



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*

June/July 2018

Volume 3, Number 4

## Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health Update

The Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health completed a public comment period on its Status Report with six stakeholder listening sessions across the state in early June. The Commission will meet this fall to discuss the comments as it drafts its final report and recommendations. Comments on the final report will be solicited through public hearings later this year. To learn more about the Commission [Click Here](#). To review the May 2018 status report [Click Here](#).

Commission meetings are open to the public. Meeting details are posted on the DPH Open Meeting Notices web page ([Click Here](#)).

## DPH Informational Advisory on Water Safety

As summer heats up, more residents are utilizing bodies of water for recreation and cooling. However, playing in and around water can increase the risk of drowning. DPH recently sent an informational advisory on water safety to local public health officials. You can receive the informational advisory by contacting Jessica Ferland at [Jessica.Ferland@state.ma.us](mailto:Jessica.Ferland@state.ma.us)

## DPH Campaign Highlights Dangers of Vape Pens and E-cigarettes

DPH recently launched its first [statewide public information campaign](#) to educate parents of middle and high school-aged children about the dangers of vape pens and e-cigarettes. The campaign, The New Look of Nicotine Addiction, seeks to spread the word that these high-tech products are harmful, that they contain nicotine which can damage a teenager's developing brain and lead to addiction. To read the press release: [Click here](#)

## DPH Releases Statewide Study of Marijuana Use

A statewide [study of marijuana use among Massachusetts residents](#) released in June found that about 21 percent of adults had used marijuana in the past 30 days and that the proportion of marijuana use was highest among 18-to-25 year-olds. The DPH study was mandated by the Legislature as part of its revisions to the 2016 adult-use marijuana law. The purpose of the study was to investigate the patterns of use, methods of consumption, and general perceptions of marijuana; incidents of impaired driving and hospitalization related to marijuana use; and the economic and fiscal impacts for state and local governments. To read the press release: [Click here](#)

## Bats and Rabies: Tips and Resources

The Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Science sent a memo to local public health officials with tips and resources for handling bat and rabies cases. You can receive the memo by contacting Jessica Ferland at [Jessica.Ferland@state.ma.us](mailto:Jessica.Ferland@state.ma.us).

If you have questions about potential rabies exposures or how to submit a bat to MDPH for rabies testing, please call the MDPH, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization 24/7 line at (617) 983-6800. For additional information on rabies, you may also visit the website at [www.mass.gov/dph/rabies](http://www.mass.gov/dph/rabies).

## FDA Menu Labelling Requirements

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be responsible for enforcing the menu labeling requirements which became effective as of May 7, 2018. Local boards of health are not responsible for enforcing these requirements even if they have adopted the 2017 Retail Food Code. For additional information about the FDA menu labelling program [Click Here](#).

## Massachusetts Child Fatality Review Program: What You Need to Know

District Attorneys' Offices throughout Massachusetts are legally obligated to lead local child fatality review teams (CFRT) in reviewing circumstances leading up to a child death and identifying how that tragedy could be prevented. As circumstances warrant, the teams make recommendations to reduce preventable child deaths at the state and local level. Local public health authorities can play an important role as a source of expertise for the local teams in reviewing and facilitating implementation of recommendations. For more information about the Child Fatality Review Program and how you can get involved, contact Lisa McCarthy-Licorish at [lisa.mccarthy-licorish@state.ma.us](mailto:lisa.mccarthy-licorish@state.ma.us) or 617-624-5450.

## Care That Fits You Campaign

The DPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences launched the Care That Fits You campaign directed to gay and bisexual men of all ages and races/ethnicities. The campaign provides information about biomedical HIV prevention methods including Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), Treatment as Prevention (TasP), and frequent STD testing and treatment. The campaign also encourages men to develop a relationship with a primary care provider who can provide these services and other appropriate care. The cornerstone of this campaign is [CareThatFitsYou.org](http://CareThatFitsYou.org).

Please help us get the word out. Like us on our [CareThatFitsYou Facebook page](#) and follow us on our [CareThatFitsYou Instagram page](#). You can order posters and wallet cards at the [Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#). In the coming weeks you may begin to see digital and print ads on websites, in print publications, and in venues which cater to this population.

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Goodhue at [tammy.goodhue@state.ma.us](mailto:tammy.goodhue@state.ma.us) or 617-983-6821

## Youth-Serving Programs Funding Opportunity

The DPH Office of Sexual Health and Youth Development is announcing a new youth development funding opportunity. Please forward widely to your community partners!

The STRIVE Initiative will implement evidence-based curriculum and/or strategies that are medically accurate and age appropriate, culturally responsive, and effective in delaying the onset of sexual initiation. DPH intends to fund partners that are currently working with youth and plan to integrate STRIVE into existing youth

programs. Applications from organizations that are not currently receiving DPH funding are especially encouraged. Pending a successful federal application, DPH anticipates awarding contracts of approximately \$25,000-\$50,000 with a minimum of 35 youth served per fiscal year.

