



Office of Local
and Regional
Health

Local Public Health Update

*News and Information from the Office of Local and Regional Health
Massachusetts Department of Public Health*

May 2016

Volume 1, Number 3

Click the links below for information and resources for local public health

[State Without StigMA](#)

[Stop Addiction in Its Tracks](#)

[Zika Virus](#)

[Office of Local and Regional Health](#)

[Local Public Health Institute](#)

[DPH Data](#)

Welcome to the Office of Local and Regional Health Monthly Newsletter!

To join the **Local Public Health Update** distribution list or to offer newsletter comments/questions or suggestions for the content, please contact Damon Chaplin at 781.774.6608 or damon.chaplin@state.ma.us.

In this Issue

[News and Program Updates](#)

[Data](#)

[Trainings and Events](#)

[Funding and Career Opportunities](#)

Featured Stories

[Orientation to Local Public Health in Massachusetts](#)

[State Health Officials Release Updated Opioid-Related Overdose Data](#)

[EOEA Protective Services and Local Public Health](#)

[New Research Finds Laws that Effectively Reduce Underage Drinking Fatalities](#)

Commissioner's Quarterly Conference Call with Local Public Health

Please save the date – Tuesday, June 14th!

DPH Commissioner Monica Bharel will host her Quarterly Conference Call with Local Public Health on Tuesday, June 14th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Details about the call will be sent in early June.

Orientation to Local Public Health in Massachusetts

Register Today! The Coalition for Local Public Health in partnership with the Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts and the MDPH Office of Local and Regional Health will provide an orientation program for local public health staff and governing body members on **June 21st** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston. To register, please email Ruth-Ellen Sandler at resandler@metrocast.net. Please be sure to type **Orientation** in the subject line. There is no registration fee. Space is limited. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

State Health Officials Release Updated Opioid-Related Overdose Data

Includes First Time Analysis of Data on Fentanyl-Related Deaths

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) recently released updated 2015 and preliminary first quarter 2016 data on opioid-related overdose deaths among Massachusetts residents. For the first time, the data includes information about fentanyl and its disturbing relationship to opioid-related deaths in Massachusetts in addition to opioid overdose-related emergency medical service (EMS) transport and naloxone data. In June 2015, the Governor's Opioid Working Group released [65 recommendations](#) and a comprehensive [Action Plan](#) aimed at curbing the opioid epidemic. These short and long-term recommendations focus on Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Recovery Support. For more information, please see the full [press release](#) and [updated data](#).

EOEA Protective Services and Local Public Health

DPH is working with the Protective Services Program at the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Coalition for Local Public Health and others to educate local public health officials about timely communication and collaboration in housing condemnation and/or hoarding situations. Early communication between boards of health and EOEA Protective Services can support prompt assistance for elders in these circumstances. To learn more about the EOEA Protective Services Program, please visit their [web site](#).

New Research Finds Laws that Effectively Reduce Underage Drinking Fatalities

For more information, please review [this](#) online article which highlights nine laws designed to help reduce underage drinking beyond the mandated minimum legal drinking age of 21. An abstract of the research conducted by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Calverton, Maryland is available [here](#).

Statewide Local Public Health Zika Conference Call

On May 11, 2016 the Department of Public Health held a statewide Zika conference call for Local Health Departments. For more information on the Zika virus, please visit the [DPH Zika web page](#) and review the [DPH Zika weekly update](#).

Program Updates

Office of Local and Regional Health

The Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) Regional Directors were recently assigned a new title, *Director of Local Public Health Initiatives*. The title is consistent with the OLRH transition from regional to statewide staff assignments in support of local public health as announced earlier this year. This statewide approach to staff assignments enables us to more effectively and efficiently advance our efforts to establish OLRH as a responsive leader and resource for strengthening local public health capacity across the Commonwealth. The OLRH Directors of Local Public Health Initiatives (Shelly Yarnie, Soloe Dennis, and Damon Chaplin) will remain in their current locations (West Boylston, Northampton, and Canton, respectively). Details about assignments of each of the Directors of Local Public Health Initiatives will be sent in a separate communication to local public health officials later this month.

