



Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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Template updated 03/2023

District: Aroostook	Date: 03/01/2025
<p>** Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics</p> <p>Agendas and minutes available on district’s webpage: APHC Quarterly Meeting Minutes 02.05.25</p> <p>Council Education Topic: “Public Health Nursing & CradleMe Referral Services” “Memory Care in Aroostook”</p> <p>Guest Presenters: Tammy Mitchell, Maine CDC, Aroostook Public Health Nursing Supervisor Viola Belanger, Aroostook Agency on Aging, Memory Care & Adult Day Services Manager</p> <p>➤ Dates of note in Aroostook District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next DCC Meeting: 05/07/2025 • Next Aroostook Chapter of Maine HCC Meeting: 04/10/2025 • Next APHC Aging Committee Meeting: TBD • Next APHC Steering Committee Meeting: 03/05/2025 <p>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ APHC is in the process of convening and subsequently hosting a peer/professional network for information sharing and supports among various sectors serving the health and health-related social needs of Aroostook residents. <p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing an internal process for receipt of requests for resources being distributed by APHC as well as a transparent process for determining priority and allocation of resources to partners or individuals that they are advocating for. <p>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 12/6/2024: University of Maine at Fort Kent PHEP POD exercise-Collaboration with Aroostook PHU (Public Health Nursing, District Public Health), Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Maine Immunization Program, and UMFK to provide catch-up vaccines to UMFK students – providing four immunizations: (12) Influenza (Fluarix), (9) COVID-19 (Moderna Spikevax), (8) MMR (MMR11), and (14) TDAP 	

strict Name: Aroostook

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22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day) ➤ HANS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12/19/2024: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1): Reminders for Clinicians and Veterinarians ○ 01/22/2025: U.S. CDC: Accelerated Subtyping of Influenza A in Hospitalized Patients ○ 01/30/2025: New Tuberculosis Reporting System ○ 02/10/2025: Ebola Outbreak Caused by Sudan Virus in Uganda
** Division of Public Health Nursing
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working on the creation of a local listing of resources for our team’s reference. ➤ Considering joining/creating community groups to offer education idea i.e. partnering with WIC or Maine Families. ➤ Older Adult Populations policies and procedures will be finalized in April as well as a targeted scope with this population. ➤ PHNs are outreaching weekly to community providers and managing caseloads. ➤ Looking into a request from the agency on aging to provide sexual health education awareness.
** Division of Environmental and Community Health: Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: Drinking Water Program: Health Inspections Program: *data retrieved from Maine.gov Health Inspection Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 45 Inspections completed between December 1, 2024 – February 19, 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eating – School: 7 ● Eating – School Catering: 16 ● Eating & Catering: 3 ● Eating & Lodging: 3 ● Eating Place – Takeout: 2 ● Eating Place: 12 ● Lodging: 1 ● Pool/Spa: 1
Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children

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Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors during October – December 2024

➤ Tobacco Prevention:

- Catch My Breath Trainings: Carleton Project (13), Van Buren (77), Fort Fairfield (1), Woodland (70), Caribou (72),
- Restorative Circles: Carleton Project (13), Van Buren (132), Caswell (57), Fort Kent/Valley Unified (12), Fort Fairfield (2), Woodland (10)
- INDEPTH Alternative Suspension: Fort Kent/Valley Unified (13), Fort Fairfield (5)
- Lion’s Quest: Caswell (48)
- Positive Action Conflict Resolution: Caswell (8), Van Buren (55)
- My Life, My Quit Technical Assistance: Van Buren (78), Fort Kent (12), Valley Unified (6), Woodland (10), Fort Fairfield (2)
- Tabling event at Northern Light AR Gould for Great American Smoke Out (28), Northern Maine Community College (25)
- Community Baby Shower in Caribou – provided smoking educational materials

➤ Substance Use Prevention (SUPS):

- Attended Northern Light Health Center’s Health Fair – Distributed 200 Detera Bags to community members and provided information about volunteer opportunities with DFA.
- Attended Cary Medical Center Health Fair and distributed 25 medication lock boxes and materials on safe medication storage and disposal.
- Distributed 30 safe medication disposal bags to ACAP.
- Held (5) Lion’s Quest curriculum to Caswell Elementary School (42, 3rd-5th graders), and (24 6th-8th graders).
- Put 200 stickers on alcohol packages and bottles at two Caribou Irving locations and 300 at Hannaford in Caribou. Mailed 20 resource packets to alcohol retailers in Aroostook.
- Presented PowerPoint presentation regarding connection between alcohol and cancer to 17 Nursing students at UMPI.
- Provided final SIRP class to 1 student at Caribou High School.

➤ HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living):

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- Collaboration with 6 schools to award Plates Full Potential Grants, to support food insecurity issues in Fort Kent, St. Francis, Madawaska, Southern Aroostook, Zippel and Presque Isle High School. As a result, 5 food cupboards were developed within the school system.
- Coordinated a tour with Aroostook County School Nutrition Directors and Penobscot McCrum to improve communication, identify the steps and processes for collaboration and are currently working to develop a system to support access to locally sourced fresh food in schools.
- Worked to increase the number of municipalities and organizations implementing best practices at 3 community-wide events. Collaborated with Healthy Families, Aroostook Council for Maine Families, WIC and local municipalities to encourage breastfeeding, celebrate breastfeeding moms, and provide information resources regarding the benefits of breastfeeding. Events were held in Island Falls, Linneus, and Caribou.

Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Health Equity

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- January: Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
- 01/23/2025: Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations / Wabanaki REACH – Film Screening of Dawnland to address intersections between Indian Child Welfare Act, Criminal Legal System Reform, and Food Access for Indigenous Communities
- 01/30/2025: Collaborative Discussions on Social Drivers of Health with MaineHealth
- 02/7/2025: Governor Mills Monthly Opioid Response Seminar Series – Black Poster Project
- 02/14/2025: Maine DHHS Office for Family Independence’s (OFI) monthly webinar series

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** Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes available on district’s webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district5/council-main.shtml	
<p>➤ Dates of note in Central District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next District Coordinating Council (DCC) Meeting: April 17, 2025 • Next Healthcare Coalition (HCC) Meeting: May 7, 2025 <p>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The January Quarterly DCC meeting focused on the United Way ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) data for the district, and had a presentation from the United Way of Kennebec Valley on their IMPACT2032 initiative aimed at addressing some of the issues shown in the data. ➤ Use Central District Public Health Unit updates to communicate important information to DCC, LHOs, chief municipal officials, and partners ➤ Concern about some of the inaccuracies that have recently been corrected in the CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment) county health profiles released this fall and associated forum ppt presentations – please if you are using the data in the profiles make sure to get the most updated versions at https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/phdata/MaineCHNA/health-profiles.shtml, and MaineGeneral has updated the Kennebec County ppt information. ➤ Need to communicate, collaborate, and adjust to ongoing funding and staffing cuts and program changes ➤ Ongoing review of District 211 reports and updating resources when possible to address unmet needs <p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Northern Light Inland Hospital closure in June ➤ Transition of Central PHEIII, Connor Galardo, to position with Maine CDC Tobacco Control Program ➤ Scheduling Vaccination Coordination meetings <p>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HCC connection of members to new County EMA staff; exercise assistance ➤ Rural Community Health Improvement Partnership (R-CHIP) grant awarded to Spectrum Generations implementation assistance ➤ Assistance with basic needs (housing, transportation, food, utility, healthcare) , infectious disease 	

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**** Division of Disease Surveillance;** Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ The District Field Epidemiologist gave an update on infectious disease data for the district at the January 24 DCC meeting.

**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ The Central District PHN team is fully staffed.

Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children

➤ **Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors:**
This report on the Maine Prevention Network (MPN) Contract Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) work accomplished during this quarter was prepared and sent to us by the Maine CDC/DHHS Obesity Program Manager:

MPN District 5 HEAL Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues November 2024-January 2025

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area

- Convened HCCA’s first Kennebec County Nutrition Director Meeting in January supporting 4 nutrition directors, 1 staff from Full Plates, Full Potential, and 1 staff from Northern Light.
- Facilitated quarterly Kennebec County Breastfeeding Support Work Group meeting in January 2025, hosting 6 attendees.
- Initiated Farm and Sea to Institution Survey, aimed to support Summer Institute enrollment and nutrition policy enhancement, to Kennebec County School Nutrition Teams; 4 schools have completed the survey.
- Conducted a social media outreach campaign with over 40,000 views, in collaboration with SPH.
- 5 active Kennebec County schools utilizing 100 Mile Club; 550+ participants
- Attended SKCDC’s Family Fun Night to offer opportunities for HEAL specific activities and education to over 65 participants.
- In collaboration with Thomas College’s Student Health Center, provided a Wellness Night for 10 Thomas College Townhouse CA’s and residents with a strong focus on local outdoor trail use, ParkRx Programming, food pantry resources, wellness policy building, and other HCCA related programs.
- Issued 25 ParkRx Pads to Colby College’s Health Center Staff to promote outdoor physical activity and encourage use of the local trail systems.

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Somerset Public Health

- Transported 150lbs of Somerset County Jail grown buttercup squash to four schools in Somerset County.
- Conducted Smarter Lunchroom Family Feedback Surveys for four School Nutrition Programs; CRCS & Carrabec Community School, Mill Stream Elementary, and Madison Elementary. A total of 162 participants completed the short survey, providing feedback around how children prefer their fruits & vegetables prepared, their favorite school meals, what students would like to see on the menu, and creative food names to increase student participation. School Cafeterias plan to review the data and make changes to their program (s) based off of this feedback.
- Facilitated updates to permanent story walk structures at the Preble Ave. Sporting Complex in Madison. Sign updates make exchanging stories and maintenance of signs easier which should increase participation.
- Coordinated the availability of 12 active Somerset County indoor walking locations.
- Distributed Indoor Walking feedback forms to 6 of the 12 Indoor Walking Locations as a way to collect participation numbers, and data around importance of the opportunity.
11,000+ individuals reached via promotion of indoor Walking locations across social media, print and electronic publications, and screens/monitors at Redington-Fairview General Hospital, Somerset Sports and Fitness, Centenary United Methodist Church, Athens Community School, HeathReach, Skowhegan Regional Chamber of Commerce, New Balance, Kennebec Behavioral Health, KVCC, and Channel 11 Cable.

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** Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes available on district's webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district2/council-main.shtml	
Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:	
➤ DCC Meetings:	
November 15th, 2024 Full Council Meeting with 36 participants in Windham	
➤ Hybrid meeting hosted by CCEMA	
➤ Emergency preparedness presentations from CCEMA, PHEP, CRI and Warming Centers	
➤ Tour of Regional Communications Center for Cumberland County (emergency dispatch)	
January 17th, 2025 Full Council Meeting with 36 participants in Westbrook	
➤ Briefing from Maine CDC PHN and City of Portland on Tuberculosis; Briefing from Maine CDC ID on HIV and Hepatitis C Cluster in Bangor; Maine CDC Update on Avian Flu	
In-district or multi-district collaborations:	
➤ Two new Executive Committee members were elected to CDPHC: Susie Guthro (TOA/Lake Region) and Hannah Ruhl (USM)	
➤ Brian Townsend (CommonSpace) was elected as voting member to CDPHC	
➤ Cathy Bean-Kelley, long time CDPHC member and Chair announced she will be stepping down	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:	
➤ ID/Epi has responded to high numbers of Influenza at long-term care facilities; norovirus at area shelters; pertussis at Bowdoin College	
➤ Maine CDC Tuberculosis Epidemiologist position will be vacant soon	
➤ Cumberland DIS continues to call for sustained education for the public and providers to include syphilis testing in routine health exams, especially for pregnant people	
➤ Quarterly District meeting of the Healthcare Coalition took place on 3/6/24	
Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)	
** Division of Public Health Nursing	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:	
• Active TB cases continue to be a focus for our Cumberland PHN team	

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- Maine CDC DPHS team organizing mini health fair at CoCoMaine with MaineHealth, UNE, and Maine CDC PHN 3/21/25

