

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, May 8, 2025

We want to hear from you!

[Contact us](#)

Click on each icon to jump to that section

Announcements Happening Now Webinar

Events & Trainings METRIK Minute Careers

Equity

FPHS

Funding

Tier 2 Food Training Cohort

We wrapped up another Tier 2 Food Training in Greenfield April 16 & 17! A big shout out to our partners and trainers for making this day happen!

Immunizations for Summer Camp

The summer recreational camp season is fast approaching and the Minimum Standards for Recreational Camps for Children, [105 CMR 430.152 Required Immunizations](#), has been updated. Immunization requirements for children and counselors attending camp can also be found on the [Recreational Camp for Children website](#). Please provide all of your

Third Annual Local Public Health Partner Survey is Open

We want to hear from you! Please complete the **Third Annual Local Public Health Partner Survey**. This survey assesses your understanding of and satisfaction with our services and programs and helps improve OLRH's support for local public health. This year's survey has been **streamlined** with fewer, more relevant questions.

We ask that **all staff working for and with local public health complete the survey**. Please share this survey with colleagues and partners.

[Complete the survey](#) by **Friday, May 23**. For questions, please contact our evaluation partner, Health Resources in Action, by email at OLRHEval@hria.org.

[Back to top](#)

Title V Certification Course Accepting Registrations for July

System Inspector Certification Class: Title 5 System Inspectors ensure your septic system is running efficiently and verify your system has been properly maintained. Title 5 inspections are required each time ownership is transferred. **The summer 2025 class is now being planned for July.** [Click here for registration details.](#)

Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program wants your input!

The Local Public Health Nurse Consultant (LPHNC) Program Team has been working to develop the outline for the three-tiered training modules for nurses. We would like input on the **content of the training modules and suggestions for additional topics**.

It would help us out if you could take a few minutes of your time to complete the [LPHNC Program Training Survey](#).

Please feel free to forward to your colleagues and local public health partners. **The survey is open to all!**

The survey will remain open until **Tuesday, May 27**. We will be raffling off a basket each week with the winner selected from those who complete the survey.

Non-Emergency Communication Procedures Template & User Guide

This [user guide](#) and [customizable template](#), developed by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), can help state, Tribal, local, and territorial health departments develop clear, consistent procedures for non-emergency public health communication. Aligned with PHAB Measure 3.1.1A, it offers flexible guidance for departments with dedicated communications staff or shared roles, supporting a variety of structures and capacities.

Final ADU Guidance Published

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has published the [final guidance](#) on the application of 310 CMR 15.000 (Title 5) to the use of land or structures for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).

[Back to top](#)

May Webinar

Did you miss the May 6 webinar? If so, this month's topics included arbovirus, Office of Aging and Independence, BSAS dashboard, [SAPHE 2.0](#), a Foundational Public Health Services shared services review update, and other updates. [View slides](#), [answers to questions](#) asked during the webinar, and [related resources](#).

We Want to Hear From You!

We value your input and welcome your suggestions for future webinar topics - please email us at localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov.

Need to register?

- * If you have **not yet registered** for this webinar series, [use this link](#).
- * 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](#)).

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.

[Back to top](#)

Join Office Hours to Discuss METRIK

Do you have questions or feedback? We want to hear from you! Join any of the office hours listed below using this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630509245>

- * 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 13
- * 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 21
- * 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, May 30

MEHA Food for Thought: Ticks and Tick-borne Infections in New England

The Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) invites you to join a [webinar](#) reviewing the human-biting ticks of New England, the main infections they transmit, and how to reduce the risk of acquiring them.

Wednesday, May 14

12 - 1 p.m. on Zoom

Cost: Free for members | \$25 for non-members

[Register to attend](#)

Registration Open for MAPHN Conference

The [Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses](#) (MAPHN) is hosting a two-day conference titled "*Public Health Nursing: Navigating the New Era of Infectious Diseases*". Check out the agenda ([Wed.](#) & [Thurs.](#)).

