

From Office of Local & Regional Health
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Date 2024-08-22 16:15:16+00:00
Subject The Pulse on Local Public Health: An Office of Local & Regional Health
Bulletin

News, Events, Trainings, and Funding Opportunities for Local Public Health

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Tuesday, August 22, 2024

We want to hear from you!
[Submit questions or feedback](#)

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Announcements Webinar Events & Training

Careers Funding Equity

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Special Webinar Added on 8/27: Arbovirus Season Update

Join OLRH and Dr. Katie Brown next Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 3 - 4 p.m. for an arbovirus season update. To attend, join using the link you normally use to access the monthly webinar. If you have not yet registered for the monthly webinar series, you can [register](#) at any time. Arbovirus resources can be found [here](#).

Massachusetts Local Public Health Training Program Tier II: Housing and Food Inspection Courses Added

The Local Public Health Training Program - [Housing and Food Tier 2](#), formerly known as MA PHIT Housing and MA PHIT Food, are designed for local public health professionals charged with enforcing housing and food-related laws and regulations. This 4-day hybrid training program prepares public health professionals with in-depth knowledge of the food and housing inspection process before their Tier 3 - Applied Practice led by HUB trainers. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Reminder: Registered Sanitarian (RS) and Certified Health Officer (CHO) Renewals Open Tuesday, Oct. 1

The renewal period for Registered Sanitarians and Certified Health Officers will open on Oct. 1, 2024, and will run through Jan. 15, 2025. Please submit your renewal applications through the Health Professions Licensing Portal at <https://healthprofessionlicensing.mass.gov/login-register>. **The portal will begin accepting applications on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024.**

To assist you with the renewal process, we will be holding virtual technical support office hours starting in October. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at rs.cho@mass.gov.

DPH Announces Season's Second Human Case of WNV and First Human Case of EEE in Massachusetts

DPH [announced](#) the second human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in Mass. this season. The person is a male in his 70s who was exposed in Middlesex County in an area known to be at moderate risk.

DPH [announced](#) the first human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Mass. The person is a male in his 80s who was exposed in Worcester County. As a result, the risk level in Douglas, Oxford, Sutton, and Webster have been raised to critical.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at [Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov](#), which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at (617) 983-6800.

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August Webinar

Each month, the Office of Local and Regional Health provides webinars on various topics relevant to local public health. The hour-long webinars are held from 3 to 4 p.m. This month's topics included an update on Steward Health Care, COVID-19 test kits, OLRH communication updates, and a Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) update.

[View 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 monthly webinar, on **Tuesday, Sept. 10**, to us via email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Wednesday, Sept. 4**. We value your input and welcome your suggestions for future webinar topics.

How to Register

- If you have **not yet registered** for this webinar series, use 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](#)).

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.

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Massachusetts Local Public Health Training Program Tier II: Housing and Food Inspection Courses Added

The Local Public Health Training Program - [Housing and Food Tier 2](#), formerly known as MA PHIT Housing and MA PHIT Food, are designed for local public health professionals charged with enforcing housing and food-related laws and regulations. This 4-day hybrid training program prepares public health professionals with in-depth knowledge of the food and housing inspection process before their Tier 3 - Applied Practice led by HUB trainers.

Please ensure you have completed Tier I coursework in advance of registering for these sessions: [Food](#) TRAIN MA Learning Plan and/or [Housing](#) TRAIN MA Learning Plan.

Application Deadline: Monday, Sept. 16, at 11 p.m.

Applicants Notified by: Week of Sept. 30

FREE

[Click Here](#) to apply. *Please apply using your email address linked to TRAIN MA. If you don't have a TRAIN MA account, [follow our instructions](#) on how to set up an account.*

New Approaches to Vaccine Communications

Each fall and winter season, public health professionals help their communities make informed decisions about vaccines through compelling and timely messages. This webinar will introduce newly tested messages to encourage routine and recommended vaccinations for children and adults. Attendees will access new messaging approaches that can inspire openness and curiosity about vaccines.

Monday, Aug. 26

2:30 - 4 p.m.

Virtual (Zoom)

[Register online](#)

Color: Prepare for Flu Season

Join DPH Color for a one-hour training session to review the features available in the On-Site Tool. This training is for both **new** and **existing** users and is an opportunity to review the features in the platform.

Thursday, Sept. 5

2 - 3 p.m.

Virtual (Zoom)

[Register online](#)

Advance Registration Open Now

The conference will take place **November 13 - 15** at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass. Visit [MHOA Conference 2024](#) for all the details, including hotel information, keynote speakers, agenda, exhibitors, sponsors, and more. The site will be updated as more details are finalized.

