

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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Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2024

We want to hear from you!

[Submit questions or feedback](#)

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Massachusetts Local Public Health Training Program Tier II: Housing and Food Inspection Courses Added

The Local Public Health Training Program - [Housing and Food Tier 2](#), formerly known as MA PHIT Housing and MA PHIT Food, are designed for local public health professionals charged with enforcing housing and food-related laws and regulations. This 4-day hybrid training program prepares public health professionals with in-depth knowledge of the food and housing inspection process before their Tier 3 - Applied Practice led by HUB trainers. [Learn more and apply here](#) by Sept. 16.

FREE Mobile COVID/Influenza Clinics

DPH is now scheduling FREE mobile COVID/influenza clinics for the fall vaccination season. These clinics, which are open to the public, may be hosted by organizations including senior/community centers, civic clubs, and houses of worship. Vaccination is provided to patients aged 6 months and up at no cost. ID and insurance are not required. **To submit a request to host a mobile clinic in your community, please visit this page:** <https://survey.jsi.com/s3/MA-Mobile-Vaccination-Clinic-Request-Form>

Questions? Please email dphmobilevaxclinic@jsi.com.

Additionally, DPH is now offering **FREE in-home vaccination** for COVID and flu across the Commonwealth. Anyone (aged 6 months and up) who has difficulty getting to or using a community vaccination location is eligible. Appointments will occur within seven days of a vaccination request. For more information, please visit this page: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/in-home-vaccination-program-covid-19influenza>

NACCHO: New Communications Planning Guide

A new [Communications Planning Guide for Local Health Departments](#) has been designed for local health department staff who are tasked with communicating specific messages to the public. The guide provides a basic framework to use, including questions to consider when developing communications and evaluation strategies. It also includes considerations for how local health department professionals can incorporate health equity, social justice, and accessibility considerations, including health literacy, into their work.

DPH Announces Additional Human Cases of WNV and EEE in Mass.

DPH [announced](#) the fourth human case of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in the state this year, on Monday. The case is a man in his 50s with exposure in an area in Middlesex County at high risk for EEE.

DPH also [announced](#) three additional human cases of West Nile virus (WNV). All three individuals are in their 60s. One is a woman who was exposed in southern Bristol County. The second is a man in his 60s who was exposed in Suffolk County in an area already at high risk. The third is a man who was exposed in Barnstable County.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at [Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov](#), which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at (617) 983-6800.

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September Webinar

Each month, the Office of Local and Regional

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

We Want to Hear From You!

Submit your questions and recommended topics for the next monthly webinar, on **Tuesday, Oct. 1**, to us via email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Wednesday, Sept. 25**. We value your input and welcome your suggestions for future webinar topics.

How to Register

- * If you have **not yet registered** for this webinar series, use this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A8RODgL2QtabJJqdNTpV1g
- * 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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Massachusetts Local Public Health Training Program Tier II: Housing and Food Inspection Courses Added

The Local Public Health Training Program - [Housing and Food Tier 2](#), formerly known as MA PHIT Housing and MA PHIT Food, are designed for local public health professionals charged with enforcing housing and food-related laws and regulations. This 4-day hybrid training program prepares public health professionals with in-depth knowledge of the food and housing inspection process before their Tier 3 - Applied Practice led by HUB trainers.

Please ensure you have completed Tier I coursework in advance of registering for these sessions: [Food](#) TRAIN MA Learning Plan and/or [Housing](#) TRAIN MA Learning Plan.

Application Deadline: Monday, Sept. 16, at 11 p.m.

Applicants Notified by: Week of Sept. 30

FREE

[Click Here](#) to apply. *Please apply using your email address linked to TRAIN MA. If you don't have a TRAIN MA account, [follow our instructions](#) on how to set up an account.*

MHOA: Food Safety and Emergency Response

Following a disaster event, public health officials must take action to ensure food safety in their communities. Learn about the practical guidance to plan and respond to emergencies that create the potential for foodborne illnesses. At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- * Explain the role of public health in ensuring food safety after an emergency event
- * Describe food safety preparedness
- * Assess food safety and considerations to reopen a food establishment

Thursday, Sept. 19

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wedgewood Pines Country Club, Stow, Mass.