Wednesday, May 14 - Thursday, May 15

Four Points by Sheraton Wakefield Boston Hotel & Conference Center
One Audubon Rd. Wakefield, Mass.

[Register to attend](#)

At-the-door registration will be available

You've Got This: Harnessing Confidence & Leadership Possibilities in Environmental Health

Join the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) for this interactive webinar in their Empowering Leaders in Environmental Health Series! Facilitators will guide us as we explore leadership myths that hold women leaders back. We'll discuss the crucial mindset shifts that support you to confidently move into the next step of your career.

Tuesday, May 20

1 - 2 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Centering Equity into Problem Gambling Prevention

Check out this upcoming training offered by the [Massachusetts Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling Prevention \(MCOEPPG\)](#).

This virtual interactive training will explore key concepts in centering health equity, enhancing cultural proficiency, understanding complex factors influencing community health, and examining the historical and policy influences shaping communities today. [Learn more!](#)

Tuesday, May 20

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Massachusetts Municipal Opioid Abatement Virtual Conference

The second annual [Massachusetts Municipal Opioid Abatement Conference](#), hosted by DPH's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) and Care Massachusetts, is intended to connect municipalities to the resources and tools needed to uphold the requirements of the State Subdivision Agreement. Panelists include people from across the Commonwealth with expertise in opioid prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear from state partners, learn what's happening in other municipalities, and gain access to resources that will support the opioid abatement work taking place in your community.

Tuesday, May 27

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[Register to attend](#)

MEHA 2025 Annual Seminar

The Massachusetts Environmental Health Association is hosting its [Annual Seminar](#). This year's conference will feature presentations on mosquito control and EEE response with DPH, legislative advocacy with Cheryl Sbarra, noise meters with MassDEP, body art with Paul Shoemaker, and more!

Wednesday, May 28

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wellsworth Hotel, Southbridge, Mass.

Cost: \$125 for members | \$175 for non-members

[Register to attend](#)

The [2025 Massachusetts Problem Gambling Conference](#), hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is an opportunity to learn about the many ways to limit and mitigate the harmful impacts of problem gambling and related issues on individuals, families, and communities. This year's theme is *Equity in Action: Mobilizing Data to Inform Policy and Practice in the Commonwealth*.

Wednesday, June 4

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, Mass.

Cost: \$200

[Register](#) early - this event is expected to sell out!

[Back to top](#)

METRIK Insights: Helping You Stay Informed

Do you have questions about METRIK? We have answers. We'll be sharing bite-sized facts about METRIK here to help you grow your knowledge over the coming weeks and months. For example, did you know...

Through METRIK, LPH and Inspectional Services Departments (ISDs) will have easy access to data in one place, including:

- * An extensive list of state and national datasets, including tobacco and vaccine data
- * New statewide datasets, such as permits and licensing or inspection data
- * DPH datasets, like MAVEN and lead data

To learn more, check out the full list of [METRIK FAQs](#).

Interested in helping us shape METRIK?

We're always looking for volunteers to share their perspective on METRIK.

We're planning **usability testing sessions** to see how the new tools in METRIK work for the people who'll actually be using them. These testing sessions will take place throughout the METRIK development process. If you'd like to participate (or if you're interested in other opportunities to provide feedback on METRIK), [let us know!](#)

We'll be drawing from this sign-up list over the next few years, and we're looking for volunteers that reflect the diversity of the Commonwealth.

[Back to top](#)

Job Opportunities at the Local Level

Find job opportunities across cities, towns, and shared service arrangements across the state in a variety of roles!

Sherborn:

- * [Health Administrator](#) | Sherborn is seeking a full-time applicant to oversee the Department. Knowledge of residential septic systems and drinking water wells preferred as these are prominent issues for our small population.

Southeastern Massachusetts (SEMA) Public Health Collaborative:

- * [Assistant Project Manager of Environmental Health](#) | SEMA Public Health is hiring an Environmental Health Inspector to work to assist with sanitation, inspection, public health, and hygiene services in New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Acushnet.

Needham:

- * [Part Time Public Health Nurse](#) | This role performs a variety of professional nursing and health education functions and duties in the community.

