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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, January 8, 2026

Feedback on the Pulse? [Contact us](#)

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Announcements Happening Now Webinar

Events & Trainings Careers Equity

FPHS Funding Resources

Model TST standing orders

DPH has released the 2026 edition of the model TST standing order for all local boards of health.

[View the standing orders for Tuberculin skin testing.](#)

Registered Sanitarian and Certified Health Officer renewal period open through Jan. 15!

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their licenses! The renewal period for Registered Sanitarians (RS) and Certified Health Officers (CHO) runs through **January 15**. Please log into the [Health Professions Licensing Portal](#) to complete your renewal.

For questions or assistance, contact RS.CHO@mass.gov.

Special topic webinar: HIPAA

Join OLRH for a webinar focused on HIPAA, **Tuesday, Jan. 20**, from 3 - 4 p.m. You can access this webinar using the same link as the monthly webinar series. If you have not yet registered for this webinar series, use [this link](#).

Apply to host a Local Health Intern

Hosting a Local Health Intern is more than mentorship. It is added capacity for the public health work that matters most in your community. DPH invites you to submit a project proposal to host one or more public health student interns for Summer 2026, here are some [2025 Project Examples](#).

- * **Application closes:** Friday, Feb. 6, 2026
- * **Host notification:** Friday, Feb. 13, 2026
- * **Internship period:** May 27 - Aug. 12, 2026

[Apply to host a Summer 2026 Local Health Intern](#) (Note: requires Google account- must be logged in)

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Tier 2 dates released for food and housing

OLRH is excited to share Tier 2 dates for both the Massachusetts Retail Food and Housing Inspection Training Program for Spring 2026.

Housing

- * May 6, from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (In-Person - Marlborough, Mass.)
- * May 19, 20, & 21, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Food

- * June 2, 3, & 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Virtual)
- * June 9 & 10, from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (In-person - Marlborough, Mass.)

To qualify for Tier 2, you must be registered for Tier 1 ([food](#) and [housing](#)) on TRAIN and have **completed all Tier 1 coursework by Jan. 31, 2026**. All qualified participants will be contacted by email with instructions on how to enroll in Tier 2 in **February**.

Reinforce hand hygiene this season

A surge in influenza underscores the urgent need for stronger infection-prevention practices. A new resource, [Hand Hygiene Training Activities and Resources](#), equips local health departments with ready-to-use presentations, demonstrations, audit tools, and aids that reinforce proper technique, support compliance monitoring, and energize infection-prevention engagement.

Massachusetts Public Health Nurse Resource Library now live

The Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program recently published the [Public Health Nurse Resource Library](#) on Padlet. This page is a compilation of resources to support you and your work, organized by topic, including resources for maternal-child health, vaccination, public health nurse practice, and more! Email lphnc-program@umass.edu with any feedback or questions.

Color satisfaction survey

The DPH Immunization Division's annual Color satisfaction survey asks all Color users to provide their feedback on day-to-day clinic operations within Color, training on the platform, experiences with DPH and Color support teams, and new feature rollouts. **Please take 10 minutes to [complete the survey](#) by Friday, Jan. 30.**

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January webinar

This month's topics included an update on pediatric vaccine schedules, the Local Health Internship Program, flavored tobacco guidance, [SAPHE 2.0](#) reporting, [Connect351](#) conference, and more.

[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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The odds are changing: Online casino gambling and the rising risk of harm

As Massachusetts considers legalizing internet casino gambling through H.4431, join a free webinar about what these changes could mean for public health and our communities. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions during a live Q&A.

Friday, Jan. 9

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

[Register to attend](#)

Join office hours to discuss Metrik

Do you have questions or feedback? We want to hear from you! Join any of the office hours listed below using this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630509245>

- * Friday, Jan. 16, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- * Thursday, Jan. 29, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Webinar series: Environmental health exchange with MassDEP

Join the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for a virtual meet & greet with staff from the Central Region Bureau of Air & Waste.

- * [Thursday, Jan. 15](#) from 11 a.m. - noon
- * [Thursday, Jan. 29](#) from 11 a.m. - noon

Free to register, but **limited to 25 participants from the [Central Region](#)**. Keep an eye out for the Southeast region in mid-February!

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) body art facility inspector training

This one-of-a-kind [course](#) is designed to equip you with the foundational knowledge of body art practices, this training prepares you to conduct informed, risk-based inspections.

- *

Feb. 24 & 26, 2026 | Noon – 4 p.m. | [Register](#)

- *

April 14 & 16, 2026 | Noon – 4 p.m. | [Register](#)

- *

MEHA Title 5 seminar

This annual event brings more than 200 septic industry experts and public health professionals together for a full day of in-person learning and networking.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Taunton, Mass.

Cost: Member \$130 | Non-member \$180 | Retiree \$100

[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](#).

South Coast Public Health Collaborative

- * [Shared Services Health Specialist](#)
- * [Shared Services Community Health Specialist](#)

Norfolk County-8 | [Regional Public Health Nurse](#) (Maternal, Child, and Family Health)

Longmeadow | [Director of Public Health](#)

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 Western Mass Hospital:

- * [Nursing Assistant I](#) | Westfield
- * [Registered Nurse II](#) | Westfield

Creating a responsive practice for individuals with disabilities

The [Massachusetts Health and Disability Program](#) is pleased to offer health care providers trainings on making your practice accessible:

1. Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care and Screening to Individuals with Disabilities | [Register online](#)
2. Responsive Practice: Accessible and Adaptive Communication | [Register online](#)

After completing [the training](#), you will be invited to attend technical assistance sessions with the Massachusetts Health and Disability Program and self-advocates with disabilities. You'll be able to get answers to more of your questions on how to make your practice accessible.

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FPHS Corner will return shortly with results from the FPHS Shared Services Review

Check out the [newsletter archive](#) to find past FPHS newsletters and view the [FPHS resources](#) on Mass.gov to learn what FPHS means for local public health.

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Resilient, Innovative, Safe, Empowered (RISE) funding to advance community safety

With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is working to strengthen local efforts to prevent youth and community violence.

Apply by Wednesday, Jan. 14

[Learn more and apply 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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If you have any questions, please email:
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