



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

JANE SWIFT
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM D. O'LEARY
SECRETARY

HOWARD K. KOH, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

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As I am sure you are aware, the incidence of cardiovascular disease has an enormous cost to both employees and employers throughout the state of Massachusetts. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death, exceeding cancer of all types. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the cost for treatment and lost productivity to exceed \$6 billion in Massachusetts.

I am pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, under the direction of the Cardiovascular Health Initiative (CVHI), is working to devise a statewide plan that will help your employees achieve and maintain good cardiovascular health. By learning more about various health policies and programs that are in place at work sites such as yours, the CVHI will be better able to promote cardiovascular health for all Bay State employees.

Attached you will find a brief survey regarding your company's current policies and programs that may affect the cardiovascular health of your employees. Please note that this copy of the survey is for your review. Within a week you may receive a phone call from a survey administrator who will walk you through the questions and record your responses. All responses will be kept confidential.

Following the survey, the CVHI may conduct focus groups on the topic of cardiovascular health with representatives from Massachusetts businesses. If you are interested in participating in a focus group, or have questions regarding the survey, please contact Kathy Foell at 617-624-5469.

We thank you for your consideration and assistance in this effort and look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health