For more information and instructions on a brief application due **Friday, August 3, 2018** [Click Here](#)

## Summer Heat Resources

The following links to extreme heat resources will be helpful in outreach to residents in your community this summer:

- [Extreme Heat Safety Tips](#) (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency)
- [Extreme Heat and Your Health](#) (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Heat Safety Tips and Resources](#) (National Weather Service)

## Asthma Featured in Spring MassTrack Newsletter

MassTrack is the newsletter of the DPH Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. The spring 2018 issue featured information on asthma. To subscribe to MassTrack, please send an email with no message to [subscribe-dph-epht-newsletter@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:subscribe-dph-epht-newsletter@listserv.state.ma.us) or complete the online form on the EPHT contact page: [Click Here](#)

## Opioid Epidemic Updates

### Baker-Polito Administration Awards First Responder Naloxone Grants

Thirty-three local police and fire departments across Massachusetts will have access to the lifesaving opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone, following a third round of funding from the Baker-Polito Administration. At an event in Brockton recently, Governor Baker announced \$940,000 in funding to help first responders in communities hit hardest by the opioid epidemic purchase naloxone and related medical supplies and to cover the costs of training on overdose response. To read the press release: [Click here](#)

### Opioid-related Overdose Deaths Continue to Decline in Massachusetts

Opioid-related overdose deaths continued to decline overall year over year in Massachusetts and the number of overdose deaths where fentanyl was present continued to rise to 85 percent, according to **the latest quarterly opioid-related deaths report released** recently by the DPH. To read the press release: [Click Here](#)

For the first time, the report includes data that:

- Counts the number of confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths by the city or town where the death occurred in addition to the city or town where the decedent lived.
- Includes supplemental data that examines the differences in the toxicology of those who died of opioid-related overdoses by race and ethnicity for select substances.

### Clinical Advisory: Opioid-Related Overdoses with Cocaine Present

As reported in the [MA DPH Supplemental Toxicology Analysis on Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths Among Massachusetts Residents, May 2018](#), as well as in reports from other states, the percentage of cases of opioid-related overdose deaths with cocaine present in the toxicology screen trended up between 2014 and 2017. DPH recently issued a clinical advisory. You can receive the clinical advisory by contacting Jessica Ferland at [Jessica.Ferland@state.ma.us](mailto:Jessica.Ferland@state.ma.us)

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## Training Resources

### Local Public Health Institute (LPHI) Training Opportunities

The [Local Public Health Institute](#) (LPHI), located at the Boston University School of Public Health, maintains an “at a glance” calendar of local public health events in Massachusetts. This calendar is updated periodically, so check back often. You can access the calendar using this link: [Click Here](#). To add an event, please send details to [lphi@bu.edu](mailto:lphi@bu.edu)

### August 1 (2:00 p.m.) | Webinar: Introducing the Rural Health Information Hub (RHlhub)

The Rural Health Information Hub (RHlhub) is a national clearinghouse on rural health information and resources to support healthcare and population health in rural communities. Featuring an online library, rural health data, state guides, toolkits, rural programs models, custom alerts, and more, the RHlhub is your first stop for rural health information. RHlhub is federally funded (Office of Rural Health Policy) – all services are free of charge.

To register: [Click Here](#)

### September 14 | Western Massachusetts Health Equity Summit

**Location:** University of Massachusetts Amherst Campus Center

For more information and to register: [Click Here](#)

### September 19-21 | 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Environmental Health Conference

**Location:** Doubletree by Hilton, South Portland, Maine

The 56th Annual Yankee Conference on Environmental Health has joined with the **FDA Northeast Annual Food Protection Seminar** this year. All registrants of the Yankee Conference can attend any session of the Food Protection Seminar as the Food Track for the Yankee Conference.

Registration and additional information: [Click here](#)

### November 14-16 | Massachusetts Health Officers Association Annual Conference

**Location:** Sea Crest Beach Hotel, Falmouth, MA

Registration will open in late July - mid August. For more information as it becomes available: [Click Here](#)

### November 3 and 10 | Massachusetts Association of Health Boards Fall Certificate Program

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Marlborough Holiday Inn

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Taunton Holiday Inn

Registration and more information when available: [Click here](#)

## 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.

## Career Opportunities

To learn about open DPH positions, visit [www.mass.gov/masscareers](http://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.

To join the **Local Public Health Update** distribution list or to offer newsletter comments, questions, or suggestions for the content, contact Jessica Ferland at 781.774.6749 or [jessica.ferland@state.ma.us](mailto:jessica.ferland@state.ma.us).

Please visit the **Office of Local and Regional Health** web pages for information and resources

[www.mass.gov/dph/olrh](http://www.mass.gov/dph/olrh)