

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

Date 2025-02-20 21:44:40+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, Feb. 20, 2025

We want to hear from you!

[Contact us](#)

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Announcements Happening Now Webinar

Events & Trainings Careers Equity

FPHS Funding Contact Us

Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program Kickoff

In case you missed yesterday's kick-off call, the five regional public health nurse consultants were announced. Check out [the slides](#) from the webinar. The regional consultants are:

- * Anne Mistivar, Western Region: amistivar@umass.edu
- * Tamara Bedard, Central Region: tbedard@umass.edu
- * Chassea Robinson, Northeastern Region: chassearobin@umass.edu
- * Tiffany Benoit, Eastern Region: tcbenoit@umass.edu
- * Alyssa Kaiser, Southeastern Region: ahkaiser@umass.edu

Not sure which Region you are in? Look at the list of [municipalities in each region](#) and sign up for our email list [here](#).

Additionally, the program manager and director are:

- * Meg Burch, Program Manager: mtburch@umass.edu
- * Ann Becker, Program Director: annie@umass.edu

Overview of Infectious Disease Case Investigation & MAVEN Best Practices for Non-MAVEN Users

On Feb. 11, our colleagues over in the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences hosted a special webinar on case investigation and best practices in the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) for non-users in local public health. You can [view the slides](#) and [answers to questions](#) asked during the webinar.

OPEM Third Annual Volunteer Training Day

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM) is organizing an **in-person training day specifically for public health volunteers**. This training is intended to enhance the knowledge and skills of public health volunteers. It will prepare for the challenges faced across the state, share available resources, and to continue building public health preparedness, education, and resiliency across the Commonwealth. **Limited space available, register by Tuesday, Feb. 25!** Questions? Email [Liz Foley](#).

Tuesday, March 4

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Assumption University, Worcester

Cost: FREE

[Register to attend](#)

Local Public Health Data Solution Special Webinar

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 3 - 4 p.m.**! OLRH is hosting a special webinar to share updates on the Local Public Health Data Solution (LPHDS) and what's coming next. We'll cover:

- * The goals of the LPHDS
- * Where we are in the timeline, including when you can expect the pilot phase to begin
- * What we're building and how we're testing the solution to ensure it's useful to LPH
- * How the LPHDS will handle data collection, migration, and management
- * Ways that we'll be supporting LPH in using the LPHDS, including through training
- * How you can continue to provide input to help us shape the solution

We're excited to share this progress with you and hear your thoughts. We hope to see you there! You can use the same Zoom link as the regular monthly LPH webinar. If you need to register for the webinar series, please email localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov. You can also attend the [upcoming office hours](#).

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NACCHO Report Supports Rural Health in Overdose Prevention and Response

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has released a new report, [Understanding the Needs of Rural Communities: Principles and Practices for Overdose Prevention and Response](#), developed in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and JBS International. This resource outlines rural overdose trends, guiding principles, and evidence-based practices for effective overdose prevention. It also highlights unique challenges faced by rural communities, including substance use disparities and limited access to services.

FPHS Shared Services Review

The Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Shared Services Review is off and running! If you are part of a Shared Service Arrangement (SSA) and didn't get a chance to attend the most recent webinars, you can review:

- * Shared Services Review kickoff meeting: [View the slides](#) and [watch the recording](#)
- * Introduction to the Service Delivery Tool: [View the slides](#) and [watch the recording](#)
- * Introduction to the Cost Tool: [View the slides](#) and [watch the recording](#)
- * Introduction to the ISD Tool: [View the slides](#) and [watch the recording](#)
- * View the [FAQ document](#)

Thank you for engaging with us in this process!

OLRH Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report Available

OLRH recently published its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Annual Report, which highlights project achievements and milestones during the last fiscal year. The report provides a look ahead at key initiatives and projects the Office currently is working on. [View the FY24 report](#) and other past reports (**FY22 and FY23**) on OLRH's website.

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February Webinar

Each month, the Office of Local and Regional Health provides webinars on various topics relevant to local public health. This month's topics included avian influenza, gastrointestinal illness reporting, Foundational Public Health Services webinars, and other updates. [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, March 4**, to us via email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by **Wednesday, Feb. 26**. We value your input and welcome your suggestions for future webinar topics.

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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Join Office Hours to Discuss the Local Public Health Data Solution

Do you have questions or feedback about the new data and workflow solution? We want to hear from you! Staff from OLRH's Performance Standards and Data Systems team are continuing to hold **open office hours** to discuss the solution. There's one more chance to join office hours in February - and four office hours scheduled for March!

