

METROWEST SHARED PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

June 2023



June is Pride Month!

Recognizing Pride can help to create a workplace for all employees and team members to feel connected and safe. During Pride month, think about how you can contribute to making your workplace a safe and inclusive space for everybody, particularly under represented employee populations.

Links to share on your department's social media:

- [LGBT+ Mental Health: Insights from MHA screening](#)
- [Learn more about LGBTQ+ Mental Health](#)
- [MHA Pride resources](#)
- [Other Pride and Mental health materials, events, social media posts, etc.](#)

PRIDE AND MENTAL HEALTH FACTS

- LGBTQ+ people are **twice as likely** as non-LGBTQ+ people to have a mental health condition and continue to show disparities in mental health, even though they are more likely to use mental health services. (MHA Screening)
- **56%** of LGBTQ+ individuals who took an MHA depression screen in 2021 reported having suicidal thoughts more than half or nearly every day of the previous two weeks - nearly 7% higher than the reported rate in 2019. (MHA Screening)
- **73%** of LGBTQ+ youth report experiencing symptoms of anxiety, 58% report symptoms of depression, and 45% report having seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. ([The Trevor Project](#))
- **40%** of transgender adults have attempted suicide during their lifetime, compared to less than 5% of the general U.S. population. ([U.S. Transgender Survey](#))

Summertime Disease Trends:

Summertime means more heat, more gathering and more.... Disease?

The summertime usually means more gatherings with friends and family and this as we all know could leave room for the more rapid spread of infectious diseases.

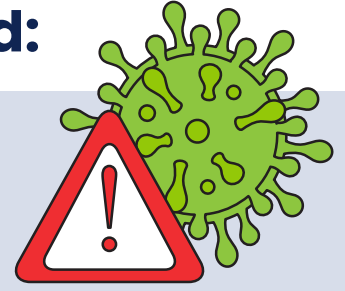
Arbovirus:

As we begin to spend more time outside this summer, let's remind the public to be more mindful about arboviruses! In Massachusetts, the most common mosquito borne disease are TRIPLE E (or EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). These diseases can cause illnesses ranging from mild fever to more serious cases leading to encephalitis or meningitis (mass.gov).

Massachusetts Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan



Summertime Disease Trends Continued:



Resurgence of Mpox Cases:

The CDC has identified a potential risk for new Mpox cases. From April 17th–May 5th 2023, a total of 12 *confirmed cases and one probable* case of mpox were reported to the Chicago Department of Public Health. Here is what we know:

- All cases were among symptomatic men. **Nine (69%) of thirteen cases were among men who were fully vaccinated for mpox.**
- Transmission of mpox continues to disproportionately affect gay, bisexual, and other MSM and transgender or nonbinary people.
- Vaccination is an important tool in stopping the spread of mpox, although vaccine-induced immunity is not complete. **People who are vaccinated should continue to avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with someone who has mpox.**
- JYNNEOS is a 2-dose vaccine approved for the prevention of mpox and smallpox. **Vaccine boosters are not recommended at this time.**

As of May 2023, there has been a total of **461 confirmed and probable cases of Mpox in Massachusetts**, with the most recent case being reported in March of 2023. As local Health Departments, we should continue to educate and inform the public of what the Mpox is, especially as we enter the summer where gatherings are more likely to occur.

→ **Important cdc resources related to mpox**

- [Official CDC Health Advisory](#)
- [Mpox Equity Toolkit](#)
- [Mpox Social Media Toolkit](#)

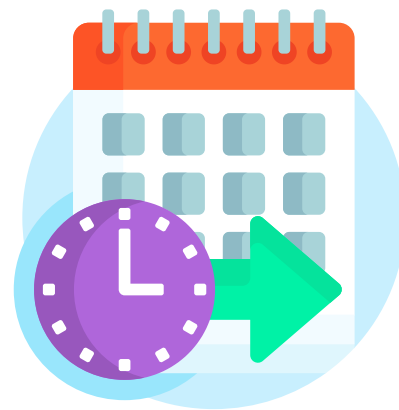
→ **More specific CDC digital resources related to mpox (for your social media)**

- [Protect Yourself from Mpox \(poster for all audiences\)](#)
- [Protect yourself from Mpox \(card\)](#)
- [Protect yourself from Mpox \(poster\)](#)
- [Mpox Pride Event \(sticker\)](#)
- [Mpox Pride Event \(card\)](#)

Upcoming News at MWSPHS...

We are moving forward with conversations about reinvigorating our collaborative!

MAPC will be facilitating three meetings (starting in July) during our regularly scheduled regional meetings that will result in a report of recommendations for what we could implement to strengthen our collaborative. Stay tuned!



Hoarding 101 Training To Come

Lynn Faust will be hosting a virtual "Hoarding 101" training on **June 8th at 9am.**

Plans include to begin talking about getting a hoarding task force or "impact team" up and running!

This will be open to your health department staff and other folks who work on hoarding/clutter cases.

Be on the lookout for an email from Deanna with additional information for health directors along with a calendar hold and link to join!

