

News & Updates



JANUARY 2026

We hope that your winter Holidays were happy and healthy and if not exactly restful, that you've had the opportunity to catch your breath in the days since.

For those of us who are not big on resolutions but like to set intentions we are sharing the reframe of A.S.A.P. pictured here. While much of our work is time sensitive – as soon as possible does not necessarily mean immediately. Take time and space to care for yourselves.

As a way to celebrate the work of PHNs across the state, we are going to include a monthly spotlight on a PHN or initiative to highlight the amazing work done every day. We are grateful for everything you do to care for and support your communities.

Public Health Nursing Spotlight

We are thrilled to introduce Susie Thompson, RN. New to Public Health practice, she joined Nashoba Associated Boards of Health during the height of flu clinic season this past fall. She has exemplified the creativity, skill and grace of a true Public Health Nurse. While at scheduled vaccine clinics, she offered support and mentorship for pediatric vaccinations. She has addressed two hoarding situations, assisted with the district's year-end annual reports, and onboarded LPN Sandi Richards also new to Public Health. She collaborated with a family, local school health, and community health center staff to manage a complex active TB case with significant language and cultural barriers.

Her New Year plans include additional outreach across the region by offering blood pressure screenings, and educational programs at children's story hours.

A big thanks to the Nashoba, the DPH EpiLine, MAVEN, and TB teams for creating a supportive and welcoming learning environment which helped Susie's successful launch into the public health realm. This is why we love this work.

Welcome, Susie! Local Public Health is honored to have you on the team!

Pictured: Susie Thompson, RN with School Resource Nurse, Becky Boutwell, RN



Save the dates! Upcoming Webinars and Meetings



OLRH Special Topic Webinars:

Tuesday, January 20th 3:00 pm / HIPPA

Join OLRH for a webinar focused on HIPAA, Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 3 - 4 p.m. You can access this webinar using the same link as the monthly webinar series. If you have not yet registered for this webinar series, use [this link](#).

PHN Training Opportunities:

Coming Soon: We are launching a Grand Rounds series to highlight and focus on clinical areas of Foundational Public Health Services. We'll share best practices, knowledge and resources to support Public Health services, and a PHN presentation of a case study.

Tier I Training: We are pleased to announce that the Tier I self-paced course on Public Health Nursing is in the final development stage. We anticipate that the course will be go live on the Massachusetts TRAIN site by the end of March.

Communities of Practice & Networking Meetings

Monthly Maternal Child Health Workgroups:

Please reach out for more information or additional resources. Meetings are open to all local Public Health partners!

- Chassea Robinson, Northeast Region PHN Consultant: 1st Tuesday of each month.
- Anne Mistivar, Western Region PHN Consultant: 2nd Thursday of month.

New Nurse Network:

Open to all new nurses. Please reach out for more information or additional resources.

- Alyssa Kaiser, Southeast Region PHN Consultant

Please reach out for more information about meetings or other activities : LPHNC-program@umass.edu



Resources

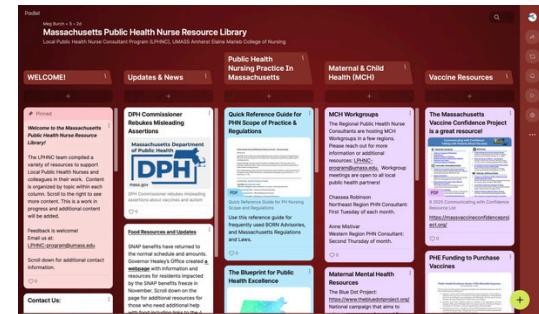
Public Health Nurse Resource Library (Padlet)

This PHN Resource Library is a compilation of resources to support you and your colleagues in your work. Content is organized by topics including resources for Maternal Child Health, Vaccination, Public Health Nurse Practice, and more!

To explore the Padlet double click [HERE](#)

We welcome your feedback!

Email us at: iphnc-program@umass.edu



A look back in time ...

Errata: The brief history of Candy Land that appeared in our December New & Updates was provided by Dr. Alfred DeMaria, distinguished Public Health Leader and subject matter expert for the Public Health Museum.

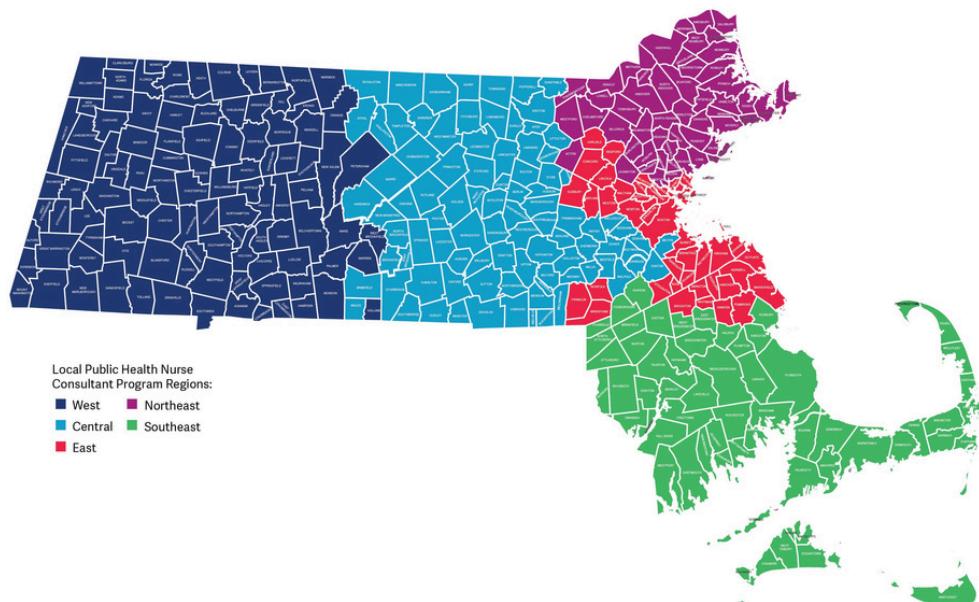


In 1895 the Massachusetts legislature approved a bill for the establishment of a "Massachusetts Hospital for Consumptives and Tubercular Patients". This hospital, the *Rutland State Sanatorium* opened to patients in 1898. It was the first state run TB treatment institution in the U.S. and was established in part to ensure access for all Massachusetts residents regardless of their social or financial standing.

If you are interested in learning more about the history of TB we recommend the following books:

- *Everything is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection* by John Green.
- *Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis* by Maria Smilios

If you would like to be on an email distribution list for TB training opportunities & resources send an email request to: denise.lancto@mass.gov



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