Paul Muzhuthett, formerly OLRH Northeast Regional Director, has retired from state service after more than

25 years with DPH. He has accepted a position with a non-profit organization. Please join us in wishing him well in his new position and in thanking him for his many years of service to DPH and communities in the Northeast region.

Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management

The Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM) has announced the appointment of James Richardson as Public Health Preparedness Coordinator for Region 3. Jim comes to DPH with more than ten years of experience coordinating public health emergency planning in New Hampshire. He has considerable expertise in emergency planning, response coordination and regional multi-discipline coalition development. Please join us in welcoming Jim to DPH. He can be reached at 617.624.5048 or james.richardson2@state.ma.us.

Performance Management and Quality Improvement-MDPH Accreditation

In the Home Stretch - The Red Sox may have just started playing but here at DPH we are in the final innings of our documentation collection process for public health accreditation. We've seen so many team members and domain leaders go to bat for accreditation by providing new examples, finalizing narratives and conducting cross review of their colleagues' documentation. Thank you all for the amazing teamwork! And now we're in the homestretch! Our accreditation documentation was finalized in April and May will find us in the bottom of the 9th as we upload all 12 domains to the Public Health Accreditation Board's electronic system – [ePHAB](#).

The grand slam happens at the DPH All-Staff Meeting on May 19th at 2:00 pm when Commissioner Bharel will "hit" the submit button, officially sending our application to ePHAB for review and for assignment to a site visit team. We'll take a few moments at the meeting to celebrate all of the hard work and dedication that went into achieving this milestone, and the hundreds of DPH staff who helped to make it happen. Read about accreditation here: www.mass.gov/dph/accreditation

Office of Community Health Planning and Engagement

In the March-April newsletter, the Office of Local and Regional Health provided an update on the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards Healthy Community Design/Mass in Motion grant project. The following is a list of the funded communities: Arlington, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Dedham, Grafton, Hanover, Hudson, Melrose, Methuen, Middleton, Millis, Needham, Newburyport, Norwood, Pepperell, Pittsfield, Somerville, Williamsburg. For more information contact: Ben Wood,, Acting Director, Office of Community Health Planning and Engagement, 413.586.7525 ext.3130 or ben.wood@state.ma.us.

Community Sanitation Program

Updated information regarding recreational camps for children is provided in the links below. For more information, please go to www.mass.gov/dph/dcs.

Christian's Law Revised Interim Guidance

www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/sanitation/mdph-christians-law-interim-guidance-2016.pdf

2016 Updated Guidance on Immunization for Camp Staff and Campers

- www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/immunization/recommended-camp-immunizations.pdf

Information for Parents on Recreational Camps for Children

Letter-sized Version

- www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/sanitation/recreational-camps-faqs-parents.pdf

Tri-fold Pamphlet Version

- www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/sanitation/recreational-camps-pamphlet.pdf
-

Data

The **Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR)** collects information on all newly diagnosed cases of cancer in the state. These data provide important information for monitoring the impact of environmental and occupational hazards. The data are also used when designing and evaluating cancer prevention and control programs.

Each year, the MCR issues two main reports: [Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Massachusetts](#) and the [City/Town Supplement](#). The first report provides statewide information on cancer incidence and mortality. The supplemental report contains cancer incidence information by town. Information about the City/Town Supplement is sent to Massachusetts local boards of health in advance of its release in late fall. The MCR makes data available through consultation, technical assistance and presentations. For more information, please visit the Massachusetts Cancer Registry [web page](#).

