

From: [Office of Local and Regional Health \(OLRH\) Newsletter <localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov>](mailto:localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov)
To: [Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us>](mailto:hansburyw@manchester.ma.us)
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Update #226: 9/12/23 Local Public Health Webinar & Updates

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Friday, September 15th, 2023

#226

Special Topic Webinar:

RS/CHO Renewal Process

The OLRH Workforce Development Unit will be hosting a special topic webinar on the Registered Sanitarian and Certified Health Officer credential renewal process on Tuesday September 26th from 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

To access this webinar, please use the same link you have for the monthly Local Public Health Webinars. If you cannot find the link, please register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8PytNXtFSMm8T2woJkGZMQ

Job Opportunity:

Director, MA Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is seeking an experienced public health professional to join the leadership team within the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention (BCHAP) to serve as Director of the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program (MTCP). DPH is looking for a dynamic and visionary leader to continue championing strategies to counter tobacco industry tactics and reduce the health and economic burden of tobacco in the Commonwealth. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

All job openings can be found on the [MassCareers](#) website. First consideration will be given to those applicants that apply within the first fourteen (14) days.

Dear Public Health Colleague,

- The next monthly webinar is scheduled on October 10th, 2023, at 3 pm .
- [Click here](#) to view the slides from Tuesday's webinar.
- [Click here](#) to view answers to questions asked during Tuesday's webinar.
- Submit your questions and recommended topics on Wednesday, October 4th, by noon to: localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov
- Click on the following link to register for the remaining 2023 webinars: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/_WN_8PytNXtFSMm8T2woJkGZMQ

IMPORTANT NOTE : Webinars have moved from bi-weekly to MONTHLY. They will be held on the second (2nd) Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm. If there are emerging situations or special topics that need to be shared, we will hold special topic webinars as needed.

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 OLRH at localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov.

[Key Information and Resources](#)

Massachusetts Migrant Response

- Governor Healey declared a [state of emergency](#) in Massachusetts in response to the rapidly rising number of migrant families arriving in Massachusetts in need of shelter and services and the severe lack of shelter availability in the state. Read the [press release](#) for details.
- Looking for resources for residents in need, including migrant families? Check out [FindHelp.org](#) to search by zip code for financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, and other free or reduced-cost services.
- [Screening and vaccination](#) to support migrant family access to public healthcare.

MAVEN

- [Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar Series](#)
 - 10/10: Respiratory Illness Season Updates
- [MAVEN Help](#)
 - *NEW documents added*
- State Epidemiologist Line: 617-983-6800

COVID-19 Resources

Vaccine

On Monday, [FDA approved and authorized updated COVID-19 vaccines](#), and on Tuesday, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices [recommended the updated vaccines](#) for everyone 6 months and older. The updated COVID vaccines, which are covered without cost sharing by all insurance providers, began shipping Tuesday night and will be available in clinics, at pharmacies, and through local health departments as early as the end of this week. Search

[vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) for vaccination appointments or find a [mobile vaccination clinic](#).

- COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin: [Click here to read the bulletin](#).
- [CDC Recommends Updated COVID-19 Vaccine for Fall/Winter Virus Season](#)
- [Letter to Community Partners: Vaccine Equity Initiative Mobile Vaccine Clinics](#)
- State Supplied [Adult Vaccine Availability Table](#) & [Childhood Vaccine Availability Table](#)
- Questions? Email: dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov

COVID-19 in K-12

- [Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#) (Help Center 781-338-3500)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)

COVID-19 Test Kits

- [COVID-19 Statewide Contract Resources for Antigen Test Kits](#)
- [MassHealth Coverage for Testing and Treatment](#)
- [How to Get Test Kits Covered by Insurance](#)

Community Health Data Tool

The Population Health Information Tool (PHIT) has launched the Community Health Data Tool. This reports and mapping tool presents available and relevant data indicators at the city/town, county, and rural cluster levels to aid local health in the ability to make data-driven decisions. [Access the tool here.](#)

[Local Public Health-Related Information](#)

Hurricane Lee: Tips for Safety & Preparedness

According to the [National Weather Service](#), Hurricane Lee is approaching New England in the coming days, forecasted to bring wind, rain, and coastal flood impacts to coastal southern New England Friday night into Saturday. Below are some resources to share with your communities:

- Find safety tips, messaging, and social media graphics from [NOAA Hurricane Prep](#).
- Preparedness Tips: mass.gov/guides/stay-aware-be-prepared
- Emergency Supply Checklist: mass.gov/lists/stay-aware-be-prepared-download-a-preparedness-checklist
- Power outage preparedness and safety information: mass.gov/info-details/power-outage-safety-tips
- Preparedness and safety tips for tropical storms and hurricanes: mass.gov/info-details/hurricane-safety-tips
- Flood safety tips: mass.gov/info-details/flood-safety-tips