**** Division of Environmental and Community Health:** Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- February 12-13 there was a Boil Water Order issued for Peaks Island, Little Diamond Island, Great Diamond, House Island, and Cushing Island due to a water main break
- Thus far this year, there have been 19 confirmed cases of West Nile Virus in birds in Cumberland District, one confirmed case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in a bird, and one confirmed case of Powassan in a person
- Related to the Pfas spill in Brunswick last August, three bills designed to rid Maine of Aqueous Film Forming Foam, also known as AFFF, have been introduced
- Cumberland DL is participating in the Division of Environmental Health’s General Tracking Advisory Board

Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Cumberland DL is participating in the **Maine CDC Maternal and Child Health Wellness Coalition**
- Cumberland DL participates in the **State Refugee Advisory Council**
- Cumberland DL participated in 1/28/25 **Maine Department of Health & Human Services/Community Health Worker Steering Committee meeting**
- **Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors during November 2024-January 2025:**
 - The HEAL team lead has begun hosting focus groups in partnership with community-based organizations to understand facilitators and barriers to access to food resources and benefits. This community engagement process will continue throughout early spring and will inform tools to increase access in the near future and advance advocacy efforts longer term.
 - The HEAL Team Lead continues to partner with the Cumberland County Food Security Council and 3 FoodCorps service members to support school food systems change in South Portland, Portland, and Westbrook school districts. Current efforts include a high school internship program in which students will gather peer input around school food and exploring strategies and potential partnerships to support multilingual kitchen staff.
 - HEAL staff at Portland Public Health are collaborating with the Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition (MSBC) to support access to return-to-work resources for multilingual families. They facilitated

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Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, and French translations and are beginning to implement a communications and outreach plan in the greater Portland region.

Tobacco and SUPs: January Accomplishments/Updates

1. **Collaboration with Maine Humane on Harm Acknowledgement Statement**
Portland Public Health staff continued their partnership with Maine Humane to propose the implementation of a harm acknowledgement statement for animal welfare organizations and shelters throughout Maine. While the program is initially set to be piloted in Cumberland County, Maine Humane’s network spans the entire state, with numerous members expressing interest in adopting a tobacco policy and incorporating a harm acknowledgement statement into their animal welfare and adoption processes. In January, Portland Public Health staff delivered a detailed 13-slide presentation to Maine Humane board members, outlining the health challenges associated with tobacco and cannabis use, which negatively impact both human and animal welfare. The presentation also covered prevention strategies and provided recommendations for ongoing collaboration to sustain project momentum and ensure its success.
2. **Collaboration with Lyman Moore Middle School on Addiction Education**
Portland Public Health staff began working closely with the leadership at Lyman Moore Middle School to assess the needs of their student population and explore ways to address gaps in education regarding addiction. In particular, the focus is on educating students about addictions related to nicotine, THC, and social media. Portland Public Health staff reached out to Cumberland County Public Health (CCPH) for support and were connected with Sarah Jorgensen, CCPH consultant actively working at Lyman Moore Middle School with a strong understanding of the students' needs. Moving forward, Portland Public Health staff will continue collaborating with Sarah and school staff to assess the students' needs and develop an effective approach to close the knowledge gaps on addiction prevention and education.

Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Health Equity

- Maine CDC

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- DCC Executive Committee and DL working on LPHSA priority for membership to vote on.

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District: Downeast (Hancock & Washington Counties)	Date: March 20, 2025
Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health; Rural Health and Primary Care; Oral Health; Public Health Emergency Preparedness; and Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes available on district's webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district7/publications.shtml	
➤ Downeast Public Health Council Meeting Dates for 2025 (third Friday of the month at new time 10:00 am to 12:00 pm): January 17, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21.	
<p>January 17, 2025 Meeting Zoom Meeting</p> <p>Topic: Introduced two new sections to the meeting: Meet Your Downeast Partner, where a member organization provides a more in-depth overview of their work; and What is District Public Health, where one of the public health unit programs provides an overview of their work statewide and in Downeast. The Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center opened up the Downeast Partner section with an overview of the work they do and how they have expanded across the district to offer cancer navigation services as well as linkages to resources outside of the district. Public Health Nursing, now with four nurses in Downeast, spoke about their services, from maternal and child health to a new older adult outreach. The second half of the meeting discussed the current one-year district plan with the work of the four committees and how we can expand that to a five-year plan. We also opened a discussion about the value of the council to current members and how we need to continue to collaborate on community and regional health projects.</p>	
<p>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We will set the district council agenda for developing a five-year 2025-2030 health improvement and infrastructure plan with an annual report like our first annual report. ➤ Collaborate with Hancock County EMA, Washington County EMA, Downeast Chapter Health Care Coalition, and Downeast MRC to offer training, courses, and exercises with a focus on a radiological event and the operation of a point of dispensing site for medical countermeasures. ➤ Working with partners in each county for a strategic planning process to identify one common goal, objectives and activities that all partners will work on for one to three years. 	
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop Downeast Medical Reserve Corps Unit Volunteer Handbook and Recruitment Strategies; determine plan for aligning MRC with Downeast Public Health Council and Downeast Health Care Coalition Planning. 	

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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- Well Water Quality and promotion of well testing in communities and providing support to overcome barriers to it.

In-district or multi-district collaborations:

- AMHC, district hospitals, district federally qualified health centers, and Healthy Acadia lead a broad network of substance use services, specifically to opioid treatment and recovery in both counties.
- AMHC and local business partners piloting a mental health awareness and first aid training at high customer sites in Calais to recognize and minimize suicide ideation and other mental health incidences.
- Healthy Acadia with broad coalition of partners is facilitating a Maine Rural Community Health Improvement Partnership (R-CHIP) to assess readiness and develop outcomes regarding sustainable and affordable housing, both emergency (e.g., winter warming centers) and long-term housing units.
- Working Communities Challenge focused on reducing child poverty in Washington County. One of these contributing projects is rebuilding the Washington County School Consortium and assessing resources to schools by surveying organizations in Washington County that provide services or resources to schools.

Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Support and disseminate recent information on measles outbreak and prevention methods for US and Canadian Provinces.
 - Support and disseminate recent information from DACF on prevention of transmission of avian influenza to farm animals and at school sites.
- Maura Lockwood, District Epidemiologist*

Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)

Division of Public Health Nursing

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Maternal and Child Health: developing collaborative referral service with various partners in district.
 - PHN Staff have participated in trainings and exercises to support district emergency preparedness priority.
 - PHN Staff are planning older adult health fairs for the spring and summer 2025.
 - Working on new standards of care and procedures/policies for new older adult outreach and services in 2025.
- Cynthia Grass, PHN Supervisor*

Division of Environmental and Community Health: Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Ongoing consultation with municipalities on well water testing days
- Health Inspection Program Update:
 - Will provide program information and presentation at March 21 DEPHC Meeting.

Lisa Silva, Program Director, Health Inspection Program

Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children

➤ Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor in 2024: *Healthy Acadia staff provide the prevention work in Downeast.*

Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL)

- ❖ Partnered with Full Plates Full Potential School Nutrition Workgroup meetup and identified strategies for healthy food access through food line improvements with RSU24 and Ellsworth School Districts as well as back pack program strategies for food insecure students
- ❖ Hosted “Hydroponics: Cafeteria and Classroom” virtual workgroup with participants from 3 Downeast schools: Ellsworth, Blue Hill and Mt. Desert Elementary.
- ❖ ● Established goals and strategies for winter physical activity with 20 ECE providers who participated in MRTQ Winter Kids for ECE professional development.
- ❖ Provided Shinrin Yoku Mindful Nature Walk experiences for 40 staff at RSU24 and another outdoor experience at the School Wellness Summit.
- ❖ Presented ECE success story to Washington County Legislators Marianne Moore and Arthur Mingo and Hancock County Legislators on January 10th about HEAL work
- ❖ Presented Farm to ECE and GoNAPSACC resources to 4 ECE sites during MRTQ Community of Practice meetup. Mano en Mano is interested in hosting an in person Farm to ECE training for regional ECE sites.

Substance Use Prevention

- ❖ Rx Safe Storage and Disposal: sent to local libraries a small supply of safe storage and disposal rack cards.
- ❖ Evidenced-based opioid/cannabis prevention presentations: outreached to schools in Calais, Woodland, and Princeton areas about SPORT PPW; attended the Bucksport Schools Health/Wellness Committee meeting to promote prevention programming such as CATCH My Breath.
- ❖ Restorative Schools policies and practice: met with Downeast Restorative Justice and HOME Inc to discuss support for restorative practices and policies about substance use by staff, clients; met with Downeast Restorative Justice staff to provide staff education about youth cannabis use and with school admin from Deer Isle Stonington HS.
- ❖ Communications: drafted Public Service Announcements on underage drinking prevention and social hosting prevention; drafted and prepared for mailing next month 53 letters to community

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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- partners about a sample of alcohol use prevention-related rack cards; coordinated the airtime for a 30-second PSA spot encouraging parents to talk with teens about the risks of cannabis use.
- ❖ Ongoing RBS trainings and cannabis safe storage.

Tobacco Prevention

- ❖ Prevention of tobacco: planning with Maine 4H for youth outdoor leadership support; provided an MCDC approved training for social service providers to Catholic Charities; ongoing outreach and conversation with Sumner HS guidance counselor and principal, assistant principal, and health teacher to support youth who have been or will be caught vaping; met with HOME and DRJ together to help them integrate nicotine treatment and prevention; met with staff from COA and scheduled four days of training in April, covering Nicotine and vaping prevention; updating of outreach spreadsheet and drafting of email to Maine Maritime Academy Student Veterans Association.

Maine Youth

- ❖ MYAN launched a youth engagement co-learning cohort with MPN vendors and supported the York Youth Summit with Maine Health and a Skowhegan training for adults with Somerset Public Health.
- ❖ During November, MYAN hosted the annual Maine Youth Leadership Conference with over 500 youth and adults attending two full days of training, community building, and a State House tour.
- ❖ OUT hosted their Regional GSTA meet up in Ellsworth with over 15 youth.
- ❖ The Maine Youth Leadership and Development Council promotes cross-sector collaboration, leadership development, and continuous learning and improvement in member organizations and community partners alike.

Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Health Equity

- Maine CDC re-accreditation process: all materials have been submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), awaiting onsite visit and recommendations.
- Maine CDC has created an operational strategic plan that will be implemented by divisions and programs during 2024 and 2025.
- State Health Improvement Plan: committees have been formed for priorities who will meet during 2025.
- Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health: reorganization of SCC with new bylaws, membership committee, orientation packet, and annual goals with quarterly meeting agendas.

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Alignment of emergency preparedness work, including trainings and exercises, between public health district, Downeast Medical Reserve Corps Unit, Health Care Coalition, and County Emergency Management Agencies.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

Public Health
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Template updated 03/2023

District: Midcoast (Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc & Waldo Counties)

Date: March 20, 2025

**** Division of Public Health Systems:** District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics

Agendas and minutes available on District’s webpage:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district4/publications.shtml>

Midcoast District:

The Midcoast Public Health Council (MPHC) meeting held on February 11, 2025, featured speakers from the Maine Prevention Network (MPN) discussing Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiatives (HEAL) and Substance Use Prevention (SUP) work occurring in the Midcoast District. Becca Boulos from Maine Public Health Association (MPHA) discussed the current priority areas for the 132nd Maine State Legislature and encouraged stakeholders to get involved in the upcoming legislative session. MPHC attendees also learned about the Local Public Health Systems Assessment (LPHSA) 2022 results and worked on priorities (based on the results). Future council work will focus on identifying strategies to improve the Midcoast District’s public health infrastructure.

The MPHC Steering Committee Meeting was held on March 11, 2025. The Steering Committee is working to identify actionable goals from the 2022 LPHSA results.

The Midcoast Public Health Educator tabled with Public Health Nursing (PHN) at the 1st Annual Knox and Lincoln County Community Baby Shower. The event included over 100 registered attendees and 23 local organizations that provide resources and support services for new and growing caregivers and families.

Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:

- The Midcoast Public Health Unit (PHU) met on March 18th, virtually and focused on collaborative opportunities within the Public Health Unit. Public Health Educator welcomes ideas for upcoming topics for the bulletin board in the Rockland DHHS office that will provide awareness on a seasonal health topic.
- Midcoast Public Health Educator met with COVID-19 Health Educators from Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ID-EPI). Public Health Educators brainstormed ways to disseminate essential public

District Name: Midcoast

**** Indicates the presence of Maine CDC Field Staff assigned to the District Public Health Unit**

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

Public Health
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health information regarding Covid-19 and respiratory illness across the state. This meeting is a collaborative effort between Infectious Disease Epidemiology and District Public Health.

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- The Midcoast Maine Community Shared Health Needs Assessment (SCHNA) reports will be finalized for Midcoast District in March 2025. Results will be shared with committee members at the April 8th meeting.

In-district or multi-district collaborations:

- The Midcoast District Chapter of the Health Care Coalition of Maine is meeting in March to continue work on establishing membership and leadership.

**** Division of Disease Surveillance;** Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program

**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

- Public Health Nursing (PHN) has been working with various community stakeholders. Most recently the PHN team conducted a strep clinic with the Homestead Nursing Home in Owls Head in response to a strep outbreak. They also plan to hold a Hepatitis B vaccine clinic at the request of Coastal Recovery Community Center in Rockland, ME on March 24th.

**** Division of Environmental and Community Health:** Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program

Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children

Highlights of completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network (MPN) Contractor/Subcontractors during December 2024-February 2025

Midcoast Substance Use Prevention (SUP) Activities include:

District Name: Midcoast

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

Public Health
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- MPN staff made significant strides in promoting substance use prevention through community outreach, education and material distribution in **Knox and Waldo Counties**. This included delivering medication lockboxes and substance use prevention materials to key partners. SUP staff are also working with Oceanside High School to promote their first annual Substance Use Awareness Day.
- MPN staff provided breast-feeding supplies in **Lincoln County/Knox County** at the first Annual Community Baby Shower. Staff teamed up with Breastfeeding Champions to share educational resources on breastfeeding/chest feeding as well as supplies that included tank-tops and nutritional resources and support group information.
- MPN staff in **Sagadahoc County** developed partner relationships with the Maine MOM program at Midcoast Hospital and the Sagadahoc County OPTIONS Liaison. They will begin working to support mothers with substance use disorder in the local area.
- MPN Staff in **Sagadahoc County** are working with the Topsham Bike Ped Committee on a Complete Streets policy for the local area.
- **Sagadahoc County** MPN Staff tabled at annual Senior Expo. Over 750 participants received medication safe storage and disposal resource including Medication Disposal Pouches and pill organizers.
- MPN Staff in **Lincoln County** joined Food Insecurity Committee meetings with Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program and local food pantry partners to discuss gaps in resources, food insecurity and preparedness activities in winter storms.
- **Lincoln County** is hosting its annual Winter Physical Activity Challenge which includes over 420 students and teachers from nine schools.

Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Health Equity Health, and Environmental Testing Laboratory

District Name: Midcoast

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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Template updated 03/2023

District: Penquis Public Health Council	Date: 03-14-2025
** Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes are available on the district’s webpage:	
<p>➤ Dates of note in Penquis District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next DCC Meeting: Wednesday, May 7th 9-11am in person Baxter Conference Room from 8am to 12 noon (for set up and clean up) • Penquis in Bangor 262 Harlow St. Bangor, ME 04401 <p>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LPHSA <p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ➤ HIV case cluster response <p>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wabanaki Public Health working with City of Bangor and Bangor Public Health Penobscot County collaboration on HIV response • County-wide toiletries drive • Collaborative work on community health improvement strategies 	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <p>➤ January 22, 2025 – Public Health Advisory issued to clinicians and laboratories for accelerated subtyping of influenza A in hospitalized patients in an effort to monitor for possible H5N1 infection.</p> <p>January 30, 2025 – Maine CDC launched new online tuberculosis reporting system. Providers are encouraged to use this system to report inactive TB cases as well as suspect and confirmed active TB cases.</p> <p>February 10, 2025 – U.S. CDC issued a HAN about a confirmed outbreak of Ebola disease in Uganda caused by the Sudan virus. A “Travel Health Notice Level 2: Practice Enhanced Precautions” was issued for those traveling to Uganda.</p>	

strict Name: Aroostook

**** Indicates the presence of Maine CDC Field Staff assigned to the District Public Health Unit**

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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February 20, 2025 – Maine CDC updated influenza submission and reporting guidance due to the increased number of individuals being tested, resulting in an increased number of specimens sent to HETL for subtyping.

*March 25, 2025 – Tick Talk with Falmouth Memorial Library at 6:30pm via Zoom as part of a statewide library initiative called Maine Courses.

*April 2, 2025 – Tick Talk for Local Health Officers at 11am via Zoom to provide a disease surveillance update in regards to tick populations/diseases in Maine.

Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)

**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ The Penquis District PHN team is fully staffed as is the PHN team statewide. We have been busy with the variety of referrals that we have been receiving in our district, as well as attending trainings and meetings that pertain to the care and education that we provide to the citizens of our counties. We have partnered to do two Baby & Me groups in local libraries. One in Dover-Foxcroft and one in Millinocket. Both groups have grown since their initiation. We are currently working with Bangor Public Health nurses and Maine Families to do the 4th quarterly meeting together to learn and grow from one another and to improve the services that we are providing to our communities. Since the beginning of 2025 we have had Sensory Therapy Place & Association and Carol Savoy, from the HOPE program in to speak to our team to educate us about their services. In the upcoming month we are having Northwoods Recovery, Sarah Tewey, L.C.c./Birthing Doula/Maine Doula Coalition as well as a Formula Nutrition Specialist coming in to educate us on their specialty areas. Our upcoming community events include RSU Children’s Fair in Bucksport, Early Childhood Education in Lincoln, Community Baby Shower in Pittsfield, Project Play Family Event in Dover-Foxcroft as well as Aged Ability Friendly Emergency Preparedness Even on Bucksport.

