

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, July 11, 2024

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

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Announcements Webinar Events & Training

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Congratulations on Your Retirement, Sue!

Congratulations to Sue Rosa who retired as the Director of Public Health for the Town of Chelmsford, after 26 years in public health service! We thank Sue for her hard work and dedication to local public health, and congratulate her on a well-earned retirement!

DPH Publishes Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report

DPH's Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences has published an updated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report, containing data through 2022. The report is available [online](#) and can also be [downloaded directly](#).

For the first time, this comprehensive report collects in one place **information on reported cases of hepatitis A, B, and C in Massachusetts**, and features new analyses and visualizations, such as **age-adjusted rates of cases by race and ethnicity group**, and data related to the effectiveness of the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program. Data contained in this report continue to emphasize the contribution of drug use and unstable housing to the transmission of viral hepatitis. Feedback from partners on the utility of the report, including information that is particularly useful and suggested inclusions for future iterations, is welcome and can be sent to Erin.K.Mann@mass.gov.

DPH Local Health Internship Program Feedback

The [Local Health Internship Program](#), hosted by the DPH's Division of Epidemiology, has placed public health interns annually in local health departments since 2004. This survey aims to gather feedback to improve the program, ensuring it continues to provide valuable hands-on public health experiences while also building local public health capacity. Your responses will be used internally to refine and enhance the internship experience. *Even if you have never hosted an intern, your responses will help us to understand barriers and limitations of the program.*

Please note that the survey is not anonymous, as we may need to follow up on specific feedback to address concerns or suggestions effectively. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. **Complete the survey by Monday, July 22:**

<https://forms.office.com/g/FirBC0CkBb>

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July 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 Community EMS Program Overview and Tobacco Updates.

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 webinar, on **August 6**, to us via email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Wednesday, July 31**. We value your input and welcome your suggestions for future webinar topics.

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

- If you have **not yet registered** for this webinar series, use this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A8RODgL2QtabJlqdNTpV1g
- 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](#)).

Special Topic Webinar - Enhancing Vaccine Equity in Massachusetts Strategies for Local and Regional Public Health

With the fourth largest internal migration in the country in 2020, Barnstable County has successfully maintained high vaccination coverage. The Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, a combination county-level health department and a shared service arrangement (SSA), has largely contributed to the county's high vaccination rates.

Join OLRH and DPH's Vaccine Management Unit for a Special Topic Webinar from **3 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16**, exploring the collaborative success in Barnstable County. This webinar will highlight tips, resources, and misconceptions about the State Vaccine Program. Session presenters also will discuss strategies to address multiple [Foundational Public Health Service](#) (FPHS) areas, which may help both local health departments and SSAs develop FPHS programs while improving their community's health. [Register to attend online.](#)

Practical Application of the Foundational Public Health Services

Are you aware of how the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) are being implemented nationwide? On July 18, join the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) Center for Innovation, home to the FPHS, for a 75-minute mini-course that will outline examples of the FPHS framework in action and contain exercises for practical application that can be used to transform public health. Participants will be introduced to tools and resources and walk away with strategies and methods to implement the FPHS in their own context.

Thursday, July 18
2 - 3:15 p.m.
[Register online](#)

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 based on the **exam's August 1 changes**. 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

MHOA 2024 Annual Conference 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!** The full conference member price during advance registration is \$550. To register a group of people on one invoice, please send a list of names, email addresses, and food allergies for each person and a point of contact for follow up to lpacella@mhoa.com.

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.](#)

Summer is in full swing and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) offer some [tips to stay safe and healthy](#) especially if you have children, an outdoor job, or are near water.

Join ASTHO for a unique exploration of disability equity in emergency preparedness drawing

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

As we await the launch of the MAVRIC electronic

death registration system, training is available 24/7. Training for burial agents are available now through TRAIN Massachusetts. Take full advantage of the videos, quick start guides and instructional guides. A dedicated TRAIN help desk at DPH-TrainHelp@mass.gov can assist with any questions.

ent of Public Health will share valuable information and addressing barriers to access ical tools and data-driven approaches for ancy preparedness framework.

For regular updates and a [MAVRIC FAQ](#), please monitor [MAVRIC: Massachusetts Vital Records Information Collaborative](#).

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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/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

- Check out [FindHelp.org](#) to search by ZIP code for a list of resources.

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