

From "Office of Local & Regional Health"
<localregionalpublichealth@notice.mass.gov>

To mangieri@doverma.gov

Date 2024-07-25 17:45:07+00:00

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, July 25, 2024

We want to hear from you!

[Submit questions or feedback](#)

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Announcements Webinar Events & Training

Careers

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OLRH is Creating a Local Public Health Advisory Team for Local Public Health Data Solution

As OLRH embarks on developing the Local Public Health (LPH) Data Solution, we want to ensure that local public health is involved at every step, from development to deployment. We are currently looking for people in LPH who are interesting in serving in an Advisory position throughout this process. **We are seeking a *diverse representation of up to 8 people working in Massachusetts LPH who are interested in serving on an LPH Data Solution Advisory Team over the next 2.5 years to help guide the LPH Data Solution.**

Other Advisory opportunities, starting at a later date, may include participating in formative research, user experience (testing what is built), and more. **If you are interested in being considered for participation in any Advisory roles, please complete the interest survey linked below no later than Friday, Aug. 2.**

[Submit the Interest Survey](#), [learn more about this initiative](#), and reach out to Michelle Surdyk at michelle.k.surdyk@mass.gov with any questions.

** Diversity includes but is not limited to: geographic, urban/rural, position title, racial, stage of career in LPH, familiarity with technology, subject interest area, etc.*

DPH Announces First Confirmed Measles Case in MA since 2020

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed that an adult resident from Worcester County who recently traveled internationally was diagnosed with measles in early July 2024. This is the first confirmed case of measles in a Massachusetts resident since early 2020.

People who may have been exposed to measles from this case have already been contacted and provided appropriate public health recommendations.

[Read the full press release](#)

Summer Safety Guidance

DPH's [Summer Safety Guidance](#) was recently translated into 12 different languages to share with your community:

[Albanian](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Cape Verdean](#) | [Haitian Creole](#) | [Khmer](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Russian](#)
[Simplified Chinese](#) | [Somali](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

NACCHO: New Guide to Building a Climate-Ready Rural Workforce

Rural local health departments (LHDs) are on the frontlines of climate change. However, rural health departments may face unique challenges when developing or scaling up their climate activities, including less baseline capacity for applying to funding and grant opportunities, hiring and retaining specialized staff, and dedicating resources to climate activities due to political constraints.

NACCHO has developed a [practical guide](#) to support rural health departments in their efforts to build a climate-ready workforce. Rural LHDs can refer to this guide when building a climate and health program for the first time, or when scaling up their programs to increase their climate response and adaptation capacity.

July 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. This month's topics included Community EMS Program Overview and Tobacco Updates.

View [slides from the webinar](#), [answers to questions](#) asked during the webinar, and [related resources](#).

In Case You Missed the Vaccine Special Webinar

Last Tuesday, OLRH and DPH's Vaccine Management Unit held a Special Topic Webinar, exploring the collaborative success in Barnstable County. The webinar covered tips, resources, and misconceptions about the State Vaccine Program. Session presenters also discussed strategies to address multiple Foundational Public Health Service (FPHS) areas, which may help both local health departments and shared service arrangements (SSAs) develop FPHS programs and improve the health of their communities.

View the [slides](#) from the webinar.

We Want to Hear From You!

Submit your questions and recommended topics for the next webinar, on **Tuesday, August 6**, to us via email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Wednesday, July 31**. 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

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

Listening Sessions: Age- and Dementia-Friendly Massachusetts Action Plan Refresh

The [Age-Friendly Massachusetts Action Plan](#) serves as the state's multi-year strategy to make the Commonwealth more age- and dementia-friendly. This year, **Massachusetts is working to**

Please join the Executive Office of Elder Affairs at one of the community listening sessions to tell us about your priorities, how you have contributed to your communities' efforts to support positive aging, and what big actions or policies you think will support people to age well in our communities in the future. Can't make one of the sessions? You can also provide [your thoughts and comments here](#). Learn more at www.mass.gov/age-friendly.

Greenfield (In-person):

Monday, July 29

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

JW Olver Transit Center, Greenfield, Mass.

