

From "Office of Local & Regional Health"
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To gvarsa@doverma.gov

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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, September 25, 2025
Feedback on the Pulse? [Contact us](#)

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Announcements Happening Now Webinar

Events & Trainings Careers Equity

FPHS Funding Resources

An opportunity to share your ideas and vision with DPH

[SAPHE 2.0](#) requires the Department to host three public hearings to identify ways to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of local public health services across the state. We invite you to provide your thoughts and vision for the state's public health system.

Click on the links below to attend any (or all) of the hearings, and [sign-up to provide testimony](#). At each hearing, individuals may offer oral testimony, **up to 3 minutes**. [Find out more!](#)

- *** Monday, Sept. 29, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.**
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/UJdySrM1SoOELOiiPMg0iA>
- *** Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.**
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/O0yDaQcuTHi-SaGfKD19zQ>

You may also submit written testimony at any time to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov or by mail: Office of Local and Regional Health, Attn. Office Coordinator, 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 until **Friday, Oct. 10, 2025**.

Updated Standing Orders from DPH Commissioner

Commissioner Goldstein has issued a new standing order for local boards of health to administer COVID-19 vaccines for this respiratory season. Accompanying that standing order are two separate standing orders for administering epinephrine in the event of anaphylactic reaction to vaccination.

- * [Standing Order for LBOH Administration of COVID](#)
- * [Medical Management of Vaccine Reaction in Children and Teens in a Community Setting](#)
- * [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions to Adults in a Community Setting](#)

New job opportunities posted!

DPH recently opened multiple positions on [MassCareers](#) including a [Senior Recreational Water Quality Scientist](#), [Senior Cessation Programs Coordinator](#), and multiple Health Care Facility Inspectors! [Check it out!](#)

Final ARPA office hours: Funding reductions impact Performance Standards and Metrik projects

Massachusetts is facing significant budget challenges due to national economic uncertainty and evolving expectations about future federal support. Some difficult budget conversations and adjustments needed to occur.

We remain committed to supporting the Performance Standards, developing a local public health data solution with you, and providing relevant updates. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please [use this form](#) to share them or join upcoming office hours:

Wednesday, Oct. 1

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[Join the Zoom meeting](#)

Public Health Nurse mentorship survey

The Local Public Health Nurse Consultants would like some feedback about their program. Please fill out [this short survey](#) about mentorship to the best of your ability by **Wednesday, Oct. 8**.

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New blood pressure guidelines

Join the American Heart

Reminder to report recreational camps

While the recreational camp information is still fresh in your minds, **please take a moment to complete the electronic [Recreational Camps for Children Reporting Form](#)** to comply with 105 CMR 430.632, which requires that LPH notify the Massachusetts Department of Public Health of all licenses issued to recreational camps within their community.

This form is also to be used to report if **no recreational camps** were licensed in your city/town. The Department no longer collects written or faxed forms. If you would like a full copy of the information reported once the form has been submitted, please email recreationalcamps@mass.gov and a full PDF copy will be sent to you.

30th annual MIAP pediatric immunization skills-building conference

This full-day, pediatric [conference](#) will provide up-to-date information on the field of pediatric immunization with an emphasis on current immunization recommendations and general immunization updates.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

DCU Center, Worcester, Mass.

Cost: \$200

[Register to attend](#)

DPH announces additional human cases of West Nile virus

DPH [announced](#) two additional human cases of West Nile virus in Massachusetts this year. Both are men in their 60s with likely exposure in Worcester County.

Learn more on the [Arbovirus Surveillance Information](#) page, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at (617) 983-6800.

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September webinar

This month's topics included an update from Commissioner Goldstein about the status of vaccines in Massachusetts. There were also updates about a [mobile app](#) from the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Management, and [SAPHE 2.0](#) virtual public hearings and reporting.

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.

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Vaping and nicotine pouches: Understanding the new landscape

Explore the evolving landscape of tobacco and nicotine use with a special focus on vaping and nicotine pouches, like Zyn. This session will offer a high-level overview of emerging products, usage trends, and potential mitigation strategies—especially relevant for youth, families, community-based organizations, and municipalities.

Friday, Sept. 26

12 - 1 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Food systems and the impacts of climate change

Understand some of the impacts of climate on food systems regionally and explore tools to think about how that affects your work. Learn about frameworks and strategies to build resilience into food access work and examples of communities who are building resilience.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

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

[Register to attend](#)

Vaccine hesitancy: Past, present, and future

Boston University's School of Public Health (BUSPH) is hosting a discussion to explore vaccine hesitancy amidst the resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases. How can we better communicate about vaccine efficacy, combat misinformation and disinformation, and better understand vaccine-hesitant communities?

Wednesday, Oct. 8

1 - 2:30 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Panel discussion: AI, public health, and ethics

The BUSPH Center for Health Data Science is hosting a panel of speakers to consider the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI) use in public health education, practice, and research.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

1 - 2:30 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Plain language: The first responder for health communications

Plain language saves time, reduces stress, and helps people make informed health decisions. When people face medical challenges, they need information they can trust—and understand—right away.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Zoom

Member: \$45 | Non-member \$55

[Register to attend](#)

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Job opportunities at the local level

Find job opportunities across cities, towns, and shared service arrangements across the state in a variety of roles! Check out even more at [Careers in Local Public Health](#).

Longmeadow | [Director of Public Health](#)

Northborough | [Regional Health Agent](#)

Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) | [Health Inspector](#)

Millis | [Public Health Nurse](#)

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.

DPH Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH):

- * [Senior Recreational Water Quality Scientist](#) | Boston

DPH Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program (MTCP):

- * [Senior Cessation Programs Coordinator](#) | Boston

DPH Bureau of Health Care Safety & Quality (BHCSQ):

- * [RN, Health Care Facility Inspector I](#), Licensure | Marlborough
- * [Health Care Facility Specialist II](#), Licensure | Marlborough
- * [RN, Health Care Facility Inspector](#), West Region | Marlborough
- * [Health Care Facility Surveyor](#), West Region | Marlborough
- * [RN, Health Care Facility Inspector](#), South Region | Marlborough
- * [Health Care Facility Surveyor](#), South Region | Marlborough
- * [RN, Health Care Facility Inspector](#), North Region | Marlborough
- * [Health Care Facility Surveyor](#), North Region | Marlborough

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Broadening the Lens

Examine public health questions through the lens of racial and social justice, and how to approach existing inequities in

FPHS in action: Advancing maternal, child, and family health (MCFH) across Massachusetts

In the latest issue of the *FPHS Newsletter*, learn about the North Shore Mother Visiting Partnership, a cross-community initiative ensuring that every new parent receives access to critical support during their baby's first year and the development of the [MCFH Resource Guide](#).

MetroWest Shared Public Health Services – a Shared Service Arrangement serving Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Hudson, Maynard, Medway, Milford, Millis, and Natick – hosted its first Community Baby Shower.

Check out the [newsletter archive](#) to find all the FPHS newsletters.

[Sign up](#) to receive the newsletter and check out the [FPHS resources](#) on Mass.gov to learn what FPHS means for local public health.

Catalyst fund grant opportunity

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is now accepting applications for the [Catalyst Fund](#). Receive up to \$7,500 for a 12-month period to strengthen your capacity to **expand access to health and health care** in Massachusetts. **Upcoming deadlines: Oct. 6 and Nov. 5.**

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.

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

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