Take advantage of Advance Registration running until **Friday, Sept. 6!** To register a group of people on one invoice, please send a list of names, email addresses, food allergies for each person, and a point of contact for follow up to lpacella@mhoa.com.

MHOA: Food Safety and Emergency Response

Following a disaster event, public health officials must take action to ensure food safety in their communities. Learn about the practical guidance to plan and respond to emergencies that create the potential for foodborne illnesses. At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Explain the role of public health in ensuring food safety after an emergency event
- Describe food safety preparedness
- Assess food safety and considerations to reopen a food establishment

Thursday, Sept. 19

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wedgewood Pines Country Club, Stow, Mass.

CEUs available: 2.2 CHO/CPH, RS/REHS

[Register online](#)

DPH: Annual Stakeholder Listening Sessions (SLS)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Problem Gambling Services (OPGS) is excited to announce its eighth **Annual Stakeholder Listening Sessions (SLS)**!

These sessions are held to promote equity by centering community voice to inform problem gambling data, programs, and services. Since 2016, the OPGS has **engaged over 2,000 residents** to inform **over 23 initiatives**. This year's theme will be **youth gambling**, and the session will be held virtually via Zoom. Please register and spread the word!

Springfield, Mass.

Thursday, Oct. 3

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Register to attend](#)

Community Listening Sessions

In addition to the Stakeholder Listening Sessions, the Community Listening Session (CLS) serves as a dedicated space for residents to discuss the impacts of problem gambling and related issues on their communities. Register for the [English session](#) and register for the [Spanish session](#).

Register for the 2024 Yankee Conference

The Yankee Conference on Environmental Health is back for 2024! This year the conference is at the Hilton Mystic Hotel in the seaside town of Mystic, Conn. from **Oct. 16 - 18**.

[Find out more and register to attend](#). If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email yankeeconferenceinfo@gmail.com.

Northeast Food and Drug Officials Association's (NEFD OA) Retail Food Protection Seminar

Registration is now open for the Northeast Food and Drug Officials Association's (NEFD OA) Retail Food Protection Seminar, hosted in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The seminar will take place **November 13-15** in Burlington, Vt.

[View the agenda](#) and [register](#).

Two New National Certifications for Tobacco Treatment Providers

Two national certifications are now available to professionals specializing in nicotine and tobacco dependence assessment and treatment. These certifications **promote national standards** for evidence-based treatment and acknowledge the value that tobacco treatment experts provide. The two certifications are listed below, and you can visit the website of each for more information.

- **American Heart Association: Certified Professional in Tobacco Treatment**
 - Professional education hub help: (877) 340-9899 or intelligo.help@intelligohub.org
 - For requirements and more information: www.heart.org/tobacco-treatment
- **NAADAC, Association for Addiction Professionals: National Certification in Nicotine and Tobacco Treatment (NCNTT)**
 - For requirements and more information: www.naadac.org/ncntt

NACCHO: New Communications Planning Guide

A new [Communications Planning Guide for Local Health Departments](#) has been designed for local health department staff who are tasked with communicating specific messages to the public or segments of the public. The guide provides a basic framework to use, including questions to consider when developing communications and evaluation strategies. It also includes considerations for how local health department professionals can incorporate health equity, social justice, and accessibility considerations, including health literacy, into their work.

Just Launched: FREE Training from the Public Health Communications Collaborative Academy

The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) Academy is a new training hub to support public health communicators around the country. Join us for The PHCC Academy's first course, *Strengthening Public Health Communications through Community Engagement*. [Learn more](#) and [register online](#).

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.

- 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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Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health is Hiring!

The Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health, serving the towns of Northborough, Southborough, Westborough, and Boylston, is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- **Regional Public Health Nurse** (FT) This role will implement and coordinate public health nursing services across the region, including disease surveillance, health education, and wellness programming. [Learn more about this position.](#)
- **Regional Epidemiologist** (PT) This role will assist the HHS Department in research and development, implementation, and communication of epidemiological aspects of traditional public health efforts. [Learn more about this position.](#)
- **Shared Services Coordinator** (PT) This role will support the coordination, implementation, and management of shared public health services across the region, including facilitating the delivery of nursing, inspectional, and epidemiological resources and leading efforts to secure and manage resources for the ongoing work of the initiative. [Learn more about this position.](#)

North Central & MetroWest Training Hub is Hiring!