[View the flyer](#) and RSVP at <https://forms.gle/zRqR2ThVpEEntc7c9> or 413-774-3167 x 101

Statewide (Virtual, Zoom sessions):

Tuesday, July 30

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Register to attend](#)

Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) Academy

The Public Health Communications Collaborative is launching a training academy, starting with its first course, *Strengthening Public Health Communications through Community Engagement*, on **Wednesday, July 31**. This **free training** is two hours and designed to provide a foundation for understanding and applying principles of community engagement to public health communications work.

[Learn more and register.](#)

MHOA: The Power of Data Visualization: The Key to Effective Local Public Health Communication

Have you ever attended a meeting about an important topic but found yourself falling asleep when the speaker begins presenting the data? This presentation aims to change that! Data visualization is a powerful tool that, when used correctly, allows us to be able to effectively communicate and share our public health stories. After this presentation, you will be able to answer the following:

- * What is data visualization?
- * Why is it important?
- * What is its purpose and value in local public health?
- * How do I use data visualization to tell my community's story and to advocate for change?

Wednesday, August 7

1 - 2 p.m.

Virtual (Zoom)

[Register online](#)

Registered Environmental Health Specialist / Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) Study Courses - 6 Spots Left!

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 and there are **6 courses left**. 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.](#)

MHOA 2024 Annual Conference Advance Registration Open Now

The conference will take place **November 13 - 15** at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass. Visit [MHOA Conference 2024](#) for all the details, including hotel information, keynote speakers, agenda, exhibitors, sponsors, and more. The site will be updated as more details are finalized.

Take advantage of Advance Registration running until **Friday, Sept. 6!** 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.

Northeast Food and Drug Officials Association's (NEFDOA) Retail Food Protection Seminar

Registration is now open for the Northeast Food and Drug Officials Association's (NEFDOA) Retail Food Protection Seminar, hosted in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The seminar will take place **November 13-15** in Burlington, Vermont.

[View the agenda](#) and [register](#).

Save the Date! MPHA Conference

This year's Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) [conference](#) will be held virtually on **Tuesday, December 10**, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this thought-provoking morning with health equity change-makers!

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 a **Health Inspector**. The position offers an option of a four-day work week and is fully benefitted with paid training. Compensation commensurate with experience and education. [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 Health Care Safety and Quality (BHCSQ):

- * Registered Nurse, [Health Care Facility Inspector](#), North Region

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP):

- * [Environmental Analyst III](#), Boston

Chelsea Veterans Home:

- * Registered Nurse, [Veteran Care Coordinator](#)

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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.

Just Launched: Your Sexual Health Toolkit for Youth with Disabilities

Too often, young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are left out of sex education conversations. [Your Sexual Health Toolkit](#) and [Our Stories, Our Journeys: A Sexual Health Game](#) were created especially for teens and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 16-24 and the people who support them. The toolkit is available in [Spanish](#) and English.

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Stay Tuned!

We are excited to announce that we are developing a dedicated newsletter for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in Massachusetts. If you are interested in previous *Pulse* content, you can find all information related to FPHS shared in LBOH webinars and the *Pulse* newsletter [here](#).

Stay tuned for more details about the FPHS newsletter, coming in September! For questions, please contact Katie Roane at Kaitlin.Roane@mass.gov.

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DPH Publishes Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report

DPH's Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences has published an updated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report, containing data through 2022 on reported cases of hepatitis A, B, and C in Massachusetts. The report is available [online](#) and can also be [downloaded directly](#).

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

Registry of Vital Records and Statistics (RVRS) to Launch New Records Collection System - MAVRIC

In anticipation of the launch of The Registry of Vital Records' MAVRIC, electronic death registration system, training is available 24x7 to fit your busy schedule. 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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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 [Mass211](#) and [FindHelp.org](#) to search by ZIP code for resources.
 - * [Help Families in Crisis](#)
 - * Guidance for municipalities on [Shelter Requirements and Exemptions in the Housing Code](#)
-

EXTREME HEAT

- * [Cooling Centers Guidance](#) | DPH
- * [Special Webinar \(Extreme Heat\)](#) | 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
- * [Messaging Resources](#) | Public Health Communications Collaborative

FREE HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS

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