

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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Thursday, April 18, 2024

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

Click on each icon to jump to that section

Announcements Webinar Events & Training

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FPHS DPH Resources Contact Us

Clinical Considerations for Newly Arrived Residents

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is experiencing a high volume of inquiries from municipal organizations related to how to respond to the clinical needs of newly arrived residents in the Commonwealth. This webinar is targeted towards **clinical professionals from municipal organizations**. Panelists will include clinical subject matter experts from various DPH Programs. The webinar would cover the following topics in addition to time for questions and answers:

- * How to sign an individual/family up for MassHealth
- * How to connect an individual/family with a Primary Care Provider or Dentist
- * What is the anticipated wait time?
- * What if they need care right away?
- * How to get access to vaccines, a TB test, a physical for school, work, daycare, immigration paperwork

Tuesday, April 23

11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Virtual)

[Click here](#) to register.

Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Implementation

OLRH is excited to share updates related to the implementation of the FPHS Framework in Massachusetts as it relates to local public health responsibilities, starting with the FPHS Relevant Description Process! [Click to read more below.](#)

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April Webinar: COVID-19 Update, Arbovirus Season, Avian Influenza, Medical Reserve Corps, and Foundational Public Health Services Update

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 COVID-19, 2024 arbovirus season, avian influenza, the Medical Reserve Corps, and updates on Foundational Public Health Services.

[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, May 7**, to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Wednesday, May 1**. 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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Amended Recreational Camp Regulation Trainings

Below is a list of scheduled trainings the DPH Community Sanitation Program is conducting to provide guidance and tools for local health partners and special interest groups on the amended regulations:

- * [Massachusetts Camping Association \(MCA\)](#) | Wednesday, April 24, and Thursday, April 25 (in person)
- * [Massachusetts Health Officers Association \(MHOA\)](#) | Tuesday, April 30, and Thursday, May 2 (virtually)
- * [Suffolk County](#) | Monday, May 6, and Tuesday, May 7 (in person)

Additional trainings for other recreational camp special interest groups are also being conducted throughout Spring 2024. Please contact the organizations hosting the training with any questions. Thank you for all you do to provide recreational opportunities for children in your communities.

TRAIN Massachusetts Virtual Office Hours - New Sessions Added!

Thanks to positive feedback from attendees, OLRH invites you to join an additional Virtual Office Hour session. This session is tailored for new users of TRAIN Massachusetts (TRAIN MA). Whether you're a beginner or just looking to enhance your skills, this session will empower you with the knowledge needed to make the most of our software and maximize your learning.

Register for 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 25:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqO-srj8rGdTqafNwaZmXbf-FBjDUScpz>

Call for Abstracts - Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) Annual Conference

The MHOA 2024 Annual Conference will be at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass. from Nov. 13 - 15. With a larger venue, MHOA is looking to expand the number of tracks and learning sessions for attendees. MHOA is seeking abstracts for the following conference tracks:

- * Environmental Health
- * Food Safety
- * Wastewater
- * Public Health Nursing & Epidemiology
- * Public Health Potpourri
- * Local Public Health Practice: Back to Basics
- * Public Health Leadership and Management

The deadline to submit an abstract is 5 p.m. Monday, April 29. [Please see the abstract submission form for more details.](#)

MHOA/DPH Community Sanitation Program

MHOA is collaborating with the DPH Community Sanitation Program to host its 2024 virtual spring seminars. Learn about the latest updates on bathing beaches and recreational camps.

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 30

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Thursday, May 2

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3VnofLT>

Massachusetts Problem Gambling Conference

The DPH Office of Problem Gambling Services is excited to announce the [Massachusetts Problem Gambling Conference](#) on Friday, May 17. The conference will take place in-person at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, Mass. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact Francesca Golightly at Francesca.Golightly@mass.gov for more information.

Register by 11:45 p.m. Friday, May 3

Fee: \$20 (If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact ashley_robertson@jsi.com)

Register at: <https://bit.ly/49LHJ05>

Hosted by the DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS), the Intersections conference brings together a diverse group of thought leaders, practitioners, and community members. Sessions invite audiences to explore innovative approaches, unique perspectives, and best practices to respond to the health and social inequities that impact individuals' and communities' relationships with substances.

Tuesday, May 7

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Boston in Westborough

Fee: \$25 / \$75

[Register to attend](#)

Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses (MAPHN) 2024 Annual Conference

This year's theme is "*Public Health Nursing:
Advancing Health Equity and Overcoming
Challenges in an Ever-Changing Climate.*"

- * [Thursday Conference Full Day Agenda](#)
- * [Wednesday Afternoon & Evening
Agenda and Programming](#)

Wednesday, May 8, through Thursday, May 9

Hilton Woburn/Boston

Price Varies

How to Register: <https://www.maphn.org/events>

BUSPH Public Health Conversation: Nursing and the Health of the Public: The Next Decade

This discussion will reflect on the current challenges facing nurses in the United States, including staffing shortages and burnout. How will nursing evolve over the next decade and what actions can we take to better support the nursing community?

Wednesday, May 8

1 - 2:30 p.m.

[Register for this Zoom webinar](#)

Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) 76th Annual Seminar

The Massachusetts Environmental Health Association'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. Credit hours will be offered, with additional details coming soon.

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Melrose is Hiring!