The North Central and MetroWest Training Hub, serving eastern Massachusetts from the Mass./N.H. border south to Dover / Sherborn, Mass., seeks an **Environmental Health Trainer**. This role will provide training to local public health professionals on effectively enforcing State/Federal Environmental and Sanitary Codes, Town by-laws, and Board of Health Regulations. [Learn more about this position.](#)

CMRPC Training Hub is Hiring!

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), serving 40 communities in southern Worcester County, seeks a **Public Health Regional Trainer** within the agency's Regional Collaboration and Community Planning Department. This position will support CMRPC's [Public Health Training Hub](#) to conduct applied training in Food Safety, Housing, Septic Systems & Title 5, and other public health inspections to local and regional public health staff. [Learn more about this position](#) and [apply here](#).

Foothills Health District is Hiring!

The Foothills Health District, covering the towns of Goshen, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Whatley, is seeking a **Health Inspector**. The position offers an option of a four-day work week and is fully benefitted with paid training. Compensation commensurate with experience and education. [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.

DPH Administration & Finance:

- [Fiscal and Contracts Manager](#) | Office of Local and Regional Health

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS):

- [Field Epidemiologist](#) | Southeast Region
- [Director of Facilities Management](#) | State Lab

Bureau of Health Care Quality and Safety (BHCQS):

- [Deputy Director](#) | Office of Emergency Medical Services

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR):

- [Environmental Analyst III](#) | Quabbin
- [Program Manager VI](#) | Sr. Dir. Environmental Justice

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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 to receive 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](#) 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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NACCHO: Roots of Health Inequity

After 13 years, the Health Equity and Social Justice team has updated NACCHO's signature product, now titled the [Roots of Health Inequity Course Series](#), to reflect the complexities of today. The revised course series equips participants with tools necessary to understand, identify and more directly act on the root causes of health inequity to implement equitable public health initiatives. Access the course [here](#).

Link: [Course overview video](#)

Check Out the Race & Health Equity Guide from PHIWM

Andrea Freeman, Policy Director at the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts (PHIWM), talks about one of her favorite resources on race and health equity. Visit the [Race and Health Equity Resource Guide](#) for more podcasts, videos, and other resources!

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Stay Tuned!

If you are interested in previous *Pulse* content, you can find all information related to FPHS shared in webinars and the *Pulse* newsletter [here](#).

Stay tuned for more details about the FPHS newsletter, coming in September! For questions, please contact Katie Roane at Kaitlin.Roane@mass.gov.

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Summer Safety Guidance

DPH's [Summer Safety Guidance](#) was recently translated into 12 languages other than English to share with your community:

[Albanian](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Cape](#)

Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PHWINS)

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. PHWINS aims this year to expand its reach and insights by including every local health department in Massachusetts and across New England. Confirm your participation by filling out this brief [commitment form](#).

Registry of Vital Records and Statistics (RVRS) to Launch New Records Collection System - MAVRIC

In anticipation of the launch of MAVRIC, the new electronic death registration system from the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, training is available 24x7 to fit your busy schedule. [Training for burial agents](#) can be accessed now through [TRAIN MA](#). Once enrolled, you can take full advantage of videos, quick start guides and instructional guides available or register for a webinar. A dedicated TRAIN help desk at DPH-TrainHelp@mass.gov can assist with any questions. For regular updates and a [MAVRIC FAQ](#), please monitor [MAVRIC: Massachusetts Vital Records Information Collaborative | Mass.gov](#).

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ARBOVIRUS

- [Massachusetts Arbovirus Update](#) | DPH
 - View EEE & WNV risk maps by municipality
 - [Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan](#) | DPH
 - [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/TOBACCO

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | DPH
 - [Advisory on Flavored Tobacco Products](#) | DPH
-

COLOR

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

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (EA)

- [What is Emergency Assistance Family Shelter?](#) | Mass.gov
 - [EA Family Shelter Resources and Data](#) | Mass.gov
 - Check out [Mass211](#) and [FindHelp.org](#) to search by ZIP code for resources.
 - [Help Families in Crisis](#)
 - Guidance for municipalities on [Shelter Requirements and Exemptions in the Housing Code](#)
-

EXTREME HEAT

- [Cooling Centers Guidance](#) | DPH
- [Special Webinar \(Extreme Heat\)](#) | DPH
- [Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality](#) | DPH
- [Heat & Health Tracker](#) | NEHC CDC
- [HeatRisk Tool](#) | NWS CDC
- [MassAir Online](#) | MassDEP
- [AirNow](#) & [Cool Your Community Toolkit](#) | EPA
- [Extreme Heat Safety Tips](#) | MEMA
- [Preparing for Extreme Heat](#) | Mass.gov

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