

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, April 4, 2024

We want to hear from you!

[Submit questions or feedback here.](#)

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Happy National Public Health Week!

National Public Health Week acknowledges the contributions of public health in communities across the country and highlights the issues that are important to improving the health of our nation.

- * Use this [toolkit](#) to share with your community.
- * Use these [fact sheets](#) and [shareables](#) to explore different public health topics with your network and community members.
- * [Take action](#) on public health with your local leaders.

Department of Public Health Launches Health Equity Plan to Address Racism as a Serious Public Health Threat

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has launched a strategic plan to advance racial equity in all the work DPH undertakes and oversees, providing an action-oriented roadmap to address underlying concerns that have perpetuated health inequities across the state. [Read more about the plan here.](#)

Amended Recreational Camp Regulations in Effect

The DPH Community Sanitation Program (CSP) has amended 105 CMR 430.000: Minimum Standards for Recreational Camps for Children (State Sanitary Code, Chapter IV). The regulation went **into effect on March 1, 2024**. A link to the approved final version of the regulation can be found [here](#). Please note, this is not the official version of the regulation. Please contact Kerry Wagner with any questions at Kerry.f.wagner@mass.gov.

[Click here](#) for a list of scheduled trainings to provide guidance on the amended regulations.

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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, topics covered included a COVID-19 update, arbovirus season 2024, avian influenza, medical reserve corps, and Foundational Public Health Services 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, 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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Massachusetts Public Health Inspector Training (MA PHIT) Housing Refresher Courses Added!

The DPH Office of Local and Regional Health is funding another round of the [Housing Refresher Training](#) with the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) as the training organizer. A brief application process will be used to allocate limited spots. Please note this is **ONLY** for people who previously completed the classroom portion of MA PHIT Housing and have not completed the field training portion.

Apply by 5 p.m. Monday, April 8

Virtual sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on April 23 (part 1) and April 25 (part 2)

Register to attend: <https://forms.gle/dbqXUXVMbz7m1Gup9>

Participate in a COVID-19 Impact Study

George Washington University is assessing the impact of harassment and intimidation on the well-being of the **public health workforce** and public health agencies. They are looking for members of the public health workforce that have been the **targets of intimidation or harassment** from the public or from non-public health workers and would be open to sharing their experiences in an **hour-long interview**. The information discussed in these interviews will be **confidential** and any findings will be presented and discussed in a summative format without names of people and agencies.

During these interviews, they hope to better understand the **impact of these incidents** on the governmental public health workforce, and the project aims to identify, collect, and summarize strategies the public health workforce and public health agencies can do to **address this problem**.

If you would like to share your experience(s), please fill out this form (<https://bit.ly/3Prun24>) and you will be contacted with more information. Please forward this information to others who have been impacted so they can fill out the form. Interviews will begin in Spring 2024.

BUSPH Public Health Conversation: Community Health Centers and the Social Determinants of Health

Boston University School of Public Health's [Center for Health Law, Ethics & Human Rights](#) presents the annual Cathy Shine lecture. This year's event will feature Cheryl Clark, MD, ScD. Dr. Clark serves as the inaugural Executive Director and Senior Vice President of the Institute for Health Equity Research, Evaluation & Policy at the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

Tuesday, April 9

1 - 2 p.m.

[Register for this Zoom webinar](#)

TRAIN Massachusetts Virtual Office Hours - New Sessions Added!

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

Choose your session (you only need to attend one):

- * **Register for Session 1 on Wednesday, April 10:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUoceCorj0tG9RKslAXRtSJXMuFJZlzxSZl>
- * **Register for Session 2 on Thursday, April 25:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqcO-srj8rGdTqafNwaZmXbf-FBjDUScpz>

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:

- * [Mass Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges \(MANSC\)](#) | Wednesday, April 17
- * [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.

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.

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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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.](#)

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is Hiring!

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, covering the Greater Boston area, is looking for a **Regional Trainer (Public Health)** with expertise in public and environmental health practice and training. This person will support the education and training of local and regional public health staff through a Training Hub based out of MAPC. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Norfolk County 8 Coalition is Hiring!