**** Division of Environmental and Community Health: Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program**

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ **Health Inspections**

- Maine Food Safety Workgroup March 25, 2025.
- HIP Quarterly Staff Meeting February 25-26, 2025.
- HIP Inspector for Sanford District P hired. Kevin Deyak started on 2/24/25.
- HIP started an internship for students to provide the intern with an opportunity to participate in on-the-job training and allow them to develop their skills within their field and applicable to their career goals.
- Posting for Public Health Inspector for District O out of Farmington. Closes 3/20/25.

strict Name: Aroostook

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Public Health
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- HIP presentation at the Downeast Public Health Council on March 21, 2025.
- Three Conference of Food Protection Workshops attended by HIP staff.
- DECH Division Director and HIP Program Manager to attend the Conference for Food Protection, Denver Colorado March 24-28, 2025.
- Rulemaking Public Hearing for Proposed Youth Camp Rules is March 17, 2025, 9-11.
- Legislation:
 - o LD 124 Right to Food, PH 3/11 1pm
 - o LD 113 mRNA Labeling- PH 2/6, WS 3/4, 1pm ONTP
 - o LD 116 Prohibit Piercing Guns- PH 3/12, 1pm
 - o LD 166 Prohibit Tobacco in Pharmacies- No hearings scheduled
 - o LD 494 Liquor Laws not scheduled.
 - o LD 767 HIP Dept Bill-PH 3/13, 10am

Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ **Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors:**
November 2024-January 2025

Healthy Eating

GONAPSACC: Two ECE sites in Piscataquis completed child nutrition self-assessments and action plans.
School Nutrition Meeting: Penquis MPN HEAL staff organized a meeting with 6 school districts to promote healthy eating initiatives, including hydroponic gardening in schools.

Active Living

New Programs: Two new physical activity programs at Milo Elementary & Greenville Consolidated School in Piscataquis.

Ongoing Programs: Three programs from 2024 continue, with 294 students participating in the 100-mile club, completing 11,303 miles this year.

GONAPSACC: Three ECE sites completed physical activity self-assessments.

Lactation

One new GONAPSACC registered site.

Maine Prevention Network - District 6 Penquis Summary (October-December 2024)

Progress & Activities:

strict Name: Aroostook

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Work Plan: District 6 drafted the SUPS work plan for Jan-June 2025, with approval expected in early 2025. A budget revision is in progress, targeting submission by early 2025.

Subcontract: A fully executed subcontract for NL Mayo is anticipated by January 13, with invoicing starting from July 1, 2024.

Survey Issues: Penquis Valley School faced challenges in distributing a youth bullying survey, as the administration withheld approval despite student efforts.

Achievements & Outreach:

Positive Action Teams (PAT): Fundraising events at SeDoMoCha and Penquis Valley Schools are ongoing, with four meetings in December focused on substance misuse and refusal skills. A December event was rescheduled to February due to weather.

Community Outreach: Jennifer distributed a quarterly newsletter to 68 school officials and community members, sharing resources on substance misuse, tobacco, and healthy living.

Training: Responsible Beverage Server (RBS) classes faced cancellations due to low attendance and weather but will resume in February.

Cannabis Education: Jennifer conducted cannabis retailer visits, providing 48 locking bags and distributing materials on safe storage, potency, and laws. A training on cannabis use and pregnancy was held for the Maine Breastfeeding Coalition.

Barriers and Solutions:

Penquis Valley School: The youth survey was delayed due to administrative approval issues. The team is working to resolve this.

RBS Training: Sessions were canceled due to low registrations and weather delays, but new sessions are planned for February.

Plans Moving Forward:

Data Collection: District 6 is preparing for an updated environmental scan by spring and is focused on promoting school participation in the March 2025 MIYHS.

Ongoing Collaborations: Jennifer will continue working with Dr. Kristen Wagner at NL Mayo Women’s Care to distribute educational materials on cannabis use during pregnancy and lactation.

Key Challenges:

School Capacity: Reduced staff capacity in schools has hindered participation in MIYHS, with several schools in Penobscot County declining involvement.

Penquis Valley Resistance: The administration at Penquis Valley Middle and High School did not fully support Red Ribbon Week activities, affecting full participation.

istrict Name: Aroostook

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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This summary captures District 6’s progress on substance misuse prevention, school outreach, cannabis education, and community engagement between October and December 2024, with a focus on overcoming barriers and planning for upcoming initiatives.

Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Health Equity

- January: Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
- 01/23/2025: Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations / Wabanaki REACH – Film Screening of Dawnland to address intersections between Indian Child Welfare Act, Criminal Legal System Reform, and Food Access for Indigenous Communities
- 01/30/2025: Collaborative Discussions on Social Drivers of Health with MaineHealth
- 02/7/2025: Governor Mills Monthly Opioid Response Seminar Series – Black Poster Project
- 02/14/2025: Maine DHHS Office for Family Independence’s (OFI) monthly webinar series

The CDC’s Breast and Cervical Health Program was also highlighted for leading the nation in cervical cancer screenings. Additionally, the team celebrated Heart Month and Children’s Dental Health Month, promoting awareness of cardiovascular health and the importance of early oral health habits.

Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory

No updates

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- SFY25 Maine Youth Action Network (MYAN) Program Overview

This report highlights the activities of the Maine Youth Action Network (MYAN) from October to December 2024. Notable initiatives include:

Youth Leadership & Community Impact:

- The Penobscot Youth Caucus, in collaboration with the Yellow Tulip Project, hosted a Hope Day Event and Memorial Garden, planting over 150 tulips in honor of those lost to suicide and addiction.

- The Penobscot Youth Caucus also organized a holiday potluck and hot cocoa bar in Bangor.

Support & Collaboration:

- MYAN facilitated ongoing technical assistance and resources for Penquis organizations, including youth engagement through the Maine Recovery Advocacy Project (ME-RAP) and other community partners.