Our Shared Services team is working on becoming Certified Application Counselors or CACs!

The CAC program in Massachusetts is overseen by MassHealth and is in partnership with the Massachusetts Health Connector. This is a voluntary program for organizations to participate in.

By the end of this training, we hope to be able to **help individuals and families seek health care coverage, complete applications, and provide or submit supporting documents to MassHealth.** With this training, we will also be able to support members with renewing their healthcare coverage and can help with translation of paperwork and other information that members may receive from either MassHealth or the Health Connector.



More updates to come after all team members have concluded the required trainings. We hope to be able to bring this service to your communities soon!

Training & Webinar Opportunities:

From Clandestine Labs to Chemical Spills: Local Public Health and Hazardous Materials

Date: June 15th, 2023

Location: Northern Essex Community College (NECC), Haverhill

About: Hosted by the Massachusetts Health Officers Associations (MHOA), this training will focus on the role of local Public Health and hazardous materials.



To sign up for the MHFA training, click here.

*** Grant funding could cover the cost of registration fee. If you are interested in attending, please contact Deanna. ***

AARP: Interpreting your Age-Friendly Survey Data

Date: July 11th, 2023

About: Learn strategies to turn what you learned from your community assessment and turn it into action.

Interested?
Register [here](#).



AARP: Engaging with Higher Education to Advance Your Age-Friendly Work

Date: June 13th, 2023

About: Age-friendly network monthly webinar. Institutes of Higher Education can provide a wealth of supports and leadership to an age-friendly initiative. Learn how some Universities are engaging with community.

Click [here](#) to register.

Training & Webinar Opportunities Continued

ASTHO: Leveraging Different Sectors to Address the Youth Mental Health Crisis

Date: June - August

About: This is a four part webinar series that focuses on the role of multiple sectors in addressing comprehensive youth mental health and well-being.



Interested? Read more about it [here](#).

ASTHO: Partnerships for Progress: An Intro to the Vaccine Equity Project

- **Date:** June 21st, 2023
- **About:** An introduction to the Vaccine Equity Project

Find out more information [here](#).

Massachusetts Association of Health Boards 2023 Annual Certificate Program – Repeat Sessions on June 3, 2023

Date: June 3rd, 2023

About: Public Health Law
Topics for Board of Health and
Health Departments

***Open to ALL BOH members
AND staff**



Register [here](#).

Training & Webinar Opportunities Continued

Boston University School of Public Health: Promoting Mental Health Among Children & Youth

Date: July 5th, 2023

About: Learn strategies to turn what you learned from your community assessment and turn it into action.

Click [here](#) to register.


RCAP Solutions/NEWEA Small Communities Wastewater Training Conference

Date: June 14th, 2023

About: RCAP Solutions and the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) are hosting an in-person workshop for small and rural wastewater utilities to build financial, managerial, and operational capacity for their systems

Register [here](#).

RCAP Solutions/NEWEA Small Communities Wastewater Training Conference



Workshop Description
RCAP Solutions and the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) are hosting an in-person workshop for small and rural wastewater utilities to build financial, managerial, and operational capacity for their systems.

WHEN?
Wed, June 14 • 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

WHERE?
Alden Training Facility @ Upper Blackstone Clean Water
50 Route 20
Millbury, MA 01527


REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://www.newea.org/register/> Cost: \$20

6 TCHs for Wastewater Operators!

WORKSHOP TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:



- Safety
- Regulation Review
- Pumps
- Collection
- Operations & Maintenance
- Activated Sludge

Questions? Contact:
Janice Moran
jmoran@newea.org



This workshop is made possible by funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

RCAP is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities.





2023 Community Health Assessment Survey

DEADLINE EXTENDED

The 2023 Community Health Assessment survey deadline has been extended! This survey is part of a multi-tiered data-gathering process where MetroWest residents share their feedback on health issues and services in the region.

The data collected here will be shared back with the MetroWest community and can be used by agencies for making policy, programmatic, and funding decisions.

The 10-minute, anonymous survey can be completed online in three different languages. Please share widely with folks who live in MetroWest!

- [IN ENGLISH](#)
- [EN ESPAÑOL](#)
- [EM PORTUGUÊS](#)

Other Important links:

- [2023 CHA Outreach Toolkit](#) (key messages, flyers, and social media images in English, Spanish, and Portuguese to promote the survey)
- [2023 CHA Resources page](#)



WELCOME
*to the Team
Casey!*

Please welcome Casey to MWSPHS!

Casey will be supporting the health departments in our shared service arrangement with inspections. Having worked at a handful of our neighboring health departments, Casey brings lots of experience and knowledge to the team!

Please remember that Casey needs to be appointed by your community before he can begin helping with inspections. We are hoping to get him on a regular schedule in each community as soon as possible!

*All available communication materials and campaigns can be found [here](#).
Materials may be used on social media and can be updated upon
request.*

*Please reach out to Deanna for any additional communications requests,
questions or needs.*