Join any of the office hours listed below using this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630509245>

- * 12 - 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24
- * 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, March 3
- * 3 - 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 11
- * 12 - 1 p.m. Thursday, March 20
- * 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Friday, March 28

Interested in other opportunities to provide your feedback on the solution? [Please complete this form.](#)

MassDEP and MHOA 2025 Seminars

The Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) are excited to announce their 2025 Seminars! [Check out the agenda](#) and [register to attend](#).

Tuesday, Feb. 25 - Holyoke, Mass.

Wednesday, Feb. 26 - Virtual Day 1 (Part 1 of 2)

Tuesday, March 11 - Boylston, Mass.

Wednesday, March 12 - Virtual Day 2 (Part 2 of 2)

Note: **This is a one-day training, repeated in 3 ways.** Two in person options (Holyoke and Boylston) and one virtual day, split into two parts.

Tobacco Merchant Education Training

This training will provide guidance to local health officials for distributing materials and resources to tobacco retailers, informing them of current fines for noncompliance, the importance of age verification, tips for refusing sales, and training opportunities for clerks on responsible sales practices. *Note: The audience for this training is local health officials.*

Tuesday, Feb. 25

1 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Communicating Effectively About Mental Health

The Public Health Communications Collaborative is hosting a webinar by lead researchers who will introduce COVID-19 and Life Stressors Impact on Mental Health and Well-Being (CLIMB)—a nationally representative study that aims to understand what matters most for mental health and how we can create the healthiest population possible.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

1 p.m. on Zoom

[Register to attend](#)

Model Tobacco Sales Regulation Information Training

This program will provide an overview of the new model tobacco sales regulations with technical assistance providers. It will also go over policy and strategy recommendations for improving local tobacco control. The most recent model regulations will be provided to attendees following the course.

Wednesday, March 5

1 - 2:30 p.m. on Zoom

[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!

Marion:

- * [Health Agent](#) | Performs onsite inspections and plan reviews to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the State Sanitary and Environmental Codes, and all other related federal, state, and town laws, bylaws and regulations.

Needham:

- * [Assistant Director of Public Health for Nursing and Behavioral Health](#) | Responsible for oversight of public health nursing, substance use prevention teams, an epidemiologist, and Medical Reserve Corps.

Valley Health Regional Collaborative (Greenfield):

- * [Health Inspector](#) | Responsible for the investigation of complaints of unsanitary conditions, practices, and nuisances affecting the public's health in accordance with local, State and Federal law.

Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services (Longmeadow):

- * [Health Inspector](#) | Administer state and local health and environmental codes, laws, and policies, and regulations.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission:

- * [Public Health Training Specialist](#) | Provide training and support to local boards of health inspectors in Berkshire and Hampden County.
- * [Planner/Senior Planner](#) | Local emergency planning, response, and training while collaborating with regional and state partners to enhance community resilience.

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.

DPH Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition (BFAN):

- * [Home Visiting Implementation Specialist](#) | Boston

DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS):

- * [Strategic Health Communication Specialist](#) - Contractor | Boston
- * [Grants Implementation Coordinator](#) | Boston

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

- * [RN, Health Care Facility Surveyor - Acute and Continuing Care](#) | Marlborough

DPH Shattuck Hospital:

- * [Chief Operating Officer](#) | Boston
- * [Medical Services Coordinator](#) | Boston

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Racial and Health Equity Technical Support from Growing a New Heart

Growing a New Heart is hosting topic-based technical support this spring on the following Tuesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. [Register to attend on Zoom](#).

- * Mar. 18 – Workforce Diversity
- * Apr. 15 – Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS)
- * May 20 – Linguistic Justice

Do you or your municipality want further guidance or have questions about how to integrate racial and health equity goals into your work plans? Reach out to Growing a New Heart for one-on-one assistance and tailored technical support.

To request tailored technical support or if you have any other questions, please contact Amparo Cruz at acruz@growinganewheart.org.

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FPHS Newsletter

The *FPHS Newsletter* is designed to provide local public health (LPH) with useful content about FPHS's value. It also offers updates about what FPHS means for Local Public Health and other updates.

The most recent addition included a story on a local epidemiologist from the Cape showing how the FPHS framework can be applied to address the spread of pertussis in their community. Check out the [newsletter archive](#)!

Didn't receive it or want to share with those interested? [Sign up!](#)

FPHS Website

Check out our new [FPHS page](#) on Mass.gov to learn more about what FPHS means for local public health and share with your networks.

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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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