



MEPHC Newsletter

Welcome!

Many of you have been involved in our work with the Middlesex-Essex Public Health Collaborative (MEPHC), and we can't thank you enough!

The work we are doing to improve the provision of public health services across all six communities wouldn't be possible without your support.

In an effort to improve communication between the MEPHC and our local partners, we have started a monthly newsletter.

What is the MEPHC?

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) promotes and supports the development of inter-municipal shared services agreements through the State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) Grant Program. This program is responsive to the Special Commission of Local and Regional Public Health (SCLRPH) recommendation outlined in the 2019 Blueprint for Public Health Excellence report to "increase cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health services to strengthen the service delivery capacities of local public health departments".

In January 2023, the communities of North Andover, Andover, Reading, North Reading, Haverhill, and Lynnfield were awarded the grant and formed the Middlesex-Essex Public Health Collaborative (MEPHC).

By utilizing the SAPHE Grant funding, the MEPHC aims to increase cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health services to meet the performance and workforce standards set forth by OLRH. This goal is achieved through the following programming

- A shared public health nurse is employed to ensure 24/7 MAVEN coverage for all member communities
- A shared health inspector is employed to support food, pool, recreational camp, housing, bathing beach, and other required inspections among member communities
- Regional funds are available to support local staff training and credentialing in pursuit of meeting the workforce standards
- Regional staff lead initiatives to improve the efficiency and efficacy of public health services in member communities

Upcoming Events

MEPHC Advisory Board
August 28 | Virtual

MA Title 5
9/10 - 9/26 | Chelmsford

MHOA Quarterly Meeting
September 19 | Stow

MHOA Annual Conference
November 13-15 | Springfield

NEFDOA Food Protection Seminar*
November 13-14 | Burlington, VT

Interested in attending one of these events? E-mail Annette at agarcia@northandoverma.gov

* PHE Funds can only cover registration fees for this event. Travel & lodging must be covered by local budgets.

Resource Center

Each month we'll use this section to highlight new resources available to your department through the MEPHC.



MOSQUITO BITE PREVENTION

Avoid getting bitten

- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks and tuck them in
- Stay indoors when possible
- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellents

Remove mosquito habitats

- Eliminate standing water
- Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating

Use structural barriers

- Cover gaps in walls, doors, and windows to keep mosquitoes out

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MOBILEX-EMPHC
PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATION

Scan QR to find information from the EPA.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EMPHC
EMPHC_MA

August Health Topic

Each month, Lea Anne puts together a graphic for a specific health topic. During the month of August she focused on mosquito bite prevention.

Use this and other graphics created to help promote prevention through flyers, social media and email communications!

[Access Resources Here](#)



Summer Safety

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has put together information on summer safety topics from ticks to water safety. These resources have been translated into 12 different languages including:

- Arabic
- Cape Verdean
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Simplified & Traditional Chinese

[Access Resources Here](#)

Capacity Assessment Guidance Documents

In 2022, DPH collected copies of inspection reports from each community participating in the PHE grant to understand how well departments are meeting the performance standards. As a result, they have issued a set of guidance documents to help departments improve their inspection procedures and documentation. Guidance documents include:

- Bathing Beaches
- Tanning
- Housing
- Nuisance

[Access Resources Here](#)

Meet Our Team



ANNETTE GARCIA, MPH

Shared Services Coordinator

Annette joined the Middlesex-Essex Public Health Collaborative as the shared services coordinator in June 2023. Annette has a strong background in local public health inspection services and program management. As the shared services coordinator, she manages the grant and shared staff in addition to providing direct support to participating health departments.



LEA ANNE PERO, MPH, BSN, RN

Shared Public Health Nurse

Lea Anne joined the Middlesex-Essex Public Health Collaborative as the shared services public health nurse in January 2024. Lea Anne has over 8 years experience as a registered nurse. As the shared services public health nurse, Lea Anne supports the nursing needs of the communities.

SHANENE PIERCE

Shared Health Inspector

Shanene has 7+ years of experience working as a health inspector for local health departments and state regulatory agencies. She is a certified soil evaluator, CPO, and carries the National REHS/RS credential. She has interned with the CDC and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. As the shared services health inspector, She will support regional efforts by conducting inspections, creating/revising policies and standard operating procedures, and assisting in the FDA's standards program for participating communities.

Membership Renewals

Do you need to renew one or more of your professional memberships? The MEPHC can cover your cost for any of the following professional organizations:

- Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Massachusetts Health Officers Association
- Massachusetts Environmental Health Association
- Western Massachusetts Public Health Association

If using PHE funds to cover your membership, please ensure the billing address is:

Town of North Andover
120 Main St
North Andover, MA 01845

Be sure to forward the invoice to Annette Garcia at agarcia@northandoverma.gov
