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To "All 2024 Members" <members@maphn.org>

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Subject News This Week

Attachments 2026-Spring-MA-SANE-Certification-Training-Flyer1-12052025-1.pdf; Hepatitis-B-Vaccine-Guidance_2025.12.10.pdf; Norovirus-2025-EN_0.docx; Joint_Letter_of_Support_DOE_.pdf; 12.10.2025_Press_Release_2.pdf

Professional Designation of Nurses News: Please see the attached Joint Letters of Support and Press Release which quote our MAPHN President, Tiffany Benoit, MPH, BSN, RN, CPH/CHO: "Removing the professional designation from nursing degrees will ultimately compromise the quality of healthcare and diminish the recognized standard of care provided by the nursing profession. Such a change, coupled with reductions in federal financial support for programs reclassified as non-professional, will create significant barriers to enrollment and program completion. These barriers will exacerbate existing workforce shortages and further limit access to high-quality, community-based care.

SANE 2026 Training: 2026 Winter/Spring SANE Certification Training will begin in March. The program is looking for compassionate nurses to join the workforce as they continue on their path to reach 100% of emergency departments! See the attached flyer for more information. A fee of \$425 is required after acceptance to the training and before training begins. This fee supports resources for the on-site clinical training and includes 40+ contact hours awarded upon completion of the training program.

From Immunization Division: Immunization Nurse Manager Laurie Courtney: Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP). The goal of the perinatal hepatitis B prevention and case management program is to identify all hepatitis B positive pregnant women in Massachusetts so their newborns can receive timely and appropriate immunoprophylaxis. Infants who do not receive immunoprophylaxis have a 90% chance of becoming chronic hepatitis B carriers. Of these carriers, up to 25% will develop liver failure, liver cancer, or cirrhosis in young adulthood. Infants who receive timely and appropriate immunoprophylaxis have a 95% chance of being free from hepatitis B for life. See the attached Hepatitis B Vaccination advisory from MDPH! DPH continues to strongly recommend that: • All newborns receive a birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of delivery, regardless of the hepatitis B infection status of the birth parent. • Newborns born to birth parents who test positive for hepatitis B infection or have an unknown status be vaccinated within 12 hours of birth. Infants whose birth parent has hepatitis B infection should also receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG). • All children complete the full hepatitis B vaccination series within 18 months (doses administered at 0, 1-2 and 6 -18 months of age).

The Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) is excited to announce that abstract submission and registration is now open for the 2026 APHN Virtual Conference with live sessions, taking place on Wednesdays from April 29 to May 20, 2026! The theme, "The Power of Public Health Nursing: Building Bridges and Improving Health," invites researchers, practitioners, and thought leaders to share innovative ideas, research findings, and best practices that shape the future of public health and public health nursing. Abstract Submissions Open Through January 9, 2026 . Don't miss this opportunity to contribute your voice, connect with peers, and make an impact through knowledge and collaboration. [Submit Abstracts Here](#) For conference information and to [register for the conference click here.](#)

Norovirus in MA: A suspected norovirus outbreak last week resulted in closing an elementary school in Medford, Massachusetts for a second day after more than 130 students got sick. There was no school for students and staff Thursday, Dec. 11 at Roberts Elementary School. School will be closed again on Friday. All other Medford schools remain open with normal attendance rates, school leadership said. "There were over 130 student absences at the Roberts on Wednesday, and more families have informed building and district leadership in the last 24 hours of their child experiencing symptoms of a stomach bug," school administrators wrote in an update Thursday. The CDC said in late November that norovirus cases were rising around the United States in recent weeks ahead of the holiday season. For more information, the Public Health Fact Sheet on Norovirus is attached.

