

Crete, Andrea

From: Crete, Andrea
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 1:13 PM
To: Merridith Oleary
Subject: Re: PVTC Member Updates

Thank you

Belchertown has Nicotine Free Generation in their regulations.
Would your inspector be sending in someone who is 21 or do the State check of under 21?

From: Merridith Oleary <molearypvtc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:07 PM
To: Merridith Oleary <molearypvtc@gmail.com>
Subject: PVTC Member Updates

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PVTC Members

Dear PVTC Members,

We have just completed Quarter One of FY26, and I'd like to share a few important updates and upcoming opportunities with you.

Program Updates

1. Tobacco Control Officer (TCO) Territories

This year, our three TCOs, Ryan Paxton, JJ Prusak, and Donna Bowman, are continuing with the program, but their territories have been adjusted. As a result, you may be seeing a new face in your community. These changes are intentional and beneficial because they provide:

- Fresh perspectives: New inspectors may notice trends or issues previously overlooked.
- Broader experience: Rotating TCOs helps them gain experience across different communities, strengthening the collaborative overall.
- Consistency in enforcement: Sharing knowledge across territories ensures that standards are applied uniformly.

2. FY25 Sales-to-Minors Compliance Results

I am pleased to report that our collaborative's overall non-compliance rate for FY25 was 5.95%, well below the federal SYNAR benchmark of 20% (which requires states to maintain at least 80% compliance).

- Several communities achieved a perfect record of no sales to minors.
- Two communities, however, exceeded the 20% threshold, which highlights areas for additional education, outreach, or enforcement.

For context:

- A compliance rate above 85% is considered good, while 90% or higher is excellent.

- Compliance is influenced by clerk training, ID-checking practices, signage, and consistent enforcement.

You can view your community's non-compliance rates for FY20–FY25 on the *Sales-to-Minors Summary* page in our PVTC Compliance Spreadsheet. [PVTC Compliance Spreadsheet - Google Sheets](#)

3. Retailer Permit Verification

Please take a few minutes to review the list of permitted retailers for your community in the [PVTC Compliance Spreadsheet - Google Sheets](#). Confirm it matches your local permit list.

Email me with any discrepancies so we can keep records accurate and up to date.

4. Recruiting Youth Tobacco Officers

PVTC is actively recruiting Youth Tobacco Officers (YTOs). Please help spread the word!

- Pay: \$19.50/hour
- Schedule: Flexible—youth sign up for shifts that fit their availability
- Process: TCOs text or email the trained youth group when scheduling checks; youth choose shifts that work for them

Eligibility:

- Age 16–20
- Youth under 18 require parental consent
- Must complete MTCP online training

This is a great opportunity for young people to build work experience, learn about public health, and make a real difference.

4. Save the Date

Our next in-person PVTC meeting will be held on:

Thursday, October 30th at 9:30 AM

Northampton City Hall, Hearing Room (2nd Floor)

Please let me know if there are any topics you would like added for consideration on the agenda.

Parking: Free for the first hour at the E. John Gare Parking Garage, then \$0.75/hour. More details here:

Parking Lots & Permits | Northampton, MA - Official Website. [Parking Lots & Permits | Northampton, MA - Official Website](#)

In the News

As part of its broader youth vaping prevention strategy, the FDA has launched an initiative to increase voluntary compliance from retailers, including vape shops, convenience stores, and gas stations regarding the sale of both legal and illegal products.

[Read more here](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

Public Health Excellence (PHE) Day at the Statehouse

Thursday, October 23 | 10:00–11:30 AM

PHE Day is a statewide gathering that brings together legislators, local public health officials, community leaders, and partners to celebrate the progress we've made through SAPHE 2.0 and five successful years of the Public Health Excellence program. This event is an important opportunity to highlight local accomplishments, share stories of impact, and strengthen our collective commitment to building a stronger, more connected public health system across Massachusetts.

To support participation, the Western MA Public Health Association (WMPHA) has reserved a bus to transport attendees to Boston, with pick-up stops in Greenfield and at the Holyoke Mall. A complimentary box lunch will be provided on the return trip. **Space is limited** – please reserve your spot today by [clicking here](#). If you plan to ride the bus, be sure to indicate that when you register.p.

UCSF Webinar – Tobacco Cessation Under Siege

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 | 1:00–2:30 PM (ET)

*Hosted by the **Smoking Cessation Leadership Center, UCSF***

Topics include: tobacco industry reinvention, new nicotine products, federal policy challenges, and strategies for resilience.

Speakers include Pamela M. Ling, MD, MPH; Timothy McAfee, MD, MPH; and April Roeseler, BSN, MSPH. **[Register now!](#)**

Thank you all for your continued partnership and commitment to protecting youth from tobacco and nicotine products. Together, we are making a measurable impact across our communities.

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Sincerely,

Merridith A. O'Leary
PVTC Coordinator