

# YORK DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER



September 2024

## DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW

The establishment of the public health districts was designed to enhance effective and efficient delivery of public health services by:

- Creating the geographic and local framework for greater consistency and equity in statewide delivery of all 10 Essential Public Health Services.
- Providing a consistent basis for regional planning and coordination across the governmental, private (including business), public, and nonprofit sectors.
- Building sustainable infrastructure through regional co-location of Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) staff, and through an interactive, fully participatory District Coordinating Councils.

Each District includes a Public Health Unit. These units' primary aim is to enhance communication and coordination of state public health programs at the district and local levels. The Maine CDC York Public Health Unit includes staff from across multiple Maine CDC divisions including the District Liaison, Health Inspection Program, Public Health Nursing, Infectious Disease Field Epidemiologist, Drinking Water Program, and the District Public Health Educator.

The York District Public Health Council (YDPHC) will hold their quarterly meeting on Zoom **September 23 from 9am to 10am**

The agenda is attached with this newsletter.

[Visit the YDPHC website](#)

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Mosquito-borne disease reporting details on page 3

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York's Shared Community Health Needs Assessment will be held virtually on **Monday, October 28th.**

Details continue on page 4

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Free COVID tests and Xylazine test strips information on page 4



## **THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT**

The Public Health Districts are each supported by a Maine CDC District Liaison (DL). A DL strengthens communication between Maine CDC and the District's institutions, including health care systems, schools, and community-based organizations.

The Health Inspection Program exists to protect the public health by providing licensing and inspection services for a number of different types of businesses such as school cafeterias, campgrounds, restaurants, and tattoo parlors.

The Division of Public Health Nursing includes a team of registered, professional nurses who work to improve the health of individuals, populations, cultures, and communities through services such as immunization and maternal/child health services.

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program works to monitor and prevent infectious diseases in Maine. These diseases are caused by certain viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites including Tuberculosis, Vibriosis, and Influenza.

The Drinking Water Program regulates public drinking water supplies for both municipal, and non-municipal water systems such as schools, restaurants, and mobile home parks.

The District Public Health Educator works directly with the DL to ensure communication across the District and implement Maine CDC public health priorities and initiatives.

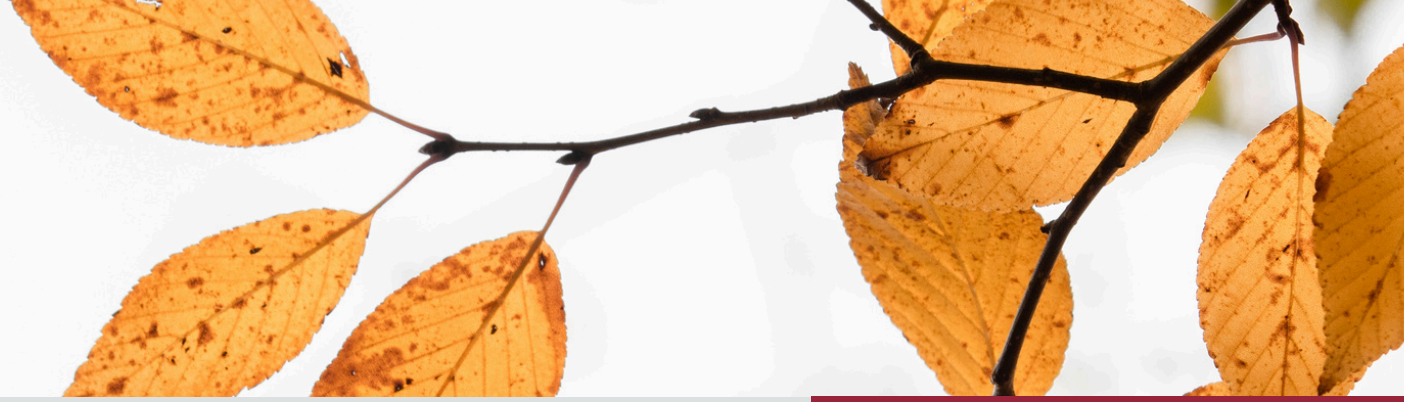
### **Public Health Unit Spotlight**

York Public Health District Liaison, Adam Hartwig, has been a DL with Maine CDC for 12 years! Prior to working for Maine CDC Adam worked for the Tompkins County Department of Health as the Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinator.

Adam holds a Bachelor's Degree in History and Pre Law from St. John Fisher University, and a Masters of Science in Healthcare Administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

When he is not working he enjoys spending time with his family and watching and coaching his kids in Lacrosse, Soccer, and Basketball.

To contact Adam, please email [Adam.Hartwig@maine.gov](mailto:Adam.Hartwig@maine.gov)



## STATE GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH IN MAINE

The mission of Maine CDC is to protect and promote the health and well-being of the people of Maine. Programs across Maine CDC work together in a strategic way to achieve short- and long-term results to protect and improve population health.

District Public Health falls under Maine CDC’s Division of Public Health Systems. District Public Health staff work with many other Maine CDC programs, and as noted above, the District Public Health Unit also has staff from other Maine CDC Divisions, bringing work at the State-level to communities across Maine. The Division of Public Health Systems protects the health and lives of people in Maine by strengthening the ability of health agencies and partner organizations to detect, contain, and manage public health threats and emergencies. For more details on programs, visit the [Maine CDC Divisions and Programs](#) chart.

Other non-governmental sector partners may include health care, public safety, housing, transportation, land use planning, education, media, environmental health, philanthropy, community economic development, social services, and civic organizations.

Mosquitoes in Maine can carry viruses that can cause several illnesses. These include West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV).

Mosquito-borne illnesses in humans are rarely acquired in Maine. Find information on positive results in Maine on [Maine CDC's Arboviral Surveillance webpage](#).

Various birds can carry and spread arboviruses – if you suspect an unusual bird death, avoid contact.

For dead wild bird and wildlife reporting:  
[WildlifeDiseaseRpts.ifw@maine.gov](mailto:WildlifeDiseaseRpts.ifw@maine.gov)

For dead agricultural bird or animal reporting:  
[AnimalHealth.AGR@maine.gov](mailto:AnimalHealth.AGR@maine.gov)



*Click the image to be directed to a townhall-style video*



Public health aims to improve our quality of life, help children thrive, and reduce human suffering. Every day, the public health field is working - often behind the scenes - to prevent hazards and keep people healthy.

Maine CDC is committed to the principle that all Maine residents deserve to experience health and wellbeing throughout their lifetimes.

[Click for current State of Maine job openings!](#)

## Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (MSCHNA)

The MSCHNA is a collaborative process that takes place every four years and helps to turn data into action so that Maine will become the healthiest state in the US.

For events, data, and reports, visit: [Maine SCHNA Website](#)

Email MSCHNA Program Manager, [Heather Drake](#), for invitation information and more details.

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Free at-home [COVID test kits](#) are available at the end of September through U.S DHHS.

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[Click here for a Xylazine Test Strip Kits Order Form](#) from the Office of Behavioral Health.