Norfolk County 8 (NC-8), which covers Canton, Dedham, Milton, Norwood (lead), Walpole, Wellesley, and Westwood, is looking for a **Regional Inspection Associate**. This Inspection Associate will be part of a collaborative response to manage and perform essential public health inspections necessary to support healthier communities. [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.

DPH Commissioner's Office:

- * [Deputy Commissioner/Chief Medical Officer](#)
- * [Chief Medical Officer \(PT\)](#)

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS):

- * [Director, Division of Epidemiology](#)
- * [Infectious Disease Health Communications Specialist](#)

Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality (BHCSQ):

- * [Division Coordinator](#)

Massachusetts Office on Disability:

- * [Access Specialist](#)

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 \(for student interns\)](#)

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.

Attend an optional [webinar for prospective applicants](#) 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9
Applications are due **3 p.m. Monday, June 3**
Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3TnJJpo>

Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Application Opens Wednesday, May 1

The Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act Grant Application for FY25 will open at 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 1, through 5 p.m. Saturday, June 15. Visit our website for the [grant information and application](#). Any Massachusetts city or town is eligible to apply.

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. 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.

Department of Public Health Launches Health Equity Plan to Address Racism as a Serious Public Health Threat

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has launched a strategic plan to advance racial equity in all the work DPH undertakes and oversees, providing an action-oriented roadmap to address underlying concerns that have perpetuated health inequities across the state. DPH's plan recognizes the pervasive and destructive impact of racism on health and centers racial equity across all its work, programs, practices, and initiatives, from the Department's efforts on emergency preparedness and response to strengthening the public health workforce to modernizing the public health infrastructure and enhancing public service.

[The Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity](#) is a call for action and accountability to address the systemic inequities faced by people who identify as Black, Indigenous, Latino and/or Asian or Pacific Islander, seeking to acknowledge, transform, and improve the public health outcomes of all people in Massachusetts.

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Foundational Public Health Services: Adapting the Framework for Massachusetts

The [Foundational Public Health Services](#) (FPHS) framework offers local public health agencies in Massachusetts a flexible approach to strengthening service delivery. The FPHS Framework outlines **five** Foundational Areas and **eight** Foundational Capabilities that define a minimum package of public health services essential for every municipality.

These components encompass the essential domains of a comprehensive public health system and the necessary cross-cutting skills to support them.

It is essential to adapt the FPHS Framework for Massachusetts because FPHS:

- * Provides a **common language**, facilitating collaboration and coordination across agencies to enable more efficient and effective service delivery.
- * Ensures **accessibility of services** to meet the unique needs of local residents.
- * Encourages **innovation** by aligning with current best practices and exploring future opportunities for local public health.
- * Offers **flexibility** for local public health to meet diverse community needs, emphasizing foundational capabilities and enabling cross-jurisdictional sharing.

In the coming months, OLRH will work with local public health officials and content experts to develop Massachusetts-specific examples to complement the national FPHS framework, making it more applicable and relevant to the Massachusetts' local public health system.

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

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).

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).

Welcome to TRAIN Massachusetts!

[TRAIN Massachusetts](#) (TRAIN MA) is now available to all local public health professionals throughout the Commonwealth.

What is TRAIN MA?

TRAIN MA is an online learning management system offering quality training opportunities for professionals who protect and improve the public's health. TRAIN MA has replaced the Local Public Health Institute hosted by Boston University (BU/LPHI).

How to Get Started with TRAIN MA?

Please reach out to Amy Tisdell, Learning and Development Coordinator, OLRH, by email at olrhtrainingsupport@mass.gov for assistance in setting up an account.

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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
- * [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical & Professional Resources](#) | CDC
- * [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#) | DPH
- * [Statewide Contract Resources](#) | DPH

MAVEN

- * [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)
 - * 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 9: 2024 Tuberculosis Disease and Case Investigation
 - * 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

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.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

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

FREE HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS

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

EMERGENCY SHELTER 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](#)

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