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Subject The Pulse on Local Public Health: An Office of Local & Regional Health Bulletin

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Thursday, June 6, 2024

We want to hear from you!

[Submit questions or feedback here.](#)

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Hemp Derived CBD and THC Not Allowed in Food and Beverages Manufactured or Sold in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) issued the following [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document to make clear that addition of **CBD and/or THC to food manufactured or sold in Massachusetts is illegal**. This does not apply to edible marijuana products licensed and sold

under the jurisdiction of the Cannabis Control Commission.

Implementation of Flavored Tobacco Products Regulation

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) understands that there is confusion from both tobacco retailers and local boards of health about whether tobacco products labeled as non-menthol tobacco products but marketed to menthol consumers constitute a flavored tobacco product within the meaning of [Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 270, Section 28](#) and the Department's regulation [105 CMR 665.000](#).

Please read the following [DPH advisory](#) for clarification on flavored tobacco products. Retail establishments that are not licensed smoking bars should **remove these products from their premises no later than 30 days after this release (July 6, 2024).**

BCEH Local Health Survey

The DPH Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health Environmental Toxicology Program needs your input to help develop and improve **environmental health training** to support local health officials and the communities you serve. They are conducting an anonymous needs assessment survey that asks about your **professional interests and work-based experiences** related to environmental health topics and about the characteristics of the communities you serve.

The survey is for all local health officials and staff. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. Please complete the survey (using Chrome or Edge) by **Tuesday, June 18**: https://redcap.link/MADPH_Local_Health_Survey.

Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey

The Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PHWINS) is a national survey of the governmental public health workforce and is conducted as a

partnership between the de Beaumont Foundation and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

[Learn more about participating in PHWINS.](#)

Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Process Update

The Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) is excited to provide ongoing updates about our progress in adapting the FPHS Framework for Massachusetts Local Public Health. We are announcing the Massachusetts Relevant Description Process will begin in early June. This marks a significant milestone as we actively engage with our local public health partners and will set the foundation for an FPHS Shared Services Review in early 2025. [Learn more about the next steps for local public health.](#)

Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program Collaborative Spaces

The DPH Office of Local and Regional Health will be hosting multiple collaborative spaces with Local Public Health to assist in planning the Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program. **If you'd like to participate please sign up [here](#) by Tuesday, June 11.** The session will be one hour with about 30 minutes of pre-work. Thank you in advance for your participation in making the Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program a success!

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June Webinar

The Office of Local and Regional Health provides webinars on various topics relevant to local public health. The hour-long webinars are held at 3 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. This month's agenda featured updates from the Commissioner, Hemp CBD/THC FAQ, Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey, Lead Service Line Replacement, PCEs/ACEs Dashboard, short term pool advisory, and a FPHS update.

View the [slides from the webinar](#), [answers to questions](#) asked during the webinar, and related [resources](#).

We Want to Hear From You!

Submit your questions and recommended topics for the next webinar on **Tuesday, July 9**, to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Tuesday, July 2**. We value your input and welcome your suggestions for future webinar topics. **PLEASE NOTE: The next monthly webinar will be held the SECOND Tuesday in July due to the holiday.**

Accessibility

We want to ensure that our webinar is accessible to our audience. If you need accommodations, such as American Sign Language (ASL) or Closed Caption, please email us at localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov.

How to Register

- Register using this link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A8RODgL2QtabJJqdNTpV1g
- Please note this is a recurring event. You only need to register once.
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom with your unique link to attend the webinar and import the events into your calendar ([how-to guide](#)).

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BUSPH Public Health Conversations: Building a Diverse Biostatistics Pipeline: The Next Decade

This program will explore how biostatistics will evolve over the next decade. We will consider how to better support building a diverse pipeline in the field. We will also hear reflections from alumni of the Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics (SIBS) program at BUSPH, now known as the [Summer Institute in Biostatistics and Data Science program](#).

Tuesday, June 11

2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Register to [attend online](#) or [in-person](#)

MHOA 2024 Annual Conference
Early, Early Bird Registration for Members Opens Next Week

**Yankee Onsite Water Association (YOWA) Training:
Nitrogen and the Effect on Onsite Wastewater Systems**

Learn about the nitrogen cycle and the effect on onsite wastewater systems. I/A technologies and new Cape & Islands regulations will also be reviewed. SE/SI credits are pending approval.

Tuesday, June 25

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

UMass Mt. Ida Campus

Newton, Mass.