Youth Involvement (Statewide):

District Name: Aroostook

**** Indicates the presence of Maine CDC Field Staff assigned to the District Public Health Unit**

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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Youth participation targets with 1,884 youth engaged in community action projects (250% of the target). These activities are part of MYAN's broader efforts to develop youth leadership, foster social justice, and build community connections through hands-on projects, youth training, and cross-sector collaboration.

District Name: Aroostook

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Template updated 02/2024

District: Western	Date: 3/20/25
** Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes available on district's webpage .	
Dates of note in Western District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Next DCC Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 9am-11am (Zoom) ➤ In-person DCC meeting in Oxford County on October 21, 2025 	
Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued education/speaking opportunities for community partners. ➤ Continued outreach and growing DCC and steering committee membership. 	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working with public health unit to identify district needs. ➤ HCC meeting quarterly. Set up leadership roles for Western District Chapter. ➤ Established Lewiston/Auburn Community Forums in partnership with OPHE, continuing quarterly. 	
In-district or multi-district collaborations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assisting in Orderable Materials Project. End goal: streamline ordering process across MECDC programs. ➤ PHEP planning med/surg exercise upcoming in April 	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: <p>Epidemiology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ongoing flu and GI outbreaks ➤ More flu surveillance reports coming out weekly--to sign up to receive the weekly influenza surveillance reports: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEHHS/subscriber/new?preferences=true ➤ New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence working with epi program on food safety training ➤ Infectious disease dashboard: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/publications/ 	

District Name: Western

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<p>Infectious Disease Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No report provided <p>Immunization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working on new data loggers ➤ Working on adult program that mimics Vaccines for Kids program <p>Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)</p>
** Division of Public Health Nursing
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing a new mom support group in Lewiston modeled off success of Oxford County program ➤ Supporting LTBI clinic at B Street once a month ➤ Western District PHN are fully staffed.
** Division of Environmental and Community Health: Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No reports received.
Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No reports received
Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Public Health Equity
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No reports received
** Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL):
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No reports received

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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Template updated 03/2023

District: York Public Health District	Date: 3/20/2025
** Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes available on district's webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district1/council-main.shtml	
<p>➤ Dates of note in York District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DCC is planning a meeting around the public health implications around United Way Asset Limited Income Constrained Employee data (ALICE) data. The executive committee is currently working with the United Way to further develop this meeting and should have updates soon on when it will be held. 	
<p>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</p> <p>➤ The council is still working to attract new members.</p>	
<p>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</p> <p>➤ The District Coordinating Council is working on the development of the Local Public Health Systems Improvement Plan.</p>	
<p>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</p>	
<p>Public Health Unit: The District Liaison continues to coordinate the public health unit quarterly meetings to discuss ongoing projects and current issues to ensure coloration when appropriate.</p>	
<p>The York District Liaison is working on the next meeting for the Healthcare Coalitions. This meeting will focus on an epidemiology update and an overview of Life Flight of Maine. An update from the first of 2 strategic planning meetings is also in development.</p>	
<p>Rural Health and Primary Care</p> <hr/>	
<p>Featured Updates</p>	

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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NBRC Spring 2025 Catalyst Program

Our program wanted to share some important information regarding the [NBRC Spring 2025 Catalyst Program](#) and its upcoming pre-application support. The **Spring 2025 Catalyst Program** offers exciting funding opportunities aimed at stimulating economic growth and fostering partnerships to improve rural economic vitality.

Important Details:

- **Pre-Application Support:** A 7-part pre-recorded series covering the Catalyst Program, Forest Economy Program, and Timber for Transit Program. It includes eligibility details, timelines, and other information crucial for selecting the right program for your project.
- **2025 Catalyst Program Information Session:** Watch the session recording and review the PowerPoint presentation from the session held on **February 11, 2025**.
 - [\[View Session Recording\]](#)
 - [\[View PowerPoint PDF\]](#)
- **Spring 2025 Timeline:**
 - **Pre-applications and waivers due:** March 7, 2025 (by 5:00 PM EST)
 - **Applications due:** April 18, 2025 (by 5:00 PM EST)

Program Overview: The Catalyst Program funds projects focused on improving rural economic vitality and addressing economic distress. Projects that improve health outcomes, modernize infrastructure, expand workforce development, and more are eligible for funding. Up to **\$500,000** can be awarded under the non-infrastructure category, and up to **\$3,000,000** under the infrastructure category.

Eligible Service Areas: The NBRC service area includes 60 counties in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. Projects outside these areas are not eligible unless they meet specific exceptions.

Eligibility Guidance: Eligible applicants include state and local governments, non-profits, and federally recognized Indian Tribes. For-profit entities and LLCs are not eligible.

For more information, you can visit the **NBRC Resources Page for Grants Management Information**. To submit pre-applications and applications, please visit **NBRC's Grants Management System**.

For specific queries about the program or to submit your Project Interest Form, you can contact your state's designated NBRC Program Manager.

district Name: Aroostook

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Primary Care Tax Credit Program Accepting Applications

The Primary Tax Credit Program applications will be opening on January 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The applications are being accepted online at <https://submit.link/10R>. **Applications cannot be submitted** online until after January 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM. This program provides a tax credit on income tax returns to eligible Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Physicians, Physician Assistants, and Registered Nurses. The applications are accepted on a first come first serve basis and only the first 10 eligible providers with completed applications submitted can be accepted. The Application Cycle closes on February 18th, 2025.

To be eligible, the provider must practice in an eligible Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P). If you are unsure if your facility qualifies, please visit this website: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>

The online application will ask you to upload various documents, this includes but is not limited to:

- A verification of full, permanent licensure in Maine. Must come from this website: <https://www.pfr.maine.gov/almsonline/almquery/SearchIndividual.aspx>.
- An employment contract that indicates that you have been practicing full time at the designated work location **since at least 7/1/2024**.
- [Verification of Educational Debt form](#). You can submit as many of these as needed so that all of your educational loans can be represented.
- Educational Loan statement that is: On official letterhead or other clear verification that it comes from the lender/holder, includes the name of the borrower, Contains the account number, includes the date of the statement (cannot be more than 45 days from the date of application submission), and includes the current outstanding balance (principal and interest) or the current payoff balance.

