

From Office of Local & Regional Health <localregionalpublichealth@notice.mass.gov>
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Subject The Pulse on Local Public Health: An Office of Local & Regional Health Bulletin

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Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024

We want to hear from you!

[Contact us](#)

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Announcements

Happening Now

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Funding

**The Office of Local and Regional Health will be closed on
Wednesdays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays.**

This will be the final newsletter of 2024! Thank you for taking the time to engage with us. Stay tuned for urgent updates via email and *The Pulse* will return Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025!

2025 Local Public Health Monthly Webinar Series

Thank you for your participation in the 2024 Local Public Health Monthly Webinar series. In 2024, we hosted **19 webinars with an average of 298 attendees!** We

have collaborated from all across the Department of Public Health to bring you presentations on a variety of topics. Looking ahead to 2025, we hope to continue to provide you with timely and informative updates on relevant and emerging public health topics.

If you haven't already, please [review the email](#) sent on **Tuesday, Dec. 17**, about the 2025 monthly webinars and how to import the events into your calendar. If you didn't receive that email or have any questions, please email localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov.

NEW Environmental Health Equity and Climate Change Learning Series now available on TRAIN MA!

The Environmental Health Equity and Climate Change Learning Series introduces environmental health hazards related to climate change and how to recognize when they might be impacting an individual's or a community's health. This learning series provides an overview of how climate hazards and health equity can affect people's health, who is most at risk, what steps to take to reduce risk, and how structural racism impacts how we think about climate change interventions.

Learners will learn to recognize different approaches to upstream climate and health interventions at the local government, health department, clinician, community, and individual levels. The series is eligible for 2.5 RS/CHO contact hours. It is intended for anyone who may be interested in health equity, environmental justice, and climate change.

To access the learning series, click here: [DPH Environmental Health Equity and Climate Change Learning Series](#)

Check out the DPH Commissioner on ASTHO's Public Health Review

Dr. Robbie Goldstein, Commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) describes how SAPHE 2.0 will promote health equity throughout the state. [Listen to this short two-minute clip!](#)

Focus Group on Community EMS - Participants Needed!

The focus group will meet on **Thursday, Jan. 16 from 1 - 2 p.m.**, to discuss:

- What would be helpful to local public health relevant to community EMS or what is currently missing
- How to make people more aware of the program
- What barriers there are to utilizing the program

If you are interested in participating, contact Rachael Cain at Rachael.cain2@mass.gov.

Submit Your Registered Sanitarian (RS) and Certified Health Officer (CHO) Renewal Applications!

Thank you to over 350 Registered Sanitarians and Certified Health Officers who have already completed their renewal applications! That's 96%! If you haven't already done so, the renewal period will be open through **Jan. 15, 2025**. Please submit your renewal applications through the [Health Professions Licensing Portal](#).

If you have any questions or need one-on-one assistance, please feel free to contact rs.cho@mass.gov or call (413) 330-4173.

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Applications Close Dec. 25 for the Local Public Health Nurse Regional Consultants

Please use the [attached document](#) to determine which municipalities are in each region. Applications will close on Wednesday, Dec. 25. Please refer to the job postings if you have any questions.

- [Central MA Regional Consultant](#)
- [Eastern MA Regional Consultant](#)
- [Northeast MA Regional Consultant](#)
- [Southeast MA Regional Consultant](#)

The Elaine Marieb College of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, in partnership with OLRH, is launching a pioneering initiative to support local public health nurses and their health departments in each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns. In case you missed it, [read the full press release](#).

Racial and Health Equity Technical Support from Growing a New Heart

Looking for guidance or have questions about integrating racial and health equity goals into your work plans? Feel like racial equity is hard to put into action? Growing a New Heart is available to provide the guidance you need and be a thought partner to troubleshoot your questions. To request tailored technical support today, please contact Amparo Cruz at acruz@growinganewheart.org.

We will also provide [topic-based technical support](#) monthly. Online sessions will address work plan themes, including environmental justice, community engagement, workforce diversity, Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS), and linguistic justice. Save your spot, [register today](#)!

Private Well Impact Survey

With over 500,000 residents relying on private wells, the Commonwealth would like to gather information on **potential impacts on the water supply** of these residents. We ask that local public health officials complete a short, **five question survey** to help estimate the extent of this impact: <https://forms.office.com/g/NhDHSJRmqf>

For more information on the current drought conditions, technical guidance regarding drought management actions and for drought-related tools and outreach materials, please visit www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management; for water conservation information, go to www.mass.gov/conservemawater.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) State Needs and Services Assessment Survey

The aim of this survey is to gain an understanding of the current level of familiarity with FASDs throughout the state of Massachusetts. The survey should take about 20 minutes

to complete. The data collected from this survey is completely anonymous. The data will be used to create a community health improvement plan and an updated statewide resource list for the FASD community.

