

From Office of Local & Regional Health
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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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Thursday, January 22, 2026

Feedback on the Pulse? [Contact us](#)

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Announcements Happening Now Webinar

Events & Trainings Careers Equity

FPHS Funding Resources

Report My Meal: New online system for reporting suspected foodborne illness

DPH is excited to share that a new, online system for reporting suspected foodborne illness to state and local health officials is now live: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/report-my-meal>

Information entered in the new system, called Report My Meal, generates a foodborne illness complaint (FBI) event in MAVEN. For more information, [check out our recent email](#).

Color satisfaction survey

The DPH Immunization Division's annual Color satisfaction survey asks all Color users to provide their feedback on day-to-day clinic operations within Color, training on the platform, experiences with DPH and Color support teams, and new feature rollouts. **Please take 10 minutes to [complete the](#)**

Apply to host a Local Health Intern

Hosting a Local Health Intern is more than mentorship. It is added capacity for the public health work that matters most in your community. DPH invites you to submit a project proposal to host one or more public health student interns for Summer 2026, here are some [2025 Project Examples](#).

- **Application closes:** Friday, Feb. 6, 2026
- **Host notification:** Friday, Feb. 13, 2026
- **Internship period:** May 27 - Aug. 12, 2026

[Apply to host a Summer 2026 Local Health Intern](#) (Note: requires Google account- must be logged in)

Tier 2 dates released for food and housing

OLRH is excited to share Tier 2 dates for both the Massachusetts Retail Food and Housing Inspection Training Program for Spring 2026.

Housing

- May 6, from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (In-Person - Marlborough, Mass.)
- May 19, 20, & 21, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Food

- June 2, 3, & 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Virtual)
- June 9 & 10, from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (In-person - Marlborough, Mass.)

To qualify for Tier 2, you must be registered for Tier 1 ([food](#) and [housing](#)) on TRAIN and have **completed all Tier 1 coursework by Jan. 31, 2026**. All qualified participants will be contacted by email with instructions on how to enroll in Tier 2 in **February**.

Special topic webinar: Communicating about public health with policymakers

The Office of Local and Regional Health is excited to announce a Special Webinar for Local Public Health on **Tuesday, Feb. 24, from noon to 1 p.m.**, in partnership with the [Public Health Communications Collaborative](#) and the de Beaumont Foundation on the [policymaker toolkit](#) for public health practitioners. Join the webinar using the link for our monthly webinars!

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Special topic webinar: HIPAA

Thank you to everyone who joined the recent webinar on HIPAA earlier this week. You can [view the slides](#) from the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB).

Tuberculosis testing standing orders released

DPH has released the 2026 edition of the model TST standing order for all local boards of health

[View the standing orders for Tuberculin skin testing.](#)

Significant drought conditions declared in parts of Mass.

Residents can report dry environmental conditions and submit photos on the [Massachusetts Water Impact Reporter](#). Additionally, a [FAQ](#) is now available for questions regarding the current drought status and water conservation; and private well owners can go [here](#) for information on how the drought may impact them. [Read more in our recent advisory.](#)

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January webinar

This month's topics included an update on pediatric vaccine schedules, the Local Health Internship Program, flavored tobacco guidance, [SAPHE 2.0](#) reporting, [Connect351](#) conference, and more.

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

We want to hear from you!

We value your input and welcome your suggestions for future webinar topics - please email us at localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov.

Need to register?

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

Current events in immunization: Childhood vaccinations and high flu activity

During this session, DPH will discuss recent changes to childhood and adolescent immunization guidance, explain our recommendation to use the AAP immunization schedule, and provide an update on what could become one of the most severe flu seasons in decades.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

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

[Register to attend and submit questions](#)

Webinar series: Environmental health exchange with MassDEP

Join the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for a virtual meet & greet with staff from the Central Region Bureau of Air & Waste on [Thursday, Jan. 29](#) from 11 a.m. - noon

Free to [register](#), but limited to 25 participants from the [Central Region](#). Keep an eye out for the Southeast region in mid-February!

Join office hours to discuss Metrik

Do you have questions or feedback? We want to hear from you! Join any of the office hours listed below using this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630509245>

- Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 9., 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 19, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) body art facility inspector training

This one-of-a-kind [course](#) is designed to equip you with the foundational knowledge of body art practices, this training prepares you to conduct informed, risk-based inspections.

- Feb. 24 & 26, 2026 | Noon – 4 p.m. | [Register](#)
- April 14 & 16, 2026 | Noon – 4 p.m. | [Register](#)
- June 23 & 25, 2026 | Noon – 4 p.m. | [Register](#)

Cost: \$299 for NEHA members | \$349 for non-members

MEHA Title 5 seminar

This annual event brings more than 200 septic industry experts and public health professionals together for a full day of in-person learning and networking.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Taunton, Mass.

Cost: Member \$130 | Non-member \$180 | Retiree \$100

[Register to attend](#)

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Job opportunities at the local level

Find job opportunities across cities, towns, and shared service arrangements across the state in a variety of roles! Check out even more at [Careers in Local Public Health](#).

South Coast Public Health Collaborative

- [Shared Services Health Specialist](#)
- [Shared Services Community Health Specialist](#)

Norfolk County-8 | [Regional Public Health Nurse](#) (Maternal, Child, and Family Health)

Longmeadow | [Director of Public Health](#)

Find your future with the Commonwealth

[Find job opportunities](#) across industries including health and human services, health care, 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 Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality (BHCSQ):

- [Director, Determination of Need Program](#) | Boston
- [Registered Nurse, Health Care Facility Inspector, West Region](#) | Marlborough

DPH Shattuck Hospital:

- [Chief Quality Officer, RN](#) | Boston
- [Case Manager, RN IV](#) | Boston
- [Human Services Coordinator I](#) | Boston

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Creating a responsive practice for individuals with disabilities

The [Massachusetts Health and Disability Program](#) is pleased to offer health care providers trainings on making your practice accessible:

1. Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care and Screening to Individuals with Disabilities | [Register online](#)
2. Responsive Practice: Accessible and Adaptive Communication | [Register online](#)

After completing [the training](#), you will be invited to attend technical assistance sessions with the Massachusetts Health and Disability Program and self-advocates with disabilities. You'll be able to get answers to more of your questions on how to make your practice accessible.

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FPHS Corner will return shortly with results from the FPHS Shared Services Review

Check out the [newsletter archive](#) to find past FPHS newsletters and view the [FPHS resources](#) on Mass.gov to learn what FPHS means for local public health.

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NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program

Ever wondered how far your retail food program could go with the right support? The Grant Year 26–27 National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) - Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [RFFM Grant](#) Application Portal is open—but only until **February 12!**

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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If you have any questions, please email:
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