

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, Event Trainings, and Funding Opportunities for Local Public Health

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Thursday, May 23, 2024

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

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Announcements Webinar Events & Training

Careers Funding Equity

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Last Chance to Complete the Local Public Health Survey!

This is the last chance to let the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) know how we can increase engagement with valuable partners like you! Please consider taking the biannual [Local Public Health Partner Survey](#) and encouraging your colleagues to share their feedback as well.

This second iteration of the survey contains some new and timely questions. Findings from the survey will continue to be used to evaluate and improve the performance of OLRH to better meet the needs of local public health partners.

Complete the survey by **Friday, May 24**, by using [this link](#), or filling out a PDF copy [here](#) and emailing it to OLRHEval@hria.org. Thank you to those who have already completed the survey!

Community Health Equity Survey Data Now Available

The Community Health Equity Initiative (CHEI) team recently released data from the 2023 Community Health Equity Survey (CHES). Thank you for your work in distributing the survey in your communities!

[Visit the CHEI website](#) to view the 2023 CHES Overview and Key Findings slides, download data tables, and watch the CHEI Racial Justice Framing webinar to understand how to interpret and act on results. If you are interested in CHES data, technical assistance, and capacity building support, please fill out this [Data & Action Support interest form](#).

Healthy and Safe Swimming Week

A new [CDC report](#) shows drowning deaths have risen in recent years. Local public health plays an important role in preventing disease outbreaks, drowning, and injuries! The CDC has developed some community outreach suggestions, social media, messages, graphics, and other resources in their [Healthy and Safe Swimming Week Communications Toolkit](#). [Use these tools](#) to promote healthy and safe swimming in your community.

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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 there were three webinars with topics ranging from avian influenza and Powassan virus to workforce initiatives and radon.

- * **May 7** - Monthly Webinar
 - * View the [slides from the webinar](#) and [answers to questions](#)
- * **May 14** - Special Topic Webinar on Workforce Initiatives
 - * View [slides from the webinar](#) and [answers to questions](#)
- * **May 21** - Special Topic Webinar on Radon
 - * View [slides from the webinar](#), [answers to questions](#), and related [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_A8RODgL2QtabJlqdNTpV1g
- * 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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Serving People with Disabilities

Wednesday, May 29, from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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. [Register online](#)

Cultural Humility as a Methodology for Collaborating with Massachusetts Native Communities

Friday, May 31, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services is partnering with AdCare Educational Institute to

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.](#)

Considering Sitting for the Certified Public Health (CPH) Exam? Review Sessions are Open!

Improve your knowledge, skills and confidence by joining us for 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 the CPH exam's content outline that will change on August 1, 2024. 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:

- * Thursdays and Tuesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.
- * July 18 - August 22

FREE Public Health Informatics and 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 Bachelor of Science 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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Rochester is Hiring!

The Town of Rochester is seeking a part-time **Health Agent**. The department-head-level position is responsible to providing professional, administrative, technical, and inspection work to plan, manager, and promote all aspects of the municipal public health department. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Ludlow is Hiring!

The Town of Ludlow is still looking for a **Health Inspector**. [Learn more about the position](#) and how to apply.

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. 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 Title 5. [Learn more about the position.](#)

Foxborough is Hiring!

The Town of Foxborough is still 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). [Learn more about the position.](#)

Medford is Hiring!

The City of Medford is still 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 Health Care Safety & Quality (BHCSQ):

- * [Bureau Director](#)

Bureau of Community Health & Prevention (BCHAP):

- * [Deputy Director](#), Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program

Office of Problem Gambling Services (OPGS):

- * [Planning & Policy Manager](#)

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP):

- * [Environmental Analyst V](#) - Section Chief, Drinking Water, Northeast

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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 pilot or 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 or health care related needs of those Massachusetts residents who have been economically, socially, culturally, or racially marginalized. The Foundation expects to award between 5 - 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

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

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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Public Health Communications Collaborative Launched Accessible Social Media Guide

Accessibility is an essential part of your public health communications. Up to 27% of adults in the United States have some type of disability ([CDC](#)), and it's important to consider how people with disabilities will interact with your public health content. It is not possible for people to understand the important health information you are sharing if they cannot access it.

The Public Health Communications Collaborative developed “The Public Health Communicators Guide to Creating Accessible Social Media” to support public health communicators in crafting accessible writing, visuals, audio, and videos. Use this guide to develop accessible and inclusive social media content that connects with all members of your audience. [Read the guide.](#)

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Exploring the FPHS Framework: Foundational Areas (FA)

The Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Framework outlines the crucial role and unique responsibilities of local governmental public health. It comprises three components: Foundational Capabilities (FCs), Foundational Areas (FAs), and additional services provided by health departments, which vary based on the needs of individual communities.

The next component of the FPHS Framework is the **5 Foundational Areas**. Foundational Areas represent the overarching fundamental categories of public health services, forming the essential framework for a comprehensive public health system. These Foundational Areas include Communicable Disease, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention, Environmental Public Health, Maternal, Child, & Family Health, and Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care.

Caption: 5 circles representing the 5 Foundational Areas and associated icons: 1. Communicable Disease Control (hand with microbes icon), 2. Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention (hospital bed icon), 3. Environmental Health (compost bin icon), 4. Maternal, Child, & Family Health (family icon), 5. Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care (hospital icon).

The Foundational Areas are the basic public health services that every community should have access to. They aim to integrate the [social determinants of health](#) and address health inequities throughout the public health system. These Foundational Areas are supported by crosscutting skills and capacities known as Foundational Capabilities ([see previous newsletter for more information](#)). Foundational Capabilities represent essential functions required to support public health.

All information related to FPHS shared in monthly webinars and the *Pulse* newsletter are in [this document](#).

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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 Available in Advance

[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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RADON

- * [Radon](#) | DPH
 - * 800-723-6695 (MA only) or 413-784-9352
 - * DPHIAQ.radon@mass.gov
 - * [Radon Coupon](#)
- * [FAQ Radon Policy](#) | Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HEAT

- * [Extreme Heat Safety Tips](#) | MEMA
- * [Preparing for Extreme Heat](#) | Mass.gov
- * [Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality](#) | DPH

RECREATIONAL CAMPS

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

BATHING BEACHES

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

AVIAN INFLUENZA

- * [Avian Flu / Avian Influenza](#) | DPH
- * [Avian Influenza](#) | CDC
- * [HPAI Detections in Mammals](#) | USDA

ARBOVIRUS

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

TICK-BORNE DISEASE

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

TRAIN MA

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

MAVEN

- [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)

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