The City of Melrose is looking for a **Health Inspector**. The Health Inspector works under the daily supervision of the Senior Health Inspector to perform inspections to ascertain compliance with Board of Health regulations, City Ordinances, and State rules and regulations in the City of Melrose and/or the Town of Wakefield. Please apply by **Wednesday, April 24**. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Foothills Health District (FHD) is Hiring!

Foothills Health District, covering Goshen, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Whatley, is looking for a **Health Inspector**. The position is full-time with the flexibility of 4-day work week and fully benefitted with paid training. Competitive salary commensurate with experience and education. [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):

- * [Grants Management Specialist](#)
- * [Laboratory Safety, Health, and Training Coordinator](#)
- * [Executive Operations Assistant](#)

Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH):

- * [Environmental Epidemiologist](#)
- * [Community Health Worker Coordinator](#) - CLPPP
- * [Supervisor of Primary Prevention and Infrastructure](#) - CLPPP

Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS):

- * [Substance Addiction Data Analyst](#)

Office of Problem Gambling Services (OPGS):

- * [Data & Evaluation Manager](#)

The Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act
St Grant Application for FY25 will open at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, May 1, through 5 p.m. Saturday,

Are you a current June 15. Visit our website for the [grant](#)

network with other [information and application](#). Any Massachusetts
opportunities from city or town is eligible to apply.

- * [Jobs in Local](#)
 - * [Join The Coalition](#)
- 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.

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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. This approach will provide a simplified process for eligible entities to access DPH funding, consolidate multiple sources of funding from DPH, and create a more efficient process for how certain funding is distributed.

All municipalities, regional planning agencies, regional council of governments, 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.

Applications are due **3 p.m. Monday, June 3**

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Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Application Opens Wednesday May 1

Three Principles to Communicate About Health Equity Concepts

Health Equity is complex, and communicating about it can be challenging. To achieve health equity and eliminate health disparities, we must reframe public health communication efforts to effectively address skepticism toward achieving health equity and to explain the underlying drivers of inequities.

Communicating using a health equity frame means focusing on creating broader understanding of the social, structural, and systemic factors that may impact health outcomes. [This resource](#) offers public health professionals three evidence-based principles with tangible strategies to clearly and effectively communicate about health equity concepts with diverse audiences.

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Building Collaborative Partnerships for FPHS Success

OLRH is excited to share updates about our journey towards implementing the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Framework in Massachusetts. The FPHS Framework offers local public health agencies in Massachusetts a flexible approach to strengthen service delivery.

In the coming months, OLRH will work closely with local public health (LPH) officials and subject-area experts to develop Massachusetts-specific examples, which complement the national FPHS Framework. This is what we are calling our **FPHS Relevant Description Process**. More than 100 public health professionals, working across Massachusetts, have agreed to participate in the process.

We understand it will take time for municipalities to build the capacity and training to implement every aspect. OLRH is committed to collaborating with LPH and forging strategic partnerships to ensure the national FPHS Framework becomes approachable and relevant to Massachusetts's local public health system. We recognize local public health is not responsible for providing all the services in the FPHS Framework.

In May, we will share more details related to the FPHS process in the year ahead.

Previous FPHS communications, information, and resources shared in the monthly LBOH Webinars, and the *Pulse* newsletter are documented [here](#).

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State Health Assessment Feedback

Please help us by reviewing the [State Health Assessment](#) and [providing feedback](#) on how the tool looks and represents Massachusetts public health data by **Monday, April 22**. The survey will take approximately **3 - 5 minutes** to complete. Thank you for taking time to provide us with your feedback.

For information and assistance in completing this online survey, please email dph.statehealthassessment@mass.gov. If you have questions about the SHA or the State Health Improvement Plan, contact Hae In Kim (haein.kim@mass.gov); if you have questions about Public Health Accreditation, contact Paul Oppedisano (paul.oppedisano@mass.gov).

Performance Standards Local Public Health Self-Assessment Tool

The Performance Standards Self-Assessment Tool will allow for local public health – both those participating in the Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant Program and those not currently involved – to measure their ability to achieve the Performance Standards. This is an optional resource for you to use as you need and is not tracked or required by OLRH.

Who should use this tool?

- * Local public health who have previously completed the Baseline Capacity Assessment and want to see the improvements made over time toward achieving the Performance Standards.
- * Local public health who have never taken the Baseline Capacity Assessment and want to get a sense of where they are on meeting the Performance Standards.

How to Get Started: Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/self-assessment-tool>

For more information, [view slides from the Special Topic Webinar on March 12](#). If you have any questions while you are completing the Self-Assessment, or need support, please reach out to Christina Moore for assistance (christina.moore3@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
-

ARBOVIRUS

- * [Massachusetts Arbovirus Update](#) | DPH
 - * View EEE & WNV risk maps by municipality
 - * [Mosquitoes and Ticks](#) | DPH
-

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.
-

MAVEN

- * [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)
 - * 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 23: Clinical Considerations for Newly Arrived Residents
 - * [MAVEN Help](#)
 - * [MAVEN Guidance Document Series](#)
 - * State Epidemiologist Line (24/7): 617-983-6800
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COLOR

- * [Color Vaccine Resources page](#)
 - * Questions related to billing can be emailed to vaccine@umassmed.edu.
 - * Reach out to the DPH Color team with any questions about at ColorHelp@mass.gov.
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OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

- * [Guidance for Municipalities](#) | DPH
-

FREE HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS

- * [MA Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#) | DPH
-

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

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

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