MDPH Initiatives:

Community Health Equity Initiative Survey

To improve the health of everyone in Massachusetts, we need to center the voices of people and communities who have been long denied an equal chance at health. Anyone aged 14 and older can take the survey. It takes approximately 15 to 30 minutes to complete and is available in 10 languages. Click on this link to get started: www.mass.gov/healthsurvey. For more information about the Community Health Equity Initiative and the survey including the promotional toolkit, please visit, www.mass.gov/CHEI, or email chei@mass.gov.

Membership Applications Open for Office of HIV/AIDS Advisory Group

The Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) is recruiting members for all ten of its advisory groups for the next three-year term (2023-2026). [See the full list here](#). We strongly encourage you to share this opportunity with your colleagues and others in your networks who may be interested. We are looking for diverse representation and we welcome new members.

OHA will host four Advisory Group Open House sessions ([see schedule here](#)) for those interested in learning more, to address questions, or for help with the application. No registration is required. If you have questions, please contact Nikel Casimir at (617)-780-4219 or nikel.casimir@mass.gov. The deadline to apply is Friday, September 29, 2023 at 5:00pm.

Opioid Abatement Funds Technical Assistance

The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services is contracting with JSI who will be sharing resources available to support municipalities in effectively using the Opioid Settlement Funds. Learn more at www.caremass.org or by emailing abate@jsi.com. Register to attend informational webinars by clicking on the links below:

- September 19 - [Metrowest](#)
- September 21 - [Western](#)
- September 28 - [Northeast](#)

Developing Best Practices for Reusable Food Ware Containers

On behalf of MassDEP and MDPH, RecyclingWorks invites you to the first in a series of meetings

that will inform the development of guidance on how restaurants, colleges and universities, and other food service entities can transition away from single-use food ware containers to reusable containers. Please [register](#) for the first virtual meeting being held on October 12, 2023, at 1:00 pm

Reach out to info@recyclingworksma.com with any questions. If you are unable to join on 10/12, please contact us to be added to the invite list for the following meeting (TBD Winter 2023).

Funding Opportunity:

CHII Health & Disability Inclusion Grants

The Department of Public Health is giving out seven (7) mini-grants of \$18,000 to communities to make your community more accessible. Projects will help people with mobility disabilities access healthy food, engage in physical activity, and participate in civic life. [Read the RFP](#) and learn more about this opportunity including how you can apply, [here](#). Applications are due October 30, -2023, by 5:00 P.M .

NEHA-FDA RFFM Grant Program

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) work in partnership to administer the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program. The program provides funding to State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) retail food regulatory agencies as they advance conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). Applications are due by 7:59 PM ET on Wednesday October 11, 2023. [Learn more here.](#)

Upcoming Events & Trainings:

Vaccine Management & Immunizations, Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, and the Do's & Don'ts of Vaccine Clinics

This free webinar will provide an introduction into the three areas of concentration for PHNs in MA: Infectious Disease, Immunizations, and Emergency Preparedness; with resources clearly identified through membership in the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses (MAPHN). Join us on September 26, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, [Register here](#).

MHOA Annual Conference

This year's MHOA Annual Conference will be held October 25-27 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in North Falmouth, MA. Don't wait to register! Early bird registration is open through September 15, 2023. [Learn more and register to attend.](#)

What is Public Health?

You care about health. But can you define public health in a sentence? Do you have an elevator pitch for the social factors that affect health? Use this resource to share with your networks about the difference between health, public health, and health equity; as well as the conceptual

frameworks that guide our field.

[Register for this self-paced course](#)

Dealing with Stress in Disasters: Building Psychological Resilience

Local public health workers assume the responsibility of ensuring the health and safety of affected people, helping them cope with the devastating situation, and re-establishing normal function. However this can take a heavy toll as well, particularly in emotionally-charged situations with widespread turmoil. Learn ways to identify and cope with these situations and build psychological resilience.

[Register for this self-paced course](#)

[Career Opportunities](#)

[Mass Careers Job Opportunities](#)

[Find Your Future Commonwealth Job](#) across industries including health and human services, transportation, IT, finance, housing and economic development, energy and environmental, public safety and security, and education.

[Academic Public Health Corps - Opportunities](#)

- [Jobs in Local Health](#)
- [Join The Corps \(for student interns\)](#)

[Comments/Suggestions](#)

If you have any comments/questions or concerns, please send them to: localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov

OLRH Website

MA Department of Public Health

MDPH Twitter

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