... And I'm going to continue to act in whatever ways, in the best interest of protecting the people in Massachusetts."

"Well, I think it's a sad state of affairs that the federal government has completely gutted public health infrastructure in this country. And now we're in a situation where it could be patchwork. That is not what we want to see. But, you know, I know that there are a number of states across the country who are working together, like I am, in leading to provide public health infrastructure for their residents. And that's just going to continue to grow."

<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2025/09/05/maura-healey-vaccines>

The Milton Health Department and Board of Health take its responsibilities to residents very seriously including community readiness and regional collaboration. As the Chair of the Milton Board of Health, along with my fellow Board members, it is our obligation to understand how the Commonwealth plans to manage a rapid population influx with our beleaguered capacity here on the South Shore.

The Commonwealth must provide a plan for enhanced healthcare capacity prior to population increases across the South Shore, and Milton in particular. We look forward to your timely response.



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Respectfully,

Roxanne Musto

Chair of the Milton Board of Health

Caroline A. Kinsella

Town of Milton Health Director

Cc:

Governor Maura Healey

DPH Commissioner Robbie Goldstein M.D.

Director, Office of Local and Regional Health MDPH Sam Wong

DPH Director of Healthcare Strategy and Planning Katherine Fillo

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch

State Senate Representative William J. Driscoll Jr.

State Representative Richard G. Wells

State Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley

Attorney General Andrea J Cambell

Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

Public Health Council

