

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

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

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Tuesday, May 9, 2024

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

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Announcements Webinar Events & Training

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Please Complete the Local Public Health Survey!

Please help us by participating in the **bi-annual Local Public Health Partner Survey**, which aims to assess local public health professionals' understanding of and satisfaction with the services provided by OLRH. This second iteration of the survey contains some new and timely questions, and findings will continue to be used to **evaluate** and **improve** the performance of OLRH to better meet the needs of local public health partners.

Please complete the survey by [clicking this link](#) by **Wednesday, May 15**. A PDF copy of the survey can also be found [here](#). It can be filled out and scanned/emailed back to OLRHEval@hria.org. If you have questions about the survey, please contact our evaluation partner, Health Resources in Action, at OLRHEval@hria.org. We thank you for your participation!

Happy Nurses Week!

Thank you to all the nurses working in local public health for everything you do to keep Massachusetts residents healthy. We see and value your work, thank you!

The 2024 County Health Rankings National Findings Report is Available

The 2024 National Findings Report explores how creating community spaces where everyone can engage, be informed and have a say is key to healthy communities and to our democracy. This requires attention to policies and practices that exclude people and communities from participating.

[Read the report.](#)

How Healthy is Your Community?

Data is available for the state and county level on many health outcomes and health factors.

[Explore the data.](#)

Provide Feedback on the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)!

Please help us by reviewing the [State Health Improvement Plan](#) and [providing feedback](#) by **Wednesday, May 15**. The feedback form will take approximately 3-5 minutes to complete. Thank you for taking the time to help us improve! [Learn more.](#)

Congratulations on your Retirement, Mary!

Congratulations to Mary Goodwin, who retired after **16 years as the Public Health Nurse for the Town of Cohasset**, and 46 years as a Registered Nurse (RN)! We thank Mary for her hard work and dedication to local public health, and congratulate her on a well-earned retirement!

If you have any retirements to shout out in the newsletter, please send them to: localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov.

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May 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 on Steward Health Care, State Health Improvement Plan, beach water reporting dashboard, Powassan virus & avian influenza, local public health partner survey, and a FPHS update.

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

We Want to Hear From You!

Submit your questions and recommended topics for the next webinar on **Tuesday, June 4**, to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Wednesday, May 29**. 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

- * 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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Public Health Museum: Free Movie Night

Enjoy a screening of "Contagion" at the Tewksbury Public Library in collaboration with the Public Health Museum. Synopsis: *Healthcare professionals, government officials and everyday people find themselves in the midst of a pandemic as the CDC works to find a cure.*

After the film, stick around for a Q&A with Dr. Leo Liu, a former editor for ProMED (the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases), a global disease surveillance network that was the first international organization to report on the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak as well as many other epidemics. [Register online](#) to attend from 5:30 - 7:15 p.m. Saturday, May 11.

Amended Camp Regulation Training

[Register online](#) to attend a virtual training on the amended recreational camp regulations from 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15.

Nominate an Immunization Champion

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) has announced that it has extended the deadline for [nominations](#) for the [2024 Immunization Champion Award](#). That means you have until Friday, May 17, to fill out the [nomination forms](#), and send them to ted.f.clark@mass.gov (please do not send nominations to AIM - DPH will collect nominations and select the candidate to represent the Commonwealth).

Public Health Museum: Outbreak! 2024 Explore the World of Public Health

Outbreak is a FREE, interactive, challenging, summer program for high school students to explore the history, world, and careers of public health. It runs from Monday, July 22 - Friday, July 26. Students can attend class at the Public Health Museum in Tewksbury, Mass. on Monday and Tuesday. Virtual students will be connected to the museum classroom.

Accepting applications until Wednesday, May 22. Apply online at: <https://bit.ly/44uQLO5>. Questions? Email outbreak@publichealthmuseum.org.

Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) 76th Annual Seminar

MEHA's Annual Seminar is right around the corner! Join us for our 76th Annual Seminar on Wednesday, May 22, at Firefly's Barbeque in Marlborough, Mass. The keynote speaker will be [Dr. Joseph Shrand and the cast of Drug Story Theater](#), a group of young adults who will share true stories about addiction recovery through heartfelt live performances. Plus, presentations about food safety, tobacco regulations, and opioid abatement funds.