Members: \$100 | Non-Members: \$160

[Register online to attend](#)

**BUSPH Public Health Conversations:
Teaching Public Health: Transforming Education for Public Health**

This is the sixth installment of the Teaching Public Health series, which began in 2018. This year's discussion will reflect on how academic public health can act on the [Framing the Future 2030 recommendations](#) to better prepare the next generation of public health professionals. *Featuring DPH's own Deirdre Calvert from BSAS!*

Wednesday, June 26

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Register to [attend online](#) or [in-person](#)

NACCHO: Local Health Official Monthly Engagement Meeting

NACCHO is launching a monthly Local Health Official (LHO) call to foster connection across the local public health community on a regular basis. These calls are a result of feedback from NACCHO members seeking to better connect with one another and federal partners.

Meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month and will include guidance and initiatives from CDC, FDA, and other federal partners. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and ensure federal efforts are workable locally.

3 p.m. Thursday, June 27

[Register to attend](#)

Registered Environmental Health Specialist / Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) Study Courses Available

MHOA and MEHA, in partnership, are pleased to offer their members a [RS/REHS online prep course by Walter Saraniecki](#) at a reduced rate of \$425. This 33-hour online prep course is designed to help you pass the REHS exam!

This is a members-only benefit and spots are limited. Rolling registration will run through **Sunday, June 30**. Registrants will have 120 days to complete the course once they are logged in. Please be sure you are ready to commit to this course before registering. ***Payment must be received before they can send the course log in information to you.*** [Register online.](#)

Save the Date: Nicotine Free Generation Webinar from MHOA

Nicotine Free Generation replaces the minimum age sales law on tobacco and vape products. Only those who are 21 or older on a designated date may continue purchasing nicotine products, those under 21 would not. How did this policy come about and what are the recommended steps if your municipality is interested?

Thursday, July 11

1 - 2 p.m.

Registration coming soon

Considering Sitting for the Certified Public Health (CPH) Exam? Review Sessions are Open!

Improve your knowledge, skills, and confidence by joining an upcoming CPH exam review course. Registration for the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) Summer 2024 CPH Review Session series is open. This review series will cover the updated domains the **CPH exam's content outline that will change on August 1**. The series contains 11 two-hour sessions over five weeks and will increase attendees' knowledge about the certification's content areas and their skills in applying them in practice.

Register to attend online

at: <https://bit.ly/4axzuVU>

Sessions: **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 -**

4 p.m. July 18 - August 22

FREE Public Health Informatics & Technology Courses at Middlesex Community College

Thanks to generous grant funding, Middlesex Community College (MCC) is enrolling students for the Fall 2024 Public Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT) program. Students have the chance to earn **FREE college credits** and a micro-credential by participating in their **100% online** PHIT courses this fall.

Students who enroll can choose to complete all three courses in one semester, or take them one at a time, depending on schedule and preferences. Upon completion, students earn a FREE micro credential that counts toward an Associates degree at MCC and transfers to the BS in Public Health at UMass Lowell.

- Learn more about the program:
<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/phit/micro.aspx>
- For more information please contact Kori Boeckeler, PHIT Program Coordinator:
Boeckelerk@middlesex.mass.edu

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Charles River Public Health District is Hiring!

The Charles River Public Health District, covering the towns of Needham, Dover, and Sherborn, is seeking a **Regional Public Health Nurse**. They will provide shared services and perform a variety of nursing, policy, and health education functions, creating community training based on individualized needs within each town. [Learn more about this position.](#)

Foothills Health District is Hiring!

The Foothills Health District, covering the towns of Goshen, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Whatley, is seeking candidates to fill two positions:

- **Office Manager (0.75 FTE)** - The position offers an option of a 4-day work week, paid lunch, and is fully benefited. Competitive salary commensurate with experience and education. Hiring range \$25-\$30/hour. [Learn more about the position.](#)
 - **Health Inspector (FTE)** - The position offers an option of a 4-day work week and is fully benefitted with paid training. Competitive salary commensurate with experience and education. Hiring range: \$27- \$30/hour. [Learn more about the position.](#)
-

Rochester is Hiring!

The Town of Rochester is seeking a part-time **Health Agent**. The department-head-level position is responsible to providing professional, administrative, technical, and inspection work to plan, manager, and promote all aspects of the municipal public health department. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Mill Towns Shared Public Health Collaborative is Hiring!