CEUs available: 2.2 CHO/CPH, RS/REHS

[Register online](#)

FREE Veteran Suicide Prevention Conference

This day-long conference has been designed for those who are looking to serve veterans with a military background, whether a service member, veteran or loved one. You will hear from experienced military veteran clinicians on best practices, unique issues, concerns of this population, and resources available. This conference will have a dedicated emphasis on the recent rethinking of veteran suicide prevention and postvention.

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 24

Friday, Sept. 27

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

FREE

In-person conference only:

College of the Holy Cross - Worcester, Mass.

Hogan Campus Center (Gate 7)

Public Health Museum 30th Anniversary Community Day Event

Visit the museum on Saturday, Sept. 28, for free health screenings with our community partners and listen in as experts talk about public health topics like rabies, HIV/AIDS, germ theory, the Pines Cemetery, and the 1890 Typhoid Epidemic in Lowell!

Saturday, Sept. 28

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Public Health Museum

Tewksbury, Mass.

Reminder: Registered Sanitarian (RS) and Certified Health Officer (CHO) Renewals Open Tuesday, Oct. 1

The renewal period for Registered Sanitarians and Certified Health Officers will open on Oct. 1, 2024, and will run through Jan. 15, 2025. Please submit your renewal applications through the [Health Professions Licensing Portal](#). **The portal will begin accepting applications on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024.**

To assist you with the renewal process, we will be holding virtual technical support office hours. No need to register, [join any of these sessions](#):

- * **Wednesday, Oct. 2:** 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 2 - 3 p.m.
- * **Wednesday, Nov. 6:** 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 2 - 3 p.m.
- * **Wednesday, Dec. 11:** 10 - 11 a.m. and 2 - 3 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact rs.cho@mass.gov.

DPH OPGS: Annual Stakeholder Listening Sessions

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Problem Gambling Services (OPGS) is excited to announce its eighth **Annual Stakeholder Listening Sessions!** These sessions are held to promote equity by centering community voice to inform problem gambling data, programs, and services. This year's theme will be **youth gambling**, and the session will be held virtually via Zoom. Please register and spread the word!

Springfield, Mass.
Thursday, Oct. 3
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
[Register to attend](#)

Community Listening Sessions

In addition to the Stakeholder Listening Sessions, the Community Listening Session serves as a dedicated space for residents to discuss the impacts of problem gambling and related issues on their communities. Register for the [English session](#) and register for the [Spanish session](#).

Register for the 2024 Yankee Conference

The Yankee Conference on Environmental Health is back for 2024! This year the conference is at the Hilton Mystic Hotel in the seaside town of Mystic, Conn. from **Oct. 16 - 18**.

[Find out more and register to attend.](#) If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email yankeeconferenceinfo@gmail.com.

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.

To register a group on one invoice, please send a list of names, email addresses, 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, Vt.

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

Just Launched: FREE Training from the Public Health Communications Collaborative Academy

The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) Academy is a new training hub to support public health communicators around the country. Join us for The PHCC Academy's first course, *Strengthening Public Health Communications through Community Engagement*. [Learn more](#) and [register online](#).

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Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health is Hiring!

The Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health, serving the towns of Northborough, Southborough, Westborough, and Boylston, is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- * **Regional Public Health Nurse** (FT) This role will implement and coordinate public health nursing services across the region, including disease surveillance, health education, and wellness programming. [Learn more about this position.](#)
- * **Regional Epidemiologist** (PT) This role will assist the HHS Department in research and development, implementation, and communication of epidemiological aspects of traditional public health efforts. [Learn more about this position.](#)
- * **Shared Services Coordinator** (PT) This role will support the coordination, implementation, and management of shared public health services across the region, including facilitating the delivery of nursing, inspectional, and epidemiological resources and leading efforts to secure and manage resources for the ongoing work of the initiative. [Learn more about this position.](#)

Dighton is Hiring!

