

APRIL 2026

Ready. Set. Action! National Public Health Week, April 6 - 12, 2026.

We celebrate and honor all who work in or support Public Health across the Commonwealth. Thank you for the work you do every day to improve lives, care for your communities and promote health!

Visit the Public Health Museum website for a list of programs and registration: [Public Health Week Events](#). The **Public Health Nurse Virtual Forum** is scheduled for Friday, April 10th from 10:00 -12:00.

Public Health Nursing Spotlight

Kitzia Diaz, Lynn PHN has been precepting 4th year nursing students from UMass Boston and Salem State University during their Community Health rotations since fall of 2024. The first students had the pleasure of watching her grow into the role, and in supporting their learning, Kitzia learned and gained confidence in herself, modeling critical thinking and nursing judgment. Kitzia usually works with four or five students each semester.

Students have contributed to a wide range of projects and activities, including administering flu vaccines, creating educational materials and social media content, helping with developing SOPs and screening tools, and accompanying Kitzia to emergency preparedness meetings and workshops. They've assisted her by supporting outreach efforts, doing anonymous data entry, and creating goodie bags and resource folders for maternal home visits.



Working with students is beneficial to Kitzia because it has strengthened her skills in adapting teaching methods to the learner, leadership, delegation, teamwork, organization and patience. In turn, students gain valuable exposure to public health nursing, which is an area they may not otherwise have considered, and discover career paths beyond the hospital setting. Kitzia thinks a greater understanding and collaboration between hospital-based and community-based nurses can lead to a more integrated healthcare system by identifying and reducing gaps in care, which could ultimately benefit both the profession and the populations PHNs aim to serve.

Kitzia is inspiring the next generation of Public Health Nurses and is helping sustain the workforce with each student she precepts. The PHNs Consultants actively collaborate with PHNs and nursing programs to facilitate placement of nursing students at all levels.

WORKFORCE SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Health Nurses – We need you!

Please complete the OLRH Workforce Standards Survey.

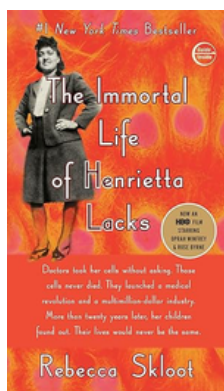
The voices of nurses working in Public Health are critical to our understanding of workforce capacity, training needs, and Public Health Nurse funding to address inequities statewide. We need a strong response from all nurses supporting their communities.

The survey takes 10 - 20 minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous. Survey closes April 10th

If you have any questions while completing the survey, you may contact Christina Moore at Christina.Moore3@mass.gov.

A look back in time ...

In honor of National Women's History Month we recognize Henrietta Lacks



In the winter of 1951, Henrietta Lacks, a young, black mother living in Baltimore County, sought care at Johns Hopkins for vaginal pain and bleeding. She was diagnosed with cervical cancer and died later that year. Doctors noted the unusual appearance of her tumor and collected tissue and cells for research without her knowledge or consent. While now recognized as unethical, this type of practice was common at the time.

Henrietta's cells, known as 'HeLa cells' were the first human cells grown in a lab, transforming medical research. For more than 60 years, HeLa cells have been used to study radiation, cancer, AIDS, viruses and have played a critical role in vaccine development. They have also contributed to breakthroughs in fertility treatments, cloning and gene mapping. There are nearly 11,000 patents involving the use of HeLa cells.

In recognition of her enduring impact, Johns Hopkins established a center for research and learning in her honor. Henrietta's family was unaware of her cells' "immortality" for more than 25 years after her death and continues to seek accountability from the medical industry which profited from the use of Henrietta's cells.

In recognition of National Women's History month and with gratitude, we honor Henrietta Lacks. Read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot to learn more about her life and legacy.

(references available upon request)

Save the dates! Upcoming Webinars and Meetings

Public Health Nurse Grand Rounds

Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and Postpartum and the Role of the Public Health Nurse

Monday, April 13, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

We invite you to join Jeanne Butler, PHN, (North Shore Public Health Collaborative) and Chassea Robinson, (Northeast PHN Consultant) for a discussion exploring hypertensive disorders of the pregnancy and postpartum periods and the role of the Public Health Nurse in identifying warning signs, supporting families, and strengthening community-based maternal health care.

This series is open to all Public Health professionals. 1.0 nursing contact hour will be provided.

[Click HERE to Register](#)

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 7th 9:00 -11:00 am**

- Chassea Robinson, Northeast Region PHN Consultant
 - Anne Mistivar, Western Region PHN Consultant
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New Nurse Network Quarterly Meeting

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

Next meeting: **Tuesday May 19th 10:00 - 11:00 am**

- Alyssa Kaiser, Southeast Region PHN Consultant
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Regional SSA PHN Connection Group

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

Next meeting: **Monday, April 13th 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

- Tamara Bedard, Central Region PHN Consultant

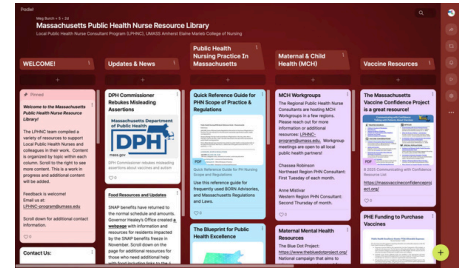
Resources

Massachusetts Public Health Nurse Resource Library (Padlet)

The PHN Resource Library is a dynamic compilation of resources to support Public Health Nurses and their colleagues. Content is organized by topic and updated on a regular basis.

Please reach out with feedback or content suggestions.

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



PHN Training Opportunities

The **MAPHN** Annual Meeting and Conference will be May 13th & 14th, 2026 at the Marriott Springfield Downtown. The 2026 theme is Building Resilience in Public Health Nursing.

For more information and registration go to: [MAPHN](#)

SAVE the Date: **MHOA 2026 Annual Conference: Sharing Insight. Celebrating Impact.**
October 28 - 30, 2026 / MassMutual Center - Springfield, MA

[For more information visit our webpage](#)

Not sure who to contact? Email us at: lpnhc-program@umass.edu

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