



*Photo Credit: Bridgette Pontbriand, RS, Senior Food Inspector, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health*

**MARCH 2026**

After a season of storms and bitter cold, March carries a quiet reassurance. “In like a lion, out like a lamb” reminds us that even the harshest stretch eventually gives way to gentler days. Let this cardinal be a sign that longer days, warmer sunshine, and renewed energy for our work are just ahead. Thank you for all you continue to do for your communities in every season.

## Public Health Nursing Spotlight

**Brockton Public Health Nurses, Lyn Demosthene, Jessica Cabiles, and Sheniah Grace Lee.**



Since November 2025, the Brockton Public Health Nurses (PHNs) have been hosting recurring childhood immunization clinics within Brockton Public Schools, bringing vaccines directly to students during the school day. By meeting families where they are, the PHNs have helped remove common barriers such as transportation, scheduling challenges, and language access. As of February 27, 2026, they have administered 311 vaccines.

This work grew out of thoughtful collaboration in 2025 between Brockton Public Schools and the Brockton Public Health Nurses to review vaccination rates and better understand the challenges families were facing. Public Health Nurses and School Nurses work side by side to identify students who need vaccines, connect with families, and obtain consent in advance of each clinic.

The PHN team manages vaccine supply and clinic operations while also ensuring on-site interpretation in three languages so that every family feels informed and supported.

This initiative reflects more than a program—it demonstrates a deep commitment to equity, partnership, and community trust. Through improving access to care and strengthening communicable disease prevention efforts, the Brockton PHNs continue to show what it means to serve their community with dedication and heart.

# WORKFORCE SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Local and Regional Health has released the [Workforce Standards Survey](#). This survey is for everyone who works in or supports local public health or enforces public health regulations.

As key nurse leaders in delivering public health services across Massachusetts, your input is essential to understanding workforce capacity, identifying training needs, and addressing inequities statewide.

Survey information:

- Takes about 20–30 minutes to complete.
- Completely anonymous; results reported statewide in aggregate.

M.G.L.c. 111, § 27D(b) requires annual reporting on the ability of local public health in Massachusetts to meet the Performance Standards, including the Workforce Standards as described in the SAPHE 2.0 legislation. The survey is open now and closes April 10, 2026. Your voice as a local public health nurse matters.

If you have any questions while completing the survey, you may contact Christina Moore at [Christina.Moore3@mass.gov](mailto:Christina.Moore3@mass.gov).

[Complete the Workforce Standards Survey.](#)

## A look back in time ...

### Measles Vaccine History

According to the World Health Organization, “Globally, [prior to vaccine development] mortality rates [of measles infection] remained high, with approximately 30 million cases and over 2 million deaths occurring each year. In 1954, a measles outbreak at a boarding school just outside Boston, Massachusetts provided an opportunity for doctors at Boston Children’s Hospital to try and isolate the measles virus.

The culture that Thomas Peebles, MD obtained from 11-year-old schoolboy David Edmonston successfully led to the virus’s cultivation and enabled doctors to create the first vaccine against measles taking throat swabs and blood samples from infected students.

John Franklin Enders, Peebles’s boss, often called ‘the father of modern vaccines’, developed the measles vaccine from the ‘Edmonston-B’ strain, named after David and used as the basis for most live-attenuated vaccines to this day.

Enders and his team tested their measles vaccine on small groups of children from 1958 to 1960, before beginning trials on thousands of children in New York City and Nigeria. In 1961 it was hailed as 100% effective and the first measles vaccine was licensed for public use in 1963.”

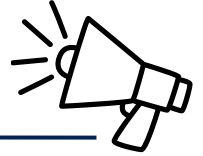
To read more about the measles vaccine including the development of the MMR visit [History of the measles vaccine](#) from the World Health Organization.