The Town of Dighton is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- * **Health Agent** - This role will assist with inspection and plan reviews for compliance with state codes. They will support and assist BOH staff and participate in meetings as needed. [Learn more about this position](#) and [apply here](#).
- * **Town Nurse** - The role is responsible for delivering public health nursing services, promoting community health, and ensuring compliance with health regulations within the Town of Dighton. [Learn more about this position](#) and [apply here](#).

Hamilton is Hiring!

The Town of Hamilton is seeking a **Regional Public Health Nurse** to serve the towns of Hamilton, Wenham, Rockport, and Essex. They are seeking a dedicated individual who brings enthusiasm and a passion for public health and community wellness. While experience is not a requirement, previous exposure to public health, school nursing, or ambulatory nursing is an asset. The position coordinates and leads a Regional Public Health Nurse Program in close cooperation with local and health officials. [Learn more about the position](#) and [apply here](#).

CMRPC Training Hub is Hiring!

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), serving 40 communities in southern Worcester County, seeks a **Public Health Regional Trainer** within the agency's Regional Collaboration and Community Planning Department. This position will support CMRPC's [Public Health Training Hub](#) to conduct applied training in Food Safety, Housing, Septic Systems & Title 5, and other public health inspections to local and regional public health staff. [Learn more about this position](#) and [apply here](#).

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.](#)

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.

Lemuel Shattuck Hospital:

- * [Infection Preventionist](#) | Registered Nurse V
- * [Regulatory Readiness Coordinator](#) | Registered Nurse V

Bureau of Community Health and Prevention (BCHAP):

- * [Diabetes and Cardiovascular Health Epidemiologist](#) | Contractor

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP):

- * [Deputy Regional Director](#) | Bureau of Water Resources

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EPA Funding Opportunities

- * *Develop and Demonstrate Nanosensor Technology to Detect, Monitor, and Degrade Pollutants* is open to state and local governments. Apply by Wednesday, Nov. 13, and [learn more here](#).
- * *Recreation Economy for Rural Communities*: Identify strategies to grow outdoor recreation economy and revitalize main streets in rural regions. Open to local governments, among others. Apply by Wednesday, Oct.16. [Learn more 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.

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New Inclusive Language Playbook on Writing About Disability

CommunicateHealth has the launched the [Inclusive Language Playbook: Writing About Disability](#), a new inclusive language playbook on writing about disability - check it out and share!

NACCHO: Roots of Health Inequity

After 13 years, the Health Equity and Social Justice team has updated NACCHO's signature product, now titled the [Roots of Health Inequity Course Series](#), to reflect the complexities of today. The revised course series equips participants with tools necessary to understand, identify and more directly act on the root causes of health inequity to implement equitable public health initiatives. Access the course [here](#).

Link: [Course overview video](#)

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Stay Tuned!

If you are interested in previous *Pulse* content, you can find all information related to FPHS shared in webinars and the *Pulse* newsletter [here](#).

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

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Registry of Vital Records and Statistics (RVRS) will Launch MAVRIC in November

RVRS is pleased to announce that the go-live launch date for the Massachusetts electronic death registration system, **MAVRIC**, has been updated to Monday, Nov. 18. DPH has moved the launch date until after the general election in support of the Massachusetts City and Town Clerks to ensure a smooth election process for voters and communities.

Thank you for your patience and assistance as we implement this new, faster, and more efficient system. If you have any questions, please contact RVRSCommunications@mass.gov.

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ARBOVIRUS

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

AVIAN INFLUENZA

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

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 (EA)

- * [What is Emergency Assistance Family Shelter?](#) | Mass.gov
 - * [EA Family Shelter Resources and Data](#) | Mass.gov
 - * 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](#)
-

FREE HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS

- * [MA Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#) | DPH
-

MAVEN

- * [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)
 - * [MAVEN Help](#)
 - * [MAVEN Guidance Document Series](#)
 - * State Epidemiologist Line (24/7): 617-983-6800
-

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

- * [Guidance for Municipalities](#) | DPH
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