
Next steps - Invitation to gather

4 messages

Merridith O'Leary <moleary@northamptonma.gov>
To: Merridith O'Leary <moleary@northamptonma.gov>
Bcc: rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov

Fri, Nov 14, 2025 at 9:21 AM

Dear Hampshire County Partners,

I wanted to reach out to extend an invitation to work together on local emergency planning efforts in the coming months. As you know, I have made the decision to resign from my position as Chair of the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition (HPHPC). Additionally, the City of Northampton has chosen to formally withdraw from the HPHPC in its current structure, as it no longer aligns with our goals. We are instead committed to developing a more relevant and localized approach to emergency planning.

Despite these transitions, I remain deeply committed to public health emergency preparedness and to creating meaningful opportunities that ensure our communities are well prepared for weather emergencies, infectious diseases, and unforeseen events. Northampton has long led local emergency planning efforts and will continue to support the Hampshire County region whenever needed.

To that end, I invite you to join me (see below) in re-establishing relationships with our local public health representatives, evaluating our emergency response capacity, developing an easy and effective communication system, reviewing the regional cache of supplies, identifying local planning needs, and providing input for a tabletop exercise this spring. Your participation is entirely optional and does not prevent you from also attending the HPHPC meetings hosted by the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC).

Meeting Location
Northampton City Hall--Hearing Room
210 Main Street, Northampton
December 4th at 2pm - 3:30
Please RSVP if you plan to attend

In an effort to maximize your time, the HPHPC meeting will be held immediately following the Shared Services Meeting hosted by Kristen Dearborn.

Thank you

Merridith A. O'Leary, R.S., Health Commissioner
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To: Merridith O'Leary <moleary@northamptonma.gov>

Hi Merridith,

I'm looking forward to it! As always, Easthampton values Northampton's leadership and experience, and I'm happy we'll have the chance to continue working together between our communities.

Best,

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Merridith O'Leary <moleary@northamptonma.gov>

Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 3:37 PM

To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Cc: "Loren Davine, MRC" <lorendavine@gmail.com>

That's wonderful news, Ryan! We're really excited about the new direction for emergency preparedness. Last year was tough, and this is a much-needed reset.

On a different note, I have 2018 listed as the most recent Tobacco Sales Regulation for Easthampton. Could you confirm if that's still accurate? If so, I think it would be valuable to update the regulation to reflect current product trends and enforcement needs. I'm happy to collaborate with you and lead this effort with support from our TA team and help draft language for you and your Board. If you move forward, I can also attend your Board meeting to answer any questions. Tobacco policy is my jam and has such a significant impact on our youth.

Looking forward to your thoughts.

Thank you again.

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 4:32 PM

To: Merridith O'Leary <moleary@northamptonma.gov>

Cc: "Loren Davine, MRC" <lorendavine@gmail.com>

Yes, 2018 is the most recent version we have on record, and I agree that it's time for a significant update.

I'd really appreciate your collaboration on this and get this going as soon as possible. If you're available, I'd love to have you join our next virtual BOH meeting on 12/10 to answer any questions the Board may have and help set the stage for an in-person hearing at the end of December or early January.

My goal with the update is to retire tobacco permits, ban nicotine pouches, and implement the NFG ban. I know that's a big jump from where our regulation currently stands, but I think aiming for the full package now will be easier in the long term. Let me know your thoughts.

Ryan

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