- * **8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 22**
- * Fee: \$125 for MEHA Members and \$160 for Non-Members
- * Contact Hours for credentials available
- * [Register online](#)

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

MHOA is using the waitlist to allocate on a first come, first served basis.

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 from MHOA and MEHA. 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.](#)

FREE Public Health Informatics & Technology Courses at Middlesex Community College

Thanks to generous grant funding, Middlesex Community College (MCC) is now 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 2024.

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 seamlessly 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

Save the Date: NAACHO's First Local Health Monthly Meeting Series

NACCHO is launching a regular meeting for Local Health Officials (LHO) to build connection across the LHO community, ensure timely updates, and allow for dialogue and discussion with federal partners on a regular basis. The meeting will occur on the 4th Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. ET. Save the date for next meeting on Thursday, May 23, at 3 p.m. ET. Registration info to follow.

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Ludlow is Hiring!

The Town of Ludlow is looking for a **Health Inspector**. This position will conduct all required inspections for the Town of Ludlow pursuant to Federal Food Codes, Massachusetts Sanitary Code, Massachusetts Title-V Codes, Massachusetts Housing Codes, and others, as well as local regulations and by-laws. [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.

- *** Regional Public Health Nurse** - This position will perform disease surveillance, investigation, and documentation. Coordinates and conducts regional health related clinics. Bilingual in Portuguese or Spanish a plus. [Learn more about the position.](#)
- *** Regional Title 5 Independent Contractor** - This position will provide code enforcement support for issues related to the Massachusetts Environmental Code Title 5 and various tasks associated with onsite wastewater treatment and disposal. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Foxborough is Hiring!

The Town of Foxborough is looking for a **Community Health Nurse**. The role is a grant funded position that works on behalf of the Towns of Easton, Foxborough, Mansfield, Norton, Plainville, and Sharon. The candidate must be a Registered Nurse (RN). Candidates who hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) or experience in the public health field will be preferred. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Medford is Hiring!

The City of Medford is looking for **TWO Registered Sanitarians** to perform inspection and technical work in the enforcement and interpretation of applicable State and local City of Medford codes relating to sanitation, and environmental/public health practices and principles. 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.

Commissioner's Office (DPH):

- * [Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategy](#)

Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH):

- * [Toxicologist](#)

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS):

- * [Pathogen Genomics and Medical Contract Coordinator](#)

Bureau of Community Health and Prevention (BCHAP):

- * [Domestic Violence Program Coordinator](#)
- * [Asthma Healthy Homes Program Coordinator](#)

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP):

- * [Environmental Analyst IV - Wetlands, Hwy Unit](#)

Student Opportunities: Practicums, Internships, and More!

Are you a current student looking to build your experience, find a practicum or internship, network with other public health professionals, and help build healthier communities? Find opportunities from the [Academic Public Health Corps](#):

- * [Jobs in Local Health](#)
- * [Join The Corps \(for student interns\)](#)

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MassDEP Air Sensor Grants Available

MassDEP accepts applications on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funding is spent. Learn more and apply online at <https://bit.ly/3UFFk30>.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is offering a grant opportunity for tribes, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and municipalities to receive, for FREE, between five and 10 [PurpleAir](#) sensors to measure levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in their communities' outdoor air for at least one year. MassDEP encourages placing air sensors in communities with [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) populations](#).

RWJF Culture of Health Prize 2024 Applications are Open!

Is your community actively working to ensure residents have what they need to reach their best health and wellbeing? The 2024 Culture of Health Prize call for applications is now open until June 3. The Prize will recognize up to 10 communities with an unrestricted \$250,000 award and national recognition. If you are part of a community that's addressing barriers to health and wellbeing so that everyone can have the opportunity to thrive, you and your partners may wish to apply.

Applications are due **3 p.m. Monday, June 3**
Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3TnJJpo>

Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Applications Now Open!

The Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act 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.