## Save the dates! Upcoming Webinars and Meetings

### Join us for our first Grand Rounds Presentation

**Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and Postpartum and the Role of the Public Health Nurse. Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> 3:00 - 4:00 pm.**

- Jeanne Butler, PHN, North Shore Public Health Collaborative
- Chassea Robinson, Northeast Public Health Nurse Consultant



---

## Communities of Practice & Networking Meetings

### Monthly Maternal Child Health Workgroup

The workgroup meeting is open to all local Public Health partners!

Next meeting: **Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 -11:00 am**

- Chassea Robinson, Northeast Region PHN Consultant
- Anne Mistivar, Western Region PHN Consultant

---

### New Nurse Network Quarterly Meeting

This virtual meeting is open to all new public health nurses in Massachusetts

Next meeting: **Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 - 11:00 am**

- Alyssa Kaiser, Southeast Region PHN Consultant

---

### Regional SSA PHN Connection Group

A virtual gathering space for Regional SSA nurses to network and share resources.

Next meeting: **Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

- Tamara Bedard, Central Region PHN Consultant

---

## PHN Training Opportunities

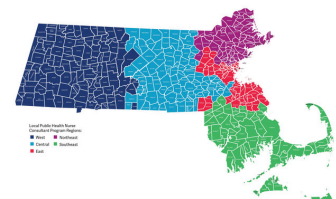
The Annual Meeting and Annual MAPHN Conference will be held on Wednesday May 13th and Thursday May 14th, 2026. The theme this year is Building Resilience in Public Health Nursing. The Conference is being held at the Marriott Springfield Downtown. Go to the [MAPHN website](#) for more information.

---

The 31st Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference will be held at the DCU Center in Worcester on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Register [here](#).

---

Please reach out for more information about meetings or other activities : [LPHNC-program@umass.edu](mailto:LPHNC-program@umass.edu)



# Resources

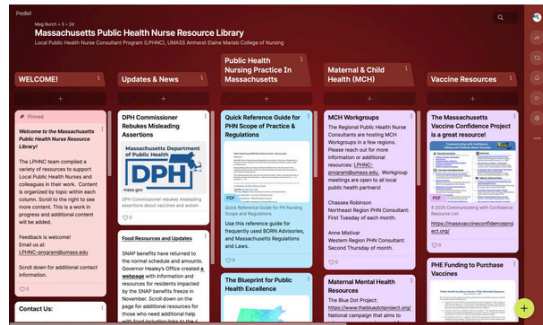
## Public Health Nurse Resource Library (Padlet)

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: [lpnhc-program@umass.edu](mailto:lpnhc-program@umass.edu)



If you are not on our email list and would like to be added please fill out this [FORM](#)

## Contact us:

Anne Mistivar, DNP, MSN, RN, LNC Western Region Consultant <a href="mailto:amistivar@umass.edu">amistivar@umass.edu</a>	Tiffany Benoit, MPH, RN, CHO, Eastern Region Consultant <a href="mailto:tcbenoit@umass.edu">tcbenoit@umass.edu</a>
Tamara Bedard, BSN, RN Central Region Consultant <a href="mailto:tbedard@umass.edu">tbedard@umass.edu</a>	Alyssa Kaiser, BSN, RN Southeastern Region Consultant <a href="mailto:ahkaiser@umass.edu">ahkaiser@umass.edu</a>
Chasea Robinson, MPH, MSN, RN, CPH Northeastern Region Consultant <a href="mailto:chasearobin@umass.edu">chasearobin@umass.edu</a>	Sarah Fiske, PhD, RN, CNL, Post Doctoral Research Fellow: <a href="mailto:sarah.fiske@umass.edu">sarah.fiske@umass.edu</a>
Meg Burch, MS, RN, NCSN Program Manager <a href="mailto:mtburch@umass.edu">mtburch@umass.edu</a>	Ann Becker, RN, DNP, PHNL Program Director <a href="mailto:Annie@umass.edu">Annie@umass.edu</a>