Click here to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFP7LBP>

We hope that you choose to complete the survey to help better provide services for individuals and families impacted by FASDs! Please reach out to Reuben Kittrell (reubenkittrell@healthrecovery.org) or Jennifer Margolis (jennifermargolis@healthrecovery.org) with any questions regarding the survey.

CDC Announces Model Aquatic Health Code, Fifth Edition

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the release of the Model Aquatic Health Code's (MAHC's) [fifth edition](#). The MAHC is a set of guidelines intended to prevent injury and illness at public aquatic venues, such as pools, hot tubs, and splash pads, and created in a collaborative effort between public health officials and aquatics sector leaders.

NACCHO: Falls Prevention Guide and Issue Brief

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announces the publication of two new clinical older adult fall prevention products developed with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Issue brief entitled [Connecting Care: A Framework for Local Health Departments to Address Fall Prevention Effort](#). This issue brief highlights case studies of clinical older adult falls prevention programs including their program description, model, and evaluation.
- Guide entitled [Older Adult Fall Prevention Program Evaluation Guidance](#), which was developed for local health departments seeking to evaluate clinical older adult falls prevention programs.

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December Webinar

Each month, the Office of Local and Regional Health provides webinars on various topics relevant to local public health. This month's topics included the Local Public Health Partner Survey findings, data solution update, drought update, FPHS update, and the regional public health nurse positions. [View slides](#), [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, Jan. 7**, to us via email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Thursday, Jan. 2**. 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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RS/REHS Online Prep Course - 4 Spots Open!

The Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) and the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) are offering their members an [RS/REHS online prep course](#) at a rate of **\$499**. This 33-hour online prep course is designed to help you pass the REHS exam! They have a few courses left for purchase in this round for the RS/REHS online prep course. **Available for MHOA/MEHA members only.**

Infectious Diseases and Identities: Recognizing and Reducing Stigma

The New England Public Health Training Center has added a new free, virtual, self-paced course that offers a deep dive into the complex relationships between stigma, identities, and infectious diseases. You'll learn to recognize the impact of stigma not only on public health but also on individual practices, as people may avoid disclosure when they don't feel accepted. [Enroll in the course.](#)

Model Tobacco Sales Regulation Information Training

This program, provided by the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) will provide an overview of the new model tobacco sales regulations with technical assistance providers. It will also go over policy and strategy recommendations for improving local tobacco control. The most recent model regulations will be provided to attendees following the course.

Monday, Jan. 6

1 p.m.

[Register to attend](#)

NACCHO EMPOWERment Webinar: Navigating Crisis Communication

Hear firsthand stories and strategies from North Carolina's response to Hurricane Helene, focusing on the critical role of messaging in times of crisis.

This webinar will explore the powerful partnership between emergency management and public health agencies, uncovering the most effective strategies for communicating with diverse communities. Learn how to craft clear, concise warnings, provide actionable response instructions, and build trust in your messaging.

Thursday, Jan. 16

2 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Retail Tobacco Inspection Training

The Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) has added another date for their Retail Tobacco Inspection Training. This training has a capacity of 20 people, please register in order to reserve your spot.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

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Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services is Hiring!

The Town of Longmeadow is hiring an **Health Inspector**, covering the towns of Hampden, Monson, Longmeadow, and Wilbraham. The position is responsible for administering state and local health and environmental codes, laws, and policies, including regulations from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, as well as Board of Health policies and other state and local public health regulations. [Learn more about this position.](#)

Berkshire is Hiring!

Are you an experienced public health agent/inspector passionate about making a difference in public health practice in Berkshire and Hampden Counties and like the idea of sharing your knowledge and experience? Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Berkshire-Hampden Public Health Training Hub is looking for a **Public Health Training Specialist** to join our team of public health professionals to provide training and support to local boards of health inspectors in Berkshire and Hampden County. [Learn more about this position.](#)

Are you passionate about public health emergency preparedness and ready to make an impact in Berkshire County? Join the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Public Health team as a **Planner/Senior Planner** and help strengthen local emergency planning, response, and training while collaborating with regional and state partners to enhance community resilience. [Learn more about this position.](#)

The North East Public Health Alliance is Hiring!

The Town of Tyngsborough is hiring a **Regional Inspector**, covering the towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Tewksbury, and Tyngsborough. The role will be responsible for performance of technical and inspectional work to promote and protect the public health of the community through enforcement of state and local laws and regulations. [Learn more about this position](#) and [apply here](#).

The Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health is Hiring!

The Town of Northborough is hiring a **Regional Public Health Nurse** covering the towns of Boylston, Northborough, Southborough, and Westborough. This position is responsible for implementing and coordinating public health nursing services across the region, including disease surveillance, health education, and wellness programming. [Learn more about this position](#) and [apply here](#).