These grants support capital improvements specifically dedicated to:

- * improving programmatic access,
- * removing barriers encountered by persons with disabilities in applicant facilities,
- * or both of the above.

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.

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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Serving People with Disabilities

Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) often receives questions from public places about how to best serve their customers with disabilities. This training will give local entities that interact with the public (for example: state and local government, businesses, and other service-providers) a basic overview of their disability-related legal obligations when serving the public.

- * **1 - 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 29**
- * [Register online](#)

NAACHO to Launch Re-Vamped Roots of Health Inequity Course

This July, the Health Equity and Social Justice team at NACCHO is proud to unveil a revamped version of its [Roots of Health Inequity Online Course](#) to explore what generates health inequity, and how public health professionals can more effectively tackle these root causes. For questions, please email rootsofhealthinequity@naccho.org.

Exploring the FPHS Framework: Foundational Capabilities (FC)

The Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Framework comprises **8 Foundational Capabilities, which include the required knowledge, skills, and abilities for successful FPHS implementation**. These capabilities encompass the cross-cutting skills or functional capacities necessary to support and enhance the Foundational Areas. Foundational Capabilities include Assessment & Surveillance, Community Partnership Development, Equity, Organizational Competencies, Policy Development & Support, Accountability & Performance Management, Emergency Preparedness & Response, and Communications.

The Foundational Capabilities form the base of the FPHS Framework and emphasize the importance of building a solid infrastructure to facilitate FPHS implementation. They are crucial for local public health system functionality and support widespread efforts towards promoting community health, well-being, and equitable health outcomes.

Image showing 8 Foundational Public Health Services Capabilities: 1. Assessment & Surveillance, 2. Community Partnership Development, 3. Equity, 4. Organizational Competencies, 5. Policy Development & Support, 6. Accountability & Performance Management, 7. Emergency Preparedness & Response, 8. Communications.

Foundational Capabilities include essential skills such as the ability to:

- * Provide timely, statewide, and locally relevant and accurate information
- * Maintain an organization-wide culture of quality and use quality improvement tools and methods
- * Develop, exercise, and maintain preparedness and response strategies and plans
- * Appropriately tailor communications and communications mechanisms for various diverse audiences
- * Manage human resource functions, including recruitment, retention, and succession planning

Each capability is essential to the work of local public health, and they will be tailored to Massachusetts through the FPHS Relevant Description Process to ensure they are applicable within the state's context.

In the May 23 *Pulse* Newsletter, we will explore the next component of the FPHS Framework—the 5 Foundational Areas—to understand how they form the essential framework for a comprehensive public health system.

Catch up on all the FPHS information and resources shared in our monthly webinars and the *Pulse* newsletter in the document [here](#).

State Health Improvement Plan

The State Health Improvement Plan is a long-term systematic effort to address public health challenges in Massachusetts. Both the [State Health Improvement Plan](#) and the [State Health Assessment](#) are live and available for [feedback](#).

DPH appreciates any feedback you are able to provide by **Wednesday, May 15**. Both the [slide deck](#) and [results from the mentimeter](#) on Tuesday are also attached. Any questions can be directed to: dph.statehealthassessment@mass.gov.

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

RVRS is tracking for a July 2024 launch of the electronic death registration process of the Massachusetts Vital Records Information Collaborative ([MAVRIC](#)) system. MAVRIC will be implemented in phases, starting with the electronic death registrations. Birth and marriage registration in MAVRIC will follow in 2025.

[Training for burial agents](#) are available now through [TRAIN Massachusetts](#). Once enrolled, you can take full advantage of the videos, quick start guides and instructional guides available. 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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TRAIN MA

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

RECREATIONAL CAMPS

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

BATHING BEACHES

- * [Interactive Beach Water Quality Dashboard](#)
 - * Check to see which beaches are open or closed
-

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
-

TICK-BORNE DISEASE

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

MAVEN

- * [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)
 - * 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 14: Introduction to Legionella Case Investigation
 - * [MAVEN Help](#)
 - * [MAVEN Guidance Document Series](#)
 - * State Epidemiologist Line (24/7): 617-983-6800
-

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.
-

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