Please disburse widely within your organization so that all potentially eligible providers can be reached.

If you have any questions, please email erica.dyer@maine.gov to get those questions answered.

Introducing Our New Newsletter

strict Name: Aroostook

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We're excited to launch our **Rural Health and Primary Care Program Newsletter**, designed to keep you informed about the latest updates, initiatives, and resources aimed at improving healthcare access in Maine's rural communities. Each edition will feature important news, upcoming events, success stories, and insights into our ongoing work with healthcare providers, partners, and stakeholders across the state. Whether you're a healthcare professional, community leader, or advocate, our newsletter will provide valuable information to help you stay connected and engaged in the critical work of rural health. Here you'll find our [first issue \(PDF\)](#), and make sure to check back for future editions.

**** Division of Disease Surveillance;** Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

The field epidemiologist is participating and bringing value to both the public health unit meetings and the Health Care coalition meetings. This has been a great opportunity to share information about what is circulating in York County.

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/>

Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)

**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ The Maine Public Health Nursing Program is fully staffed now.

- Public Health Nurses from York and Cumberland Counties are still offering one off catch up vaccine clinics for school aged children.

Maine CDC Public Health Nursing: 207-287-4112

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**** Division of Environmental and Community Health:** Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- **Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP)** works to ensure safe drinking water in Maine, to protect public health, by administering and enforcing drinking water and subsurface wastewater regulations, providing education and technical and financial assistance. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
- **NEWS:** The Drinking Water Program is accepting applications for the 2025 Source Protection Grant, Water System Asset Security Grant, and Capacity Development Grant. These grants are available to all Community and non-profit Non-Community public water systems. To learn more or apply, please visit the Financial Resources page of this website.
- **Health Inspection Program:** The Health Inspection Program exists to provide licensing and inspection services for several different types of businesses to protect the public's health. These businesses include restaurants, lodging, campgrounds, youth camps, public swimming pools and spas, tattooists, micropigmentation, body piercing, electrolysis, school cafeterias, and mass gatherings. To file a complaint, report a foodborne illness, or inquire about a Health Inspection Program-licensed establishment, please call our main number at 207-287-5671 during business hours. Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm excluding holidays. For emergency after hours calls, please call **1-800-821-5821**.
- The Health Inspection Program is excited to announce it is fully staffed for York Public Health District.

The Division is organized as follows:

- Division Administration (internal support, review and planning of the Division)
- Children's Licensing and Investigation Services (childcare facility licensing) (207) 287-5020
- Drinking Water Program (regulates public drinking water supplies) (207) 287-2070
- Health Inspection Program (inspection/regulation of restaurants and lodging places) (207) 287-5671
- Radiation Control Program (inspection/regulation of radiation sources) (207) 287-5676
- Subsurface Wastewater Team (plan review and approval of septic system installation) (207) 287-2070

Division of Disease Prevention: Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco & Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

Maternal and Child Health Program: For over 75 years, the Federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Program has provided States with funding to ensuring the health of the Nation's mothers, women, children and youth, including children with special health care needs, and their families. The Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG) supports work in Maine including the following programs.

- Maine CDC Children with Special Health Needs

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- Birth Defects Program
- Cleft Lip & Palate Program
- Partners in Care Coordination
- Newborn Hearing Program
- Genetics Program
- Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program
- Maternal, Fetal & Infant Mortality Review
- Perinatal Health
- Other Maine CDC Programs serving women, mothers and children and receiving support from the MCHBG and matching funds.
- Women’s Health
- Adolescent and School Health
- Public Health Nursing
- Injury and Suicide Prevention
- Oral Health

Substance Use Prevention: The Prevention Team is committed to preventing and reducing substance abuse and mental illness and related problems by providing leadership, education and support to communities and institutions throughout Maine. The team works to ensure that Mainers can avoid both the personal and societal costs of substance abuse and mental illness. In collaboration with Maine Prevention Services initiative, Drug Free Community Coalitions, communities, consumers, and a variety of organizations in the state, the Prevention Team provides funding, technical assistance, data, and training and develops materials and resources to educate the residents of Maine. Wellness is the foundation of a healthy, long, and productive life, and is core to the work of prevention services.

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Health Equity

Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

The goals of the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory are to isolate, identify, analyze and monitor any biological, chemical, or radiological hazards which are capable of causing harm. We will assist other agencies in the prevention, treatment, and control of such hazards which threaten the community or environment. These essential services shall be provided cost effectively through a fee schedule established with the flexibility of making them available regardless of the public’s ability to pay. Other roles include

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consultation with other agencies on state policy development and the quality assurance oversight of services provided by the public and private sectors.

Core functions:

RAPID RESPONDER TO SUSPECTED OUTBREAKS AND CONTAMINATION EVENTS:

- The HETL, in concert with public health agencies and other laboratories, will have the capability to rapidly identify, track and contain outbreaks and sources of biological or chemical public health threats.

INTEGRATED INFORMATION MANAGER:

- The HETL will provide an important link for the accumulation, blending, and distribution of scientific information in the support of public health programs. The HETL will also provide expert consultation on analytical data generated at the HETL and data generated elsewhere.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR:

- The HETL will be a leader in epidemiological surveillance and environmental testing. Laboratory data will provide necessary information to assess and monitor environmental health. Low detection level analyses will provide an indicator of change, before significant health effects can occur.

ADVOCATE FOR APPROPRIATE AND HIGH-QUALITY TESTING:

- The HETL will be recognized as the source of quality information and serve as the standard for municipal and private laboratory performance. Certification of other laboratories will be based upon standards set here and the federal standards defined by laws and regulations.

REFERENCE SERVICE PROVIDER:

- The HETL will expand its role as the reference testing site for Maine and provide a model of efficient, low cost, quality testing that assesses public and environmental health through appropriate testing.

TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONS RESEARCH LEADER:

- The HETL will be recognized as a source of state-of-the-art technology, both technical and operational. The HETL will have direct connectivity to technological advancement within the State.
- The HETL will assist the state in test selection for investigative research.

PUBLIC SAFETY ENFORCEMENT:