The Mill Towns Shared Public Health Collaborative is comprised of the Towns of Ludlow, Palmer, Warren, and West Brookfield Health Departments. This collaborative is seeking a **Regional Title 5 Independent Contractor**. This position will provide code enforcement support for issues related to Title 5. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Medford is Hiring!

The City of Medford is looking to fill **TWO Registered Sanitarian** positions. Registration by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Sanitarians is preferred or commitment to obtain within one year. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Find Your Future with the Commonwealth

[Find job opportunities](#) across industries including health and human services, transportation, IT, finance, housing and economic development, energy and environmental, public safety and security, and education. First consideration is given to those who apply within the first 14 days.

Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH):

- [Housing Specialist Trainer for Community Sanitation](#)

Bureau of Community Health & Prevention (BCHAP):

- [Rural Health Outreach and Communications Coordinator](#)
- [Health Communications Specialist](#) (MTCP)

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS):

- [Community Health Worker](#)

Registry of Vital Statistics:

- [Data Modernization Epidemiologist](#)

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP):

- [Environmental Analyst III - Remedial Project Manager](#) (2)

Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission:

- [Communications Specialist](#)

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Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Applications Now Open!

The grant application for FY25 is open through 5 p.m. **Saturday, June 15**. Visit the Massachusetts Office of Disability website for the [grant information and application](#). Any Massachusetts city or town is eligible to apply. If you have questions after reviewing the information page, please reach out to the Grant Compliance Coordinator Evan George at Evan.George@mass.gov or at (857) 248-7924.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation Special Initiatives Grant Program

The [Special Initiatives grant program](#) provides organizations with a **one-time grant of up to \$50,000** to launch a new project over a one-year period. This grant is intended to fund projects that empower communities to advance health equity. Projects should positively impact the health needs of those Massachusetts residents who have been economically, socially, culturally, or racially marginalized. The Foundation expects to award between 5 and 6 grants.

Proposals are due by 12 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 31**.

- [Visit the website](#), [view the Special Initiatives Guidelines](#), and [sign up for office hours](#).
 - For programmatic questions, contact Jacquie Anderson at jacquie.anderson@bcbsma.com
 - For questions about the online portal, contact Evelyn Monteiro at evelyn.monteiro@bcbsma.com
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Apply for the Municipal Master Services Agreement (MSA) RFR

The purpose of this [Request for Responses \(RFR\)](#) is to establish a pre-qualified list of approved vendors, namely **local and regional public health entities**, to be eligible for potential future funding from the Department of Public Health DPH.

All municipalities and/or regional health districts are strongly encouraged to apply as many future DPH grants will be distributed through this municipal master services agreement (MSA). **NOTE:** PHE lead grantees are already in the MSA and do not need to apply.

[Visit the RFR posting here](#) for the application and Confidentiality Agreement (can be found in the REQ zip file on COMMBUYS). Please return the completed forms to Brian.W.Sheehan@mass.gov along with any other questions.

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Greater Boston Food Bank Released 2024 Annual Statewide Report

The Greater Boston Food Bank released their fourth annual statewide food equity and access report. This report highlights research on the state of food insecurity, equity, and access to critical nutrition programs in Massachusetts during 2023.

Approximately **1.9 million** adults, or **34% of the state's households**, report household food insecurity and **1 in 3 individuals** report running out of food or not having enough money to buy food each month. [Read the report to learn more.](#)

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Engaging LPH in Adapting the FPHS for Massachusetts

OLRH is excited to share updates about our journey towards adapting the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Framework for Massachusetts Local Public Health. The Massachusetts Relevant Description Process begins in **early June** and marks an important milestone in this journey. OLRH led a peer nomination process with local public health and partner organizations to solicit nominations for Foundational Advisory Team Members and the Steering Committee who will champion the Massachusetts Relevant Description Process. To ensure a commitment to advocating for the needs of communities across Massachusetts, all of the Steering Committee members represent local public health.

Caption: Four major milestones in the FPHS process: 1. The Blueprint for Public Health Excellence outlines FPHS as the next step in modernizing public health in Massachusetts (June 2019); 2. FPHS

Partner Engagement (Feb.-May 2024); 3. The FPHS MA Relevant Description Process (highlighted as a current step; June-Dec. 2024); and 4. FPHS Shared Services Review (Early 2025)

Next Steps

Foundational Advisory Team members will review assigned [FPHS Framework language](#) and suggest terminology and examples to best align with Massachusetts local public health infrastructure. This collaborative effort will help ensure the FPHS accurately reflects local public health needs and priorities for Massachusetts' diverse landscape. This process will lead to a Capacity and Expertise Review at the Shared Services Arrangement-level in early 2025 for those municipalities participating in the PHE grant program. Throughout this process, OLRH will work with local public health and PHE Grantees to ensure they are informed and supported.

