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To: [Public Health Nurse <publichealthnurse@manchester.ma.us>](mailto:publichealthnurse@manchester.ma.us)
Date: 10/3/2024 12:30:11 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - [*Suspicious Email*] The Pulse on Local Public Health: An Office of Local & Regional Health Bulletin

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Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024

We want to hear from you!

[Contact us](#)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Click on each icon to jump to that section



Announcements



Happening Now



Webinar



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Equity



DPH Updates



FPHS



Funding



Announcements

We Need Your Help Shaping the Future of Public Health in Massachusetts

OLRH is excited to share updates about our work to build a data solution that all health departments across the state can use to collect, organize, share, and report public health data and streamline their daily work. Our aim is to provide better, faster, more actionable and equitable public health insights for Massachusetts communities.

Currently, we're conducting initial research to understand what you need and want to improve your work with data (collecting, reporting, and analyzing) and daily tasks. We're looking for volunteers from local public health to share insights so that we can build a system that works for you. We'll be looking for your input through 100+ touchpoints — including listening sessions, focus groups, 1-1 interviews, office hours with OLRH, and user testing with solution prototypes.

If you're willing to participate in any of these touchpoints, [please fill out this form to indicate your interest](#)!

Registered Sanitarian (RS) and Certified Health Officer (CHO) Renewal Period is Open!

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

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, 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 or need one-on-one assistance, please feel free to contact rs.cho@mass.gov or call (413) 330-4173.

Survey on Understanding Flood Communications in Local Communities

Researchers from the Research Triangle Institute and the University of Vermont are conducting a study on flood communication in local communities. They are currently recruiting people to fill out a survey, and specifically want to hear from people who communicate about emergency weather in organizations like local public health.

Researchers plan to share what they learn with organizations like the National Weather Service to help improve the distribution of new flood information tools and, in the process, serve local communities.



A link to the survey can be accessed via the survey flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/survey-flyer-flood>

The survey will remain open until late October . Additional information about this National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-funded research is [available here](#).

If you have any questions about this study now or in the future, you may contact Dr. Anne Jefferson at (802) 656-5734 or Dr. Jill Brown at jillbrown@rti.org.

Take Part in a Local Public Health Academy Strategic Plan Focus Group

OLRH invites our local public health (LPH) partners to participate in a 45 to 60-minute virtual focus group to gather valuable insight on a potential Local Public Health Training Academy for Massachusetts.

We are conducting a series of strategic discussions to best inform the priorities and infrastructure of a potential statewide local public health training academy. Your experience in LPH is invaluable in this process.

Please register for ONE of the two dates if you're interested by completing the form below. It takes less than 1 minute to complete. Space is limited. Registration closes Tuesday, Oct. 15. All responses will remain confidential.

- 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22: [Click here to register](#)
- 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24: [Click here to register](#)

OLRH has contracted with Health Resources in Action (HRiA) to assess the project's feasibility, draft a strategic plan, and conduct these focus groups. If you have questions, please email Jessica Tracy, Assistant Director of Local Public Health Workforce Development, at Jessica.E.Tracy@mass.gov.

Foodborne Illness Complaint System Survey

The National Workgroup on Foodborne Illness Complaint Systems would like your help to learn about the current diversity in complaint-based surveillance methods . They kindly ask that you, or someone from your local level agency who is knowledgeable about your foodborne illness consumer complaint system, complete [this survey](#). Please only have one person at your agency complete this survey.

The information and data you provide will be de-identified and aggregated. Aggregated data will be used to establish a baseline of current complaint system practices, guide topics of interest for workgroup discussions, and identify areas for guidance and resource development. The overall findings/trends will be shared with the workgroup, but data specific to states will be kept anonymous.

Your response and feedback by Wednesday, Oct. 23, is greatly appreciated.

PH WINS 2024 is Live!

Reminder, if you haven't submitted your staff list yet, there's still time! Please ensure your [staff list](#) is submitted by Friday, Nov. 8 . For more details on PH WINS 2024, visit [phwins.org](#) or contact r1phwins@bu.edu.

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Happening Now

Covidtests.gov is Open for Ordering!

