

From "Office of Local & Regional Health"
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To coadirector@doverma.org
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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, June 20, 2024

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

Click on each icon to jump to that section

Announcements Webinar Events & Training

Careers Funding Equity

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TRAIN MA - LPHI Course Record Transfer Update

Since the sunset of the Local Public Health Institute (LPHI) website on April 1, 2024, OLRH has been dedicated to the seamless transfer of course completion records from LPHI to TRAIN Massachusetts (TRAIN MA). Our focus has been to ensure the accuracy and security of each user's course record transfer. To date, we have successfully transferred the course completion records for more than 425 registered TRAIN MA users.

If you had previously completed courses through LPHI and do not see them reflected in your TRAIN MA account, please complete the [LPHI to TRAIN MA Course Record Transfer Request form](#) to have your course record history transferred to your TRAIN MA account. This form will be taking submissions **through June 30, 2024**.

If you have any questions, email Amy Tisdell, OLRH Senior Local and Regional Health Learning & Development Coordinator, at OLRHTrainingSupport@mass.gov.

BCEH Local Health Survey Closes Today

The DPH Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH) Environmental Toxicology Program thanks those who have already provided input to help develop and improve **environmental health training** to support local health officials and the communities you serve. If you haven't participated in BCEH's Local Health Survey, there's still time to share more information about your **professional interests and work-based experiences** related to environmental health topics.

The survey is for all local health officials and staff. It takes about 15 minutes to complete. Please complete using Chrome or Edge by end of today **Thursday, June 20**:

https://redcap.link/MADPH_Local_Health_Survey

Hemp Derived CBD and THC Not Allowed in Food and Beverages Manufactured or Sold in Massachusetts

DPH and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) issued the following [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document to make clear that addition of **CBD and/or THC to food manufactured or sold in Massachusetts is illegal**.

Implementation of Flavored Tobacco Products Regulation

Please read the following [DPH advisory](#) for clarification on **flavored tobacco products**. Retail establishments that are not licensed smoking bars should **remove these products from their premises no later than 30 days after this release (July 6, 2024)**.

NACCHO Immunization Profile Study Report Released

NACCHO recently released their newest Immunization Profile Study report at bit.ly/3wLjdix! Explore the data to learn more about the local health department immunization landscape in 2023, including workforce capacity, efforts to improve vaccine access, partnerships, and data modernization priorities.

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Special Topic Webinar - Enhancing Vaccine Equity in Massachusetts

Strategies for Local and Regional Public Health

3 p.m. Tuesday, July 16

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) area, which may help both local health departments and SSAs develop FPHS programs while improving their community's health.

July 9 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. **PLEASE NOTE: The next monthly webinar will be held the SECOND Tuesday in July due to the holiday on Tuesday, July 9.**

We Want to Hear From You!

Submit your questions and recommended topics for the next webinar to us by email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Tuesday, July 2**. 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](#)).

In Case You Missed the June Webinars

This month's webinar featured updates from Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, Hemp CBD/THC FAQ, Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey, Lead Service Line Replacement, PCEs/ACEs Dashboard, short term pool advisory, and a FPHS update. The Office also hosted a Special Webinar with the Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health called "Extreme Heat 101", including tips and resources for keeping your communities safe during summer heatwaves.

- * **June 4:** View the [slides from the webinar](#), [answers to questions](#) asked during the webinar, and related [resources](#).
- * **June 18** Special Webinar (Extreme Heat): [View the slides](#) from the webinar and [answers to questions](#) asked during the webinar

Recreational Camp Injury and Incident Reporting and Preventing Heat Related Illness

The Department of Public Health Community Sanitation Program (CSP) will host a webinar for **camp operators** on how to utilize the online Recreational Camp Injury and Incident Report Form as well as how to prevent heat related illness at camp. CSP will provide a morning webinar session at 9:00 am and an afternoon webinar session at 4:00 pm, with the same information being presented in each session.

Monday, June 24

9 a.m. or 4 p.m.

Register to attend the [9 a.m. session](#) or [4 p.m. session](#)

Reach out to Recreationalcamps@mass.gov with any questions.

Yankee Onsite Water Association (YOWA) Training: Nitrogen and the Effect on Onsite Wastewater Systems

Learn about the nitrogen cycle and the effect on onsite wastewater systems. I/A technologies and new Cape & Islands regulations will also be reviewed. SE/SI credits are pending approval.

Tuesday, June 25

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

UMass Mt. Ida Campus

Newton, Mass.

Members: \$100 | Non-Members:

\$160

[Register online to attend](#)

Postitive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Dashboard Interactive Session

Join our DPH colleagues from the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention to explore the Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PCEs & ACEs) Data Dashboard. This dashboard shares selected data collected from surveys on PCEs and ACEs among Massachusetts residents by experience and their population groups. The different tabs show the results of Massachusetts resident survey responses for a topic and can be filtered by survey year, survey, population group, and experience.

[View the Dashboard](#) and [download the Dashboard User Guide](#)

Tuesday, June 25

1 - 2 p.m.

[Register to attend online](#)

Reach out to Lindsey.Sagasta@mass.gov for additional workshop/training opportunities for groups, questions, comments, or feedback.

BUSPH Public Health Conversations: Teaching Public Health: Transforming Education for Public Health

This is the sixth installment of Boston University's Teaching Public Health

Public Health Communications Collaborative: Engaging the Media to Amplify Public Health Messaging

This webinar will provide public health communicators with essential skills to effectively collaborate with media professionals. Expert panelists will share their insights on tailoring public health messages for different media formats and best practices for delivering important information to media and their readers.

Wednesday, June 26

1:30 - 3 p.m.

