



# News & Updates

## JUNE 2026

There is so much to celebrate this season, from America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, marked by the arrival of the Tall Ships in Boston to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence to our Commonwealth hosting the FIFA World Cup.

We are here to support you all and answer any questions you may have. We wish you a safe and memorable start to summer.

## Public Health Nursing Spotlight

Dayana Parisien serves as the Regional SSA Nurse for the Bristol Norfolk Public Health Partners out of Foxborough. With the upcoming FIFA World Cup taking place in her own backyard, she began asking herself an important question: "What is my role as a Public Health Nurse in helping to keep people safe during the World Cup?"



Dayana recognized an opportunity to support both residents and visitors through a public health educational campaign. She started by conducting a scan of the communities within her SSA to identify hotels, lodging sites, and other areas expected to see an increase in visitors during the exciting events. Her initial outreach focused on businesses within Patriot Place before expanding to locations throughout the region.

As part of her campaign, Dayana designed informational flyers with QR codes directing individuals to state resources. Dayana recognized the U.S. healthcare system can be confusing for international visitors and created a flyer in multiple languages explaining when to visit an urgent care versus the emergency department. The flyer included a list of urgent cares in the area.

Dayana also met with hotel management to discuss opioid overdose prevention, Narcan education, overdose response kits, and human trafficking awareness. She wanted to educate the community on the important role they play in recognizing and reporting concerns. During the World Cup, Dayana plans to table throughout the region, distributing public health educational materials and travel sized wellness supplies.

With thorough planning community partnerships, and education, she is helping to ensure public health remains an important part of community preparedness efforts ahead of the World Cup.

# A look back in time ...

## SILICOSIS: "THAT NEW-OLD INDUSTRIAL DISEASE"<sup>[1]</sup>

In 1934 the Massachusetts Special Industrial Disease Commission submitted their report on diseases caused by dust in the granite and foundry industries to the general court of Massachusetts<sup>[2]</sup>. The commission was created following an increase in compensation claims for disability from silicosis and the near impossibility of quarry and foundry workers to obtain insurance. The findings showed that conditions in Massachusetts Quarries "with regard to control of harmful dusts were extremely bad". The report included an investigation of the working conditions and health status of workers. Close to 40% of quarry workers were shown to have silicosis, silicosis complicated by tuberculosis, or tuberculosis. The investigation found a correlation with duration of dust exposure and concentration among quarry workers. Thirteen recommendations and draft legislation to enact them were included in the report.

In September 1934, the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Hygiene undertook a WPA Granite Dust Control Project in Quincy to explore the application of dust control apparatuses in the small-scale granite cutting industries. A 1937 film, *A Better Massachusetts*, includes a brief clip on the [Silicosis Prevention Granite Dust Control Project, Massachusetts \(WPA\)](#).



While many old occupational diseases remain relegated to history, Massachusetts saw its first case of Silicosis among stone countertop fabricators at the end of 2025. Fabrication of engineered stone (e.g. quartz) countertops began in the early 2000s and we are now seeing an acute and aggressive form of silicosis in these workers.

To learn more about Silicosis and exposure to respirable crystalline silica we encourage you to explore the many resources available from the Massachusetts Occupational Health Surveillance Program:

- [Safety Alert: Silica Dust, a Respiratory Hazard for Stone Fabricators in Massachusetts | Occupational Health Surveillance Program, Fall 2025](#)
- [Silicosis Identified in Massachusetts Stone Countertop Worker: Could your patients be at risk?](#)
- [Hazard Alert for Countertop Workers | MDPH \(Available in Spanish, Portuguese, & Haitian Creole.\)](#)
- [Massachusetts Public Health Officials Issue Safety Alert to Employers After State's First Confirmed Silicosis Case in Stone Countertop Industry | MDPH December 2025](#)

[1] Alice Hamilton, MD (1943) *Exploring the Dangerous Trades: The Autobiography of Alice Hamilton*.

[2] HEALTH AND INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE. (1934). *Monthly Labor Review*, 38(5), 1086–1088. <http://www.jstor.org>.

We're getting ready to launch!



Introducing The Massachusetts Public Health Nurse  
Training - Tier I.

The course will be live on MA TRAIN soon!  
Stay tuned for more information



UMassAmherst | Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program

# Save the dates! Upcoming Webinars and Meetings

## Performance Standards Survey Results Interactive Webinar

Join the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) for an interactive Zoom session focused on helping local public health entities take the next steps with the Performance Standards Survey results. This webinar will walk participants through the structure of the results reports, explain how to interpret key findings and identified barriers, and explore how municipalities can use the data to support strategic planning and FY27 priority-setting. Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m.

To join go to [Survey Results Webinar](#). Looking for more information? See [Performance Standards Survey Results](#)

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## FIFA Office Hours for Public Health Nurses

The UMass LPHNC team is pleased to offer FIFA Office hours Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3 PM - 4 PM. These office hours were organized in response to questions around health education and the need to increase support for our workforce. Join us in an open discussion and conversation focusing on targeted health education approaches to implement in your communities. Zoom information: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/93031449268>



Joining the UMass FIFA Office Hours are the DPH OLRH Chief Clinical Advisor to Local Public Health, Caitlin Pettengill, and the DPH Chief Clinical Advisor & Director of Health Care Strategy & Planning, Kate Fillo.

For more information: [Protecting Public Health During the World Cup | Mass.gov](#)

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## Communities of Practice & Networking Meetings

### Monthly Maternal Child Health Workgroup

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

Next meeting: **Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 -11:00 am (Note there is no July meeting)**

- 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 August 18<sup>th</sup> 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, June 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

- Tamara Bedard, Central Region PHN Consultant

# Resources and Training Opportunities

## 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 Library double click [HERE](#)

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Early Bird Registration is open:

[MHOA 2026 Annual Conference: Sharing Insight. Celebrating Impact.](#)

October 28 - 30, 2026 / MassMutual Center - Springfield, MA

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Boston Medical Center (BMC) Grayken Center for Addiction Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) provides education, support and capacity building to community health centers and other health care and social service providers on best practices caring for patients with substance use disorders. Offerings include live and pre-recorded events. For more information go to [Grayken Center for Addiction Training and Technical Assistance \(TTA\)](#)

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## Racial and health equity training with Growing a New Heart (GANH)

[Broadening the Lens](#): An introductory 3- hour learning event that explores how to examine public health questions through the lens of racial and social justice, and how to approach existing inequities in practical ways.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the next event on **Wednesday, June 10th 11am-2pm**

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The **Immunization Updates** are a series of live, one hour webinars intended for any health care provider who works with vaccines. Webinars are at noon on Wednesdays in May & June. For more information and to register, go to [Immunization Updates 2026](#)

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[For more information about the LPHNC Program visit our webpage](#)

Not sure who to contact? Email us at: [lphnc-program@umass.edu](mailto:lphnc-program@umass.edu)

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