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), in collaboration with the U.S. Postal Service, has reopened [COVIDtests.gov](#) so that households across the country can order four over-the-counter COVID-19 tests for free . These tests are intended for use throughout the 2024 holiday season to detect currently circulating COVID-19 variants. Clear instructions are included on how to verify [extended expiration dates](#). Please share with your communities!

Engaging with Sensitivity: Techniques for Interviewing

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Learn has released an excellent new training: [Engaging with Sensitivity: Techniques for Interviewing Persons Experiencing Homelessness, Disability, and Substance Use Disorders](#). This is a self-paced training series that consists of several modules totaling less than three hours. It is designed specifically for health officials who conduct case investigations and need to ask questions about sensitive

topics such as housing, disabilities, drug use, and sex. There are examples from a range of investigation types including hepatitis C, Shigella, and mumps. Anyone can create a free account on CSTE Learn and access this training!

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>



DPH Announces 13th Human Case of WNV and Lowered Risk of EEE

DPH [announced](#) the 13th human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the state this year. The individual is a man in his 40s with exposure in southern Essex County. As a result, WNV risk levels are being raised to moderate in Middleton and North Reading in Middlesex County.

DPH [announced](#) the risk from Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is no longer considered high or critical anywhere in the state. Communities previously at high or critical risk are now at moderate risk.



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.

Vector Surveillance and Control at the Local Level: Findings from the 2023 National Vector Assessment

A [new report](#) published by NACCHO, with support from CDC, finds that local vector control programs that responded to a 2023 national survey routinely conduct mosquito surveillance and control but continue to face barriers with pesticide resistance testing. The findings emphasize the need to provide more funding and technical assistance to local vector control programs, and validate several of the goals outlined in CDC's [National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People](#).

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.

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October 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 an update on the Local Public Health Data Solution, food allergen awareness training, and the Municipal Public Health Services Master Service Agreement. [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, Nov. 5 , to us via email to localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov by Wednesday, Oct. 30. 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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Events & Trainings

Register for the 2024 Yankee Conference by Oct. 6



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](#) by Oct. 6 . If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email yankeeconferenceinfo@gmail.com.

Society for Health Communication Webinar: The State of Social Media

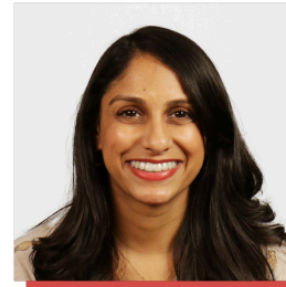
 Level-Up Learning Series Webinar

The State of Social Media: Breaking Through in a Modern Social Feed

Wednesday
October 9, 2024
12:30–1:30pm ET



Stacey Bernstein
CEO
M Booth Health



Anisha Patel
Senior Vice President
Public Affairs
M Booth Health

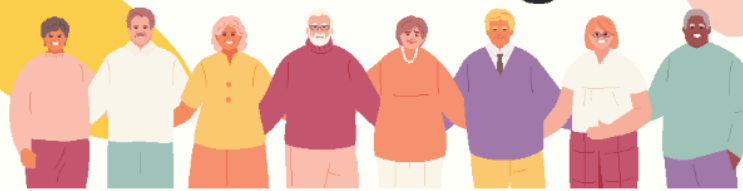


MBOOTH:HEALTH

Social media is undoubtedly an essential tool for any healthcare communicator in today's world, but staying relevant and finding success in an increasingly crowded feed is no easy feat. So how do we break through? By deeply understanding platform trends, behavior shifts and the key places and spaces where health intersects with the online conversation. Get a deep dive into the state of play across social media and how healthcare communicators can find success in a modern social feed.