[Register to attend online](#)

NACCHO: Local Health Official Monthly Engagement Meeting

NACCHO is launching a monthly Local Health Official (LHO) call to foster connection across the local public health community on a regular basis. Meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month and will include guidance and initiatives from CDC, FDA, and other federal partners. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and ensure federal efforts are workable locally.

3 p.m. Thursday, June 27

[Register to attend](#)

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

MHOA and MEHA, in partnership, are pleased to offer their members a [RS/REHS online prep course by Walter Saraniecki](#) for \$499. This 33-hour online prep course is designed to help you pass the REHS exam.

This is a members-only benefit and 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.](#)

Save the Date: Nicotine Free Generation Webinar from MHOA

Nicotine Free Generation replaces the minimum age sales law on tobacco and vape products. Only those who are 21 or older on a designated date may continue purchasing nicotine products, those under 21 would not. How did this policy come about and what are the recommended steps if your municipality is interested?

MHOA 2024 Annual Conference Early, Early Bird Registration Open

The conference will take place November 13 - 15 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass. Take advantage of the early bird rate available for members only from **June 10 - 30**.

• *

Full Conference: \$540 (price increases by \$10 starting July 1)

• *

Student/Retiree: \$265

Please note that early bird registration payments must be received by **Wednesday, July 31** to secure these rates. 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.

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**

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.](#)

Foothills Health District is Hiring!

The Foothills Health District, covering the towns of Goshen, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Whatley, is seeking candidates to fill two positions:

- * **Office Manager (0.75 FTE)** - The position offers an option of a four-day work week, paid lunch, and is fully benefitted. Competitive salary commensurate with experience and education. Hiring range \$25-\$30/hour. [Learn more about the position.](#)
- * **Health Inspector (FTE)** - The position offers an option of a four-day work week and is fully benefitted with paid training. Competitive salary commensurate with experience and education. Hiring range: \$27- \$30/hour. [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. This collaborative is seeking a **Regional Title 5 Independent Contractor**. This position will provide code enforcement support for issues related to Title 5. [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.

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS):

- * [Community Health Worker](#)

Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH):

- * [Housing and Urban Development Grant Program Project Supervisor](#)
- * [Data and Visualization Specialist](#)

Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition (BFHN):

- * [Surveillance Coordinator and Epidemiologist](#)

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation Special Initiatives Grant Program

The [Special Initiatives grant program](#) provides organizations with a **one-time grant of up to \$50,000** to launch a new project over a one-year period. This grant is intended to fund projects that empower communities to advance health equity. Projects should positively impact the health needs of those Massachusetts residents who have been economically, socially, culturally, or racially marginalized. The Foundation expects to award between 5 and 6 grants.

Proposals are due by 12 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 31.**

- * [Visit the website](#), [view the Special Initiatives Guidelines](#), and [sign up for office hours](#).
- * For programmatic questions, contact Jacquie Anderson at jacquie.anderson@bcbsma.com
- * For questions about the online portal, contact Evelyn Monteiro at evelyn.monteiro@bcbsma.com

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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Greater Boston Food Bank Released 2024 Annual Statewide Report

The Greater Boston Food Bank released their fourth annual statewide food equity and access report. This report highlights research on the state of food insecurity, equity, and access to critical nutrition programs in Massachusetts during 2023.

Approximately 1.9 million adults, or 34% of the state's households, report household food insecurity and 1 in 3 individuals report running out of food or not having enough money to buy food each month. [Read the report to learn more.](#)

Community Health Equity Survey Data Now Available

The Community Health Equity Initiative (CHEI) team released data from the 2023 Community Health Equity Survey (CHES). [Visit the CHEI website](#) to view the overview slides, download the data tables, and watch the CHEI Racial Justice Framing webinar to understand how to interpret and act upon results.

If you are interested in data, technical assistance, and capacity building support, fill out this [Data & Action Support interest form](#).

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Enhance Your FPHS Knowledge with the PHAB Interactive Module

The Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) is excited to offer an opportunity for local public health to improve their understanding of the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) through the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) Learning Center. This learning module will explore the history and evolution of FPHS, the role of equity in this framework, and the technical components of the Framework (Foundational Areas and Capabilities).

Learn more by following the instructions below to access the module.

How to access the PHAB training module:

1. 1. Navigate to the PHAB Learning Center by copying and pasting this URL into your browser: https://selfbridgestration.custom-bridgeapp.com/sign_up/phab
2. 2. Register as a New User by providing your information and clicking "Create Account."
3. 3. A verification will be sent to the email address provided from PHAB Education Services.
4. 4. Follow the provided link to finalize your account. If you do not receive this email within a few minutes, check your spam or junk email folders.
5. 5. Once you are on the PHAB Learning Center homepage, select the "Learning Library" tab at the top of the page and look for the course named "The Foundational Public Health Services: A Framework for Systems Change."
6. 6. Hover over the course title and click on "Enroll."
7. 7. Now you can begin the course.

This training provides a concrete step towards understanding and engaging with FPHS for Massachusetts Local Public Health officials.

The following *Pulse* newsletters will explore the Foundational Areas and Capabilities, starting with the Foundational Capability of Emergency Preparedness & Response.

All information related to FPHS shared in LBOH webinars and the *Pulse* newsletter is documented [here](#).

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Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey

The Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (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 (ASTHO). 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:

https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eflqleqT0sFL2xU



As we welcome the start of summer officially, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) offer some [tips to stay safe and healthy](#) especially if you have an outdoor job or are playing outdoors or near water.

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.

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.
 - * Guidance for municipalities on [Shelter Requirements and Exemptions in the Housing Code](#)
-

EXTREME HEAT

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

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