Foothills Health District (FHD):

- * [Shared Health Agent](#) | This person performs field inspections and plan reviews to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the State Sanitary and Environmental Codes, and all other related federal, state, and town laws, bylaws and regulations.
- * [Shared Public Health Nurse \(PT\)](#) | This role is responsible for all public health nursing functions for the FHD such as clinics, educational programs, and communicable disease investigation.

Find Your Future with the Commonwealth

[Find job opportunities](#) across industries including health and human services, health care, 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 Health Care Safety & Quality (BHCSQ):

- * [Deputy Director of Policy](#) | Marlborough

DPH Tewksbury Hospital:

- * [Registered Nurse I](#), Part-Time | Tewksbury
- * [Registered Nurse II](#) | Tewksbury

DPH Western MA Hospital:

- * [Registered Nurse II](#) | Westfield

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP):

- * [Environmental Analyst II](#), Air Assessment Branch | Lawrence
- * [Environmental Analyst IV](#), Wastewater Program | Springfield

Broadening the Lens

Join Growing a New Heart for an introductory **three-hour** learning event that explores how to examine public health questions through the lens of racial and social justice, and how to practically approach existing inequities.

Together, participants will examine the impact of historical context and practice on present-day complex public health challenges. Attendees will analyze a framework and relevant vocabulary for approaching these complexities within our Massachusetts communities.

Schedule Update: "Growing a New Heart, Broadening the Lens" Training

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday on **Monday, May 26**, the "Growing a New Heart, Broadening the Lens" training will not be held that day. The next regularly scheduled sessions will take place on:

- * **Thursday, June 5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 884 8523 3805
- * **Monday, June 23 | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.**
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 885 6237 6339

If you have any questions, please contact Amparo Cruz at acruz@growinganewheart.org.

Racial and Health Equity Technical Support

Join Growing a New Heart for topic-based technical support session about Linguistic Justice on **Tuesday, May 20** from 2 to 3:30 p.m. [Register to attend on Zoom](#).

Do you or your municipality want further guidance or have questions about how to integrate racial and health equity goals into your work plans? Reach out to Growing a New Heart for one-on-one assistance and tailored technical support.

To request tailored technical support or if you have any other questions, please contact Amparo Cruz at acruz@growinganewheart.org.

FPHS in Action: Air Quality Monitoring System for MetroWest Boston

In the latest issue of the *FPHS Newsletter*, find out about the vital role a public health nurse played in implementing air quality monitoring for MetroWest. Learn how the FPHS framework can be applied to address health care challenges – check out the [newsletter archive](#).

Didn't receive the newsletter or you'd like to share with those interested? [Sign up](#). Also, be sure to check out the [FPHS resources](#) on Mass.gov to learn what FPHS means for local public health.

[Back to top](#)

MassDEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant

The [Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant](#) provides grant awards from \$3,000 - \$10,000 to eligible businesses, non-profits, regional authorities, municipalities, and schools/colleges for short-term waste reduction projects (defined as projects lasting ≤ 1 year). To qualify, projects must focus on reducing waste in Massachusetts by extending the life of products **through donation, sharing, rescue, reuse and/or repair**.

Composting and recycling projects are not eligible for this grant.

Application deadline: Thursday, May 15, by 5 p.m.

Municipal ADA Improvement Grant

The Massachusetts Office on Disability [FY26 Municipal ADA Grant](#) is open for applications! The grant provides reimbursement funding to Massachusetts cities and towns to improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

These grants provide reimbursement funding for:

- * Updating a municipality's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition plans, or
- * Making capital improvements that improve access or remove barriers in municipal programs, services, and facilities.

If you have questions about the grant after visiting our website, please contact Evan George, Grant Compliance Coordinator, at Evan.George@mass.gov or (857) 248-7924.

View our [recorded grant information session](#) for more information.

Submit your application by 5 p.m., Friday, June 13

[Apply here](#)

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 to receive 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](#) 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.

[Back to top](#)

If you have any comments, questions, or feedback, please email:
localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov

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