All information related to FPHS shared in monthly webinars and the *Pulse* newsletter are in [this document](#).

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Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey

The Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PHWINS) is a national survey of the governmental public health workforce and is conducted as a partnership between the de Beaumont Foundation and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). This year, PHWINS is aiming to expand their reach and deepen their insights by including **every local health department in Massachusetts**, Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Confirm your participation by filling out this brief commitment form: https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eflqlegT0sFL2xU

DPH Press Release - Summer Safety

With summer approaching, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents to take [recommended commonsense precautions](#) to keep everyone, especially young children and those working outside, safe this summer.

"Summer in New England means spending time outside in the sun, in the water, on the beach, in the mountains, or in the park or backyard," said Department of Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "It is also a time to be aware of the importance

of taking seasonal precautions that can make this fabulous time of year safer and more enjoyable.”

Community Health Equity Survey Data Now Available

The Community Health Equity Initiative (CHEI) team released data from the **2023 Community Health Equity Survey** (CHES). [Visit the CHEI website](#) to view the overview slides, download the data tables, and watch the CHEI Racial Justice Framing webinar to understand how to interpret and act upon results. If you are interested in data, technical assistance, and capacity building support, fill out this [Data & Action Support interest form](#).

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ARBOVIRUS

- [Massachusetts Arbovirus Update](#) | DPH
 - View EEE & WNV risk maps by municipality
- [Mosquitoes](#) | DPH

AVIAN INFLUENZA

- [Avian Flu / Avian Influenza](#) | DPH
- [Avian Influenza](#) | CDC
- [HPAI Detections in Mammals](#) | USDA

BATHING BEACHES / SWIMMING

- [Interactive Beach Water Quality Dashboard](#)
 - Check to see which beaches are open or closed
- [Swim Safe Massachusetts](#) | DPH
- [Healthy and Safe Swimming](#) | CDC

CBD/HEMP/THC

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | DPH
-

COLOR

- [Color Vaccine Resources page](#)
 - Questions related to billing can be emailed to vaccine@umassmed.edu.
 - ColorHelp@mass.gov.
-

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Check out [FindHelp.org](#) to search by ZIP code for a list of resources.
 - Guidance for municipalities on [Shelter Requirements and Exemptions in the Housing Code](#)
-

EXTREME HEAT

- [Extreme Heat Safety Tips](#) | MEMA
 - [Preparing for Extreme Heat](#) | Mass.gov
 - [Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality](#) | DPH
 - [Cool Your Community Toolkit](#) | EPA
-

FREE HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS

- [MA Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#) | DPH
-

MAVEN

- [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)
 - [MAVEN Help](#)
 - [MAVEN Guidance Document Series](#)
 - State Epidemiologist Line (24/7): 617-983-6800
-

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

- [Guidance for Municipalities](#) | DPH
-

RADON

- [Radon](#) | DPH
 - (800) 723-6695 (MA only) or (413) 784-9352

- DPHIAQ.radon@mass.gov
 - [Radon Coupon](#)
 - [FAQ Radon Policy](#) | Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
-

RECREATIONAL CAMPS

- [Recreational Camps for Children](#) | DPH
-

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

- [Respiratory Virus Guidance](#) | CDC
 - [Recommendations for the General Public](#) | DPH
 - [Guidance for Health Care Settings](#) | DPH
 - [Statewide Contract Resources](#) | DPH
 - PPE, Test Kits, etc.
-

STEWARD HEALTH CARE

- [Steward Health Care Resources](#) | DPH
 - Call Center: (617) 468-2189 or toll-free at (833) 305-2070
 - Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., not including holidays
-

TICK-BORNE DISEASE

- [Tick-borne Diseases](#) | DPH
 - [Powassan Virus](#) | CDC
 - [TickReport](#)
-

TRAIN MA

- [TRAIN Massachusetts](#) | Online Learning Management System (replaced BU/LPHI)
 - Questions? Email olrhtrainingsupport@mass.gov

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If you have any comments, questions, or feedback, please email:
localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov

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