Voluntary Recall FDA: December 10, 2025 MediNatura is voluntarily recalling one lot of ReBoost Nasal Spray to the consumer level. The product has been found to contain yeast/mold and microbial contamination with one species identified as *Achromobacter*, at levels above specifications. The product is used as a homeopathic nasal spray to temporarily relieve nasal congestion, sinus headache and pressure, postnasal drip, sneezing, runny nose,

and nasal itching and is packaged in a 20mL bottle which is further packaged in a white and yellow carton. ReBoost was distributed nationwide via retail and internet sales(medinatura.com). [Read more on this from the FDA here.](#)

Save the Date for the next TB Expert Network meeting on 1/20/2026 hosted by the Southeastern National TB Center (SNTC) in collaboration with CDC's Division of TB Elimination and our other TB Centers of Excellence for Training, Education, and Medical Consultation (TB COEs). The goal of this forum continues to be discussion with other TB experts about U.S. TB patients actively on treatment with challenging or complicated circumstances. We promote physician, nurse, lab, academic, public health, and subspecialty medicine discussants in a round table, and focus on open discussion in a collegial environment. Audience participation welcomed and encouraged. Topics in grey areas of current evidence and guidelines are discussed, and there may be no right answers. These technical meetings continue to be closed to the public and are not recorded. Please note this date change to Jan 20, 2026 from the previously scheduled Dec 11, 2025 12:00– 1:30 pm Eastern Time.

Measles In SC News Update: As of Dec. 9, 2025, DPH is reporting 129 cases of measles since July 9, 126 centered around Spartanburg County in the current outbreak. The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting 15 new cases of measles in the state since Tuesday, bringing the total number of cases in South Carolina related to the Upstate outbreak to 126 and the total number reported to DPH this year to 129. Thirteen of the new cases are from known household exposures, one was from a neighborhood contact and another was from an unknown source still being investigated. There are currently 303 people in quarantine and 13 in isolation. Based on the new cases, DPH has identified public exposures at two more schools. Read more from the [SC DPH here.](#)

Follow up to last week's NTW on Alpha Gal Syndrome: Interesting news on a restaurant with an Alpha Gal menu! There are an estimated 33 million Americans that have food allergies severe enough to require the carrying of an epi-pen. That's according to Food Allergy Research and Education, or FARE, a national nonprofit that studies and advocates for the allergy community. And nearly 1 in 4 people in the United States live in a household impacted by the top nine allergens in the country. This list does not currently include the sugar that causes alpha-gal. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, at least 450,000 people in the country have the condition, but this is largely considered to be an undercount. For comparison, more than 700,000 are confirmed to be allergic to sesame, the ninth most common allergy in the country. You can read the NPR article on the [Missouri restaurant with an alpha Gal menu here.](#)

Invitation from Nicotine Free Generation to make a presentation about NFG. They have been speaking with boards of health, other government entities, and community groups. This has been a very successful month for the Nicotine Free Generation and their efforts to preserve the right of young people to live full lives, free from nicotine addiction. It is a basic human right to be free from getting addicted as a teenager. Addiction is the opposite of free choice. Last week, NFG was enacted unanimously in the neighboring towns of Amherst and Leverett. They are the 20th and 21st NFG communities, raising the total population of enacting cities and towns to over 627,000 people. This growing list now includes Amherst, Belchertown, Brookline, Chelsea, Concord, Conway, Dover, Hopkinton, Leverett, Malden, Melrose, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Needham, Newton, Pelham, Reading, Somerville, South Hadley, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Winchester. More are on the way! [Contact NFG here](#) to arrange a presentation.

Silicosis News: The Massachusetts Department of Public Health on Tuesday 12/9 issued a safety alert after the first confirmed case of silicosis within the state's stone countertop fabrication workforce. Silicosis is a preventable, yet incurable and progressive lung disease caused by inhaling crystalline silica, which is found naturally in granite and other stones. State health officials say the first confirmed case was recently diagnosed in a Hispanic man in his 40s who, for the past 14 years, worked for stone countertop fabrication and installation companies in Massachusetts. Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein is now urging employers in the stone countertop fabrication industry to protect workers from silica dust exposure. You can [read more about silicosis here](#) at the American Lung Association.

The PULSE is looking for submissions for the Fall/Winter Edition! Send in your articles, photos, public health nursing news to Newsletter@maphn.org !

MDPH Local Public Health Monthly Webinar reminder: the next monthly webinar is Jan 6, 2026 03:00 PM Eastern Time

2026 MAPHN News: Save The Dates: The Annual MAPHN Conference is May 13-14! More information will be coming soon! MAPHN Offices up for election this year are Vice President and Treasurer. For election related questions, contact [Tiffany Benoit](#)

Have a great week!

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