Trainings and Events

June 3 | Massachusetts Public Health Association

The Journey of Leadership – 14th Annual Spring Awards Breakfast

The MPHA Annual Awards Breakfast will be held on **June 3, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the State Room in Boston**. This year, the breakfast will feature Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and will celebrate the work of the following leaders to reduce health inequities in Massachusetts: Ray Considine, MSW (Paul Revere Award); Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH (Public Health Leadership in Medicine Award); Durrell J. Fox, BS (Front Line Award); and Donna Lombardi, MEd, RD (Lemuel Shattuck Award). Details including registration information at www.mapublichealth.org

June 7 | MHOA- Food Truck Sharing Session

Mobile food vendors open forum

NACCHO is pleased to host an online sharing session on local regulatory issues dealing with mobile food units. The first presentation will highlight how local regulatory agencies in southern New Jersey addressed challenges with mobile food units by forming a regional mobile task force to standardize mobile food establishment processes and applications. The second presentation will focus on challenges with local regulation from the perspective of mobile food unit owners/managers and how regulators and industry can

work together to ensure food safety. Participants are encouraged to share their own challenges, successes, and to ask questions during the Q&A portion of the presentation. The session will be held June 7, 2016 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT. **Register for the sharing session [here](#).**

Presenters: Jeanne Garbarin, Principal Registered Environmental Health Specialist, City of Vineland Health Department; Matt Gelle, CEO/Co-Founder, SoCal Mobile Food Vendors Association

August 10-12 | FDA Northeast Region Annual Food Protection Seminar – (Northampton)

Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA)

Regional Retail Food Protection Seminars are held annually in each FDA Region. The Regional Retail Food Protection Seminars provide an opportunity for participants to learn about: Changes to regulations, policies, and recommendations that impact retail food safety, including but not limited to the [FDA Food Code](#); Changes to the FDA Standardization Procedures Manual; the Retail Program Standards; Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial regulatory initiatives to enhance retail food safety; Industry initiatives to enhance retail food safety; Funding opportunities available to jurisdictions responsible for the regulation of retail and food service establishments; and Emerging science and technology related to retail food safety. Please mail the [Pre-Registration Form](#) **by July 22** with check payable to “MEHA” to the following address: MEHA, PO Box 760757, Melrose, MA 02176. Questions about this registration may be emailed to fpp.dph@state.ma.us

Self- Paced | Local Public Health Institute

Over the last several months, the Local Public Health Institute has developed seven new public health modules focusing on topics such as emergency preparedness, environmental health, food safety and local public health sustainability. A list of the new modules is below. Please visit www.masslocalinstitute.org for more information.

Community Preparedness	Mold: A Special Housing Topic
Community Recovery	Isolation and Quarantine
Food Safety for Operators	Strategies for Funding Board of Health Programs
Seeking Administrative Search Warrants	

Self-Paced | Public Health Core Training Certification

The Local Public Health Institute (LPHI) of Massachusetts offers a Public Health Core certificate for: local health department staff and board of health members who are new to the field of municipal public health, lack formal public health education, or want a refresher. The certificate can be obtained by completing a set of eleven LPHI [Self-Paced](#) modules within five years of application and with a passing score of 90% on each module. Learn more on the [LPHI web site](#). Review the [Frequently Asked Questions Document](#).

Funding and Career Opportunities

[Muni-Grant Finder](#)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes that municipalities need a streamlined, easy-to-use way to interface with state government when seeking opportunities for state resources to support local

services. The Municipal Grant Finder provides a central location to learn about state grant opportunities for cities and towns, regardless of which state agency manages a grant program. Click [here](#) for more information.

Career Opportunities

Open positions at DPH include (click on the title to link to job posting)

[Environmental Health Inspector](#) (West Boylston)

[Foodborne Illness and Response Analyst](#) (Boston)

[Retail and Manufacturing Food Regulatory Program Standards Auditor](#) (Boston)

To learn more about DPH positions, visit www.mass.gov/masscareers. In the search engine, choose Department of Public Health in the agency field and click search. You can also follow the [DPH page on LinkedIn](#) for information about DPH career opportunities.