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.

Department of Public Health (DPH):

- [Administrative Support Specialist - Contractor](#) | Boston
- [Executive Assistant](#) | Westfield

DPH Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality (BHCSQ):

- [RN, Health Care Facility Inspector](#)

DPH Bureau of Professional Health Licensure (BPHL):

- [Licensure Coordinator - Contractor](#), Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration Program | Boston

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2025 Resilience Catalysts in Public Health Pilot Program

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Health Equity and Social Justice team has launched the Request for Applications (RFA) for the [2025 Resilience Catalysts in Public Health Pilot Program](#) which will close on **Tuesday, Dec. 31**.

Backed by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this exciting initiative invites local health departments to pilot innovative tools aimed at boosting community resilience and advancing health equity efforts. Don't miss the chance to be part of this impactful program.

RFP: Just Leaders for a Just Health System

Just Leaders for a Just Health System ([JUSTICE SQUARED](#)) invites healthcare organizations, patients, and community leaders to engage in a collaborative, humble, and courageous journey to confront structural racism in healthcare together.

In this two-year program, teams will receive tools and hands-on guidance from experts in racial justice and systems change as they work to make organizational policies and practices more equitable. **Proposals are due January 15, 2025.** [Learn more](#) and [apply](#).

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Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) 2023 Annual Report Now Available

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's (CLPPP) 2023 Annual Report is [now available](#). This report highlights some of CLPPP's work throughout 2023, including efforts around the applesauce recalls as well as the emergency assistance shelters.

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FPHS Newsletter

The *FPHS Newsletter* is designed to provide local public health (LPH) with useful content about FPHS's value. It also offers updates about what FPHS means for Local Public Health and other updates.

The most recent addition included a story on a program from Hopkinton showing how FPHS is being used in communities already. Check out the [newsletter archive](#)!

Didn't receive it or want to share with those interested? [Sign up!](#)

FPHS Website

Check out our new [FPHS page](#) on Mass.gov to learn more about what FPHS means for local public health and share with your networks.

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NACCHO: Wastewater Surveillance Mentorship Program 2025

NACCHO, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is currently seeking applications for **twelve mentee sites** and **six mentor sites** to participate in the 2025 Wastewater Surveillance Mentorship Program.

Selected mentee sites will receive funding in the amount of up to \$20,000 each and selected mentor sites will receive up to \$25,000. Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted through [OpenWater](#) no later than **Friday, Dec. 20**. Learn more and [access the full RFA](#) and [check out what previous cohorts have gained from joining this mentorship program](#).

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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COLOR

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

COMMUNICATION

- [Digital Accessibility for Local Public Health Department Websites](#)
- [Public Health Communications Collaborative](#)
- [MA Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#) | DPH

DROUGHT

- [EEA Drought Overview Presentation](#): including information about the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, actions and response, and assistance for communities
- [MEMA Overview](#): including how to request support
- [DEP Update](#): including information about Drought & Water Management Act permits and registrations, suggested responses for water suppliers, and Wetlands Protection Act Drought implications
- [Massachusetts Drought Resources](#): general drought and water conservation information, community resources, and private well resources
- www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management
- www.mass.gov/conservemawater

MAVEN

- [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)

- [MAVEN Help](#)
 - [MAVEN Guidance Document Series](#)
 - State Epidemiologist Line (24/7): 617-983-6800
-

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Guidance

- [Respiratory Virus Guidance](#) | CDC
- [Recommendations for the General Public](#) | DPH
- [Guidance for Health Care Settings](#) | DPH

Clinics

- [Mobile Clinics](#) | DPH
- [In-Home Vaccination Program](#) | DPH

COVID-19

- [Mobile Clinics](#) | DPH
- [In-Home Vaccination Program](#) | DPH
- [Statewide Contract Resources](#) | DPH
 - PPE, Test Kits, etc.
- [COVIDtests.gov](#)
- [Extended expiration dates](#)

Influenza

- [Influenza](#) | DPH
 - [For Health Care and Public Health Professionals](#) | DPH
 - [For School and Child Care Administrators](#) | DPH
 - [For Long-Term Care Facilities](#) | DPH
-

TRAIN MA

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

WINTER WEATHER

- [Winter Ready](#) | FEMA
- [Winter Ready Partners Toolkit](#) | FEMA

- [Winter Storm Safety Tips](#) | MEMA
- [Warming Centers Guidance](#) | Mass.gov
- [Extreme Cold Safety Tips](#) | Mass.gov
- [Preparing for a Winter Storm](#) | CDC
- [Indoor Safety During and After Winter Storms](#) | CDC

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If you have any comments, questions, or feedback, please email:

localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov

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