Wednesday, Oct. 9
12:30 p.m. on Zoom
[Register to attend](#) by Oct. 7

Policy, Systems, and Environment (PSE) Change Training



This training will give participants an understanding of how social and historical factors impact health and how systems and structures maintain health disparities. It will introduce participants to the Policy, Systems, and Environment (PSE) Change framework and how to use it to address underlying causes of health inequities in their communities. Examples using this strategy from Franklin County include the Senior Tax Workoff and ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Monday, Oct. 7
12 - 2 p.m. on Zoom
[Register](#) to attend

Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition Opportunities

The Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition (MAIC) is a collaborative, statewide effort to increase adult vaccination across the Commonwealth. Membership is free, and participation in the coalition offers updated vaccine information as well as an opportunity to spotlight your work. For more information, please reach out to Rich Baker at rich_baker@jsi.com or Amy Sgueglia at amy_sgueglia@jsi.com, or click [here](#) to join.

- Self-paced [Community Health Worker Training](#) in partnership with the Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project and Vaccinate your Family. Participate in the Vaccination Community Navigator Training and, upon completion, receive an Implementation Package of supplies to aid your vaccine confidence work.
- 2024-2025 Influenza Season Update Webinar, Tuesday, Oct. 8 : Register [HERE](#)

MAVEN Infectious Disease Tools for Local Health Webinar: 2024-2025 Respiratory Illness Season

In this training, DPH epidemiologists will provide local health agents with an overview of relevant topics in preparation for the upcoming respiratory illness season in Massachusetts. Join us to learn more about how seasonal respiratory illnesses are tracked, what is involved in influenza-like-illness (ILI) cluster follow-up, and relevant updates for 2024-2025.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

11 a.m - 12:30 p.m.

[Register](#) to attend and find more information about this [webinar series](#).

Community Listening Sessions

In addition to the Office of Problem Gambling 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](#).



Save the Date

8th Annual Office of Problem Gambling Services Community Listening Sessions

Register here

English

Tuesday, October 8th,
6:00 p.m - 7:30 p.m.
<https://bit.ly/3y1HxwK>



Español

Miércoles 9 de octubre,
de 6:00 p.m. a 7:30 p.m.
<https://bit.ly/4bqPQkh>



Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Problem Gambling Services

Rural Health Grant Writing Institute

National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) cordially invites all rural health stakeholders to a unique learning experience where you can enhance your grant writing skills, turn rurality to your advantage, learn to connect with funders, and more!

The Rural Health Grant Writing Institute was developed to meet the unique needs of rural grant writers. Each session outlines one of the basic building blocks or strategies for successful program funding. The 9-session Institute runs from Oct. 21 to Dec. 16 . For questions about this institute, please contact Beth Kolf, NOSORH Program Specialist, at bethk@nosorh.org.

Friday, Oct. 11

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$1000

[Learn more and register](#)

Tick Academy

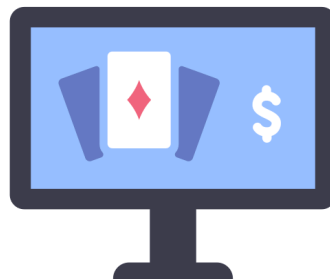


Once a year, the [Tick IPM Working Group](#) hosts the [Tick Academy](#), which is an opportunity for researchers, educators, students, public health professionals, pest control professionals, public-space managers and citizen scientists interested in learning more about what they can do to stop the spread of ticks and tick-borne diseases in their communities.

Wednesday, Oct. 16, and Thursday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST

Fee: \$25 per day

What's Equity Got to Do With It? Centering Equity into Problem Gambling Prevention



We know health equity should be central to the work we do and incorporated into our organizations, our work with others, and ourselves, but it doesn't always happen. This interactive training will explore key concepts in centering health equity into our work, enhancing our cultural proficiency, understanding complex factors influencing community health, and examining the historical and policy influences shaping our communities.

Tuesday, Oct. 22

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Virtual

[Register to attend](#)

NACCHO: Local Health Officials Monthly Call

Each month local health department leaders will discuss updates on guidance and initiatives from CDC, FDA, and other federal partners and hear timely updates to support your work in the community. While this call is specifically designed for LHOs, if you cannot attend you may designate a senior deputy to join as necessary. Have a discussion topic or other question to share? Please email Molly Currington, Government Affairs Associate, at mcurrington@naccho.org.

[Register here for the All-LHO Monthly Meeting](#), the next meeting is Oct. 24 .



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](#).

MPHA Annual Conference Registration is Open

MPHA's Annual Conference is an engaging educational event that virtually brings together hundreds of public health advocates and allies from across the state to learn and re-energize for the important goal of achieving health equity in our Commonwealth. This year's [Virtual 2024 Annual Conference and Meeting](#) will be:

Tuesday, Dec. 10

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

[Register to attend](#)

\$5 - Student Admission

\$10 - Staff of Organizational Member

\$20 - Standard Admission

For scholarships, contact ahidalgo@mapublichealth.org



MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC HEALTH
ALLIANCE

2024 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEETING

MOVING AT THE SPEED OF TRUST:
ADVANCING COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS

 **DATE**
Dec. 10, 2024

 **TIME**
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

 **REGISTER NOW**

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Career Opportunities

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](#).

NBCPHA is Hiring!

The Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance (NBCPHA), based out of Berkley, covering the towns of Attleboro, Berkley, Dighton, North Attleboro, Rehoboth, and Taunton, is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Regional Social Worker - This position supports NBCPHA to identify and implement best practices for public health service delivery, and to increase the Alliance's awareness of and improve regional response to health risk behaviors. Provide case management assistance and referrals for community residents, as needed. [Learn more and apply here.](#)
 - Regional Public Health Nurse - This position is responsible for administering and implementing NBCPHA's public health nursing functions including planning and implementing interventions, facilitating collaboration across the municipalities, conducting clinics, programs, communicable disease investigations, and administering immunizations. [Learn more and apply here.](#)
 - Regional Inspector - This role will provide environmental health services to citizens and protects the health and safety of the public from adverse environmental determinants. Conducts environmental health inspections and evaluations. [Learn more and apply here.](#)
-

Newton is Hiring!

The City of Newton is seeking candidates for a Public Health Nurse Educator. This position is responsible for carrying out public health nursing functions as part of a comprehensive public health program. This includes health needs assessment; communicable disease surveillance, prevention, and control; immunizations; and health education and promotion. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Southborough is Hiring!

The Towns of Southborough and Northborough, through the Town of Southborough, are seeking candidates for a full-time [Health Agent](#). This position will perform a wide range of inspection and enforcement duties related to public health, sanitation, and environmental laws and regulations. Preference will be given to candidate that has a RS /REHS certification. First preference will be given to those applicants who apply by Oct. 15. [Learn more](#) and [apply here](#).

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, or other types of 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](#).

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.

Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition (BFHN)

Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs (CHYSN):

- [Care Coordinator](#)
- [Community Support Line Specialist](#)

Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality (BHCSQ):

- [Registered Nurse, Health Care Facility Inspector](#) | North Region

Bureau of Community Health and Prevention (BCHAP):

- [Tobacco Compliance Officer](#) - Contractor | MTCP

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL):

- [Nursing Investigator](#) | Board of Nursing

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Equity Center



5 WEEK SERIES: Every Wednesday in October from 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Are you looking to create a more inclusive and diverse work environment? This online series is perfect for you! Learn practical strategies and tools to promote racial equity in your workplace. [Register for this FREE webinar series.](#)

Download NACCHO's New Series of Toolkits for Working With Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Communities

NACCHO has the launched a series of toolkits for working with newly arrived residents in your community - check it out and share!

- [Tailoring Health Communication Materials for Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant \(RIM\) Communities](#)
- [Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships and Engagement Efforts with Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant \(RIM\) Communities](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Approaches for Local Health Departments and Non-Profit Organizations Working with Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant \(RIM\) Communities](#)
- [Overcoming Challenges to Sustainability for Local Health Departments and Non-Profit Organizations Working With Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant \(RIM\) Communities](#)

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Technical Support Program

OLRH supports local public health with resources and tools to protect the health of communities by providing guidance in topic areas, such as:

- Performance Standards
- Data Support
- Workforce Development
- Local Political Support

[LEARN MORE](#)

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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FPHS Newsletter

In case you missed it, the brand new FPHS Newsletter was sent out on Sept. 17. [Check it out!](#) The next edition will be released Oct. 8. 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.

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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Funding Opportunities

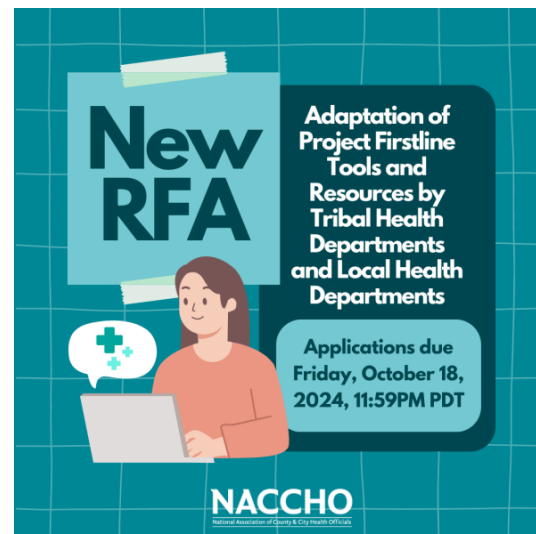
Apply for the Municipal Master Services Agreement (MSA) RFR

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.

NACCHO Funding Opportunity: RFA Adaptation of Project Firstline Tools and Resources



Through this Request for Applications (RFA), NACCHO is pleased to offer a technical assistance and funding opportunity to implement and adapt CDC's [Project Firstline](#) tools and resources to support infection prevention and control (IPC) work aimed at strengthening IPC capacity in healthcare facilities within their jurisdictions. The deadline for applications is Friday, Oct. 18. [Learn more and apply.](#)

NACCHO Funding Opportunity

Is Your Health Department PPHR Ready? Applications are open through Thursday, Oct. 31 for the 2025 cycle of Project Public Health Ready (PPHR). This criteria-based training and recognition program helps LHDs develop core public health and emergency preparedness competencies. The program offers LHDs an opportunity to build partnerships with local, state, and federal leaders, community response partners and other stakeholders

as well as facilitate collaboration and team building across their entire health department. [Click here to learn more.](#)

EPA Funding Opportunities

- 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.](#)
 - 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.](#)
-

CDC Funding Opportunity: Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) Practice-based Research to Improve Food Safety

Environmental health programs are typically responsible for retail food safety in their jurisdictions; and foodborne outbreaks commonly occur in retail food establishments such as restaurants, delis, and caterers. Thus, the focus of these research and investigation efforts is retail food safety. You must be able to collaborate with epidemiology and laboratory staff in your health departments or in other agencies that conduct foodborne outbreak investigations. Application deadline: Monday, Dec. 2, 2024. [Learn more.](#)

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Local Public Health Resources

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
-

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
-

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Guidance

- [Respiratory Virus Guidance](#) | CDC
- [Recommendations for the General Public](#) | DPH
- [Guidance for Health Care Settings](#) | DPH

Clinics

- [Mobile Clinics](#) | DPH
- [In-Home Vaccination Program](#) | DPH

COVID-19

- [Mobile Clinics](#) | DPH
- [In-Home Vaccination Program](#) | DPH
- [Statewide Contract Resources](#) | DPH
 - PPE, Test Kits, etc.

Influenza

- [Influenza](#) | DPH
- [For Health Care and Public Health Professionals](#) | DPH
- [For School and Child Care Administrators](#) | DPH
- [For Long-Term Care Facilities](#) | DPH

STEWARD HEALTH CARE

- [Steward Health Care Resources](#) | DPH
- Call Center: (617) 468-2189 or toll-free at (833) 305-2070
 - Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., not including holidays
- [Health Care Capacity Dashboard](#) | DPH
- [Urgent Care and Retail Clinic Map](#) | DPH

TICK-BORNE DISEASE

- [Tick-borne Diseases](#) | DPH
- [Powassan Virus](#) | CDC
- [TickReport](#)

TRAIN MA

- [TRAIN Massachusetts](#) | Online Learning Management System (replaced BU/LPHI)
 - Questions? Email olrhtrainingsupport@mass.gov

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Contact Us

If you have any comments, questions, or feedback, please email:
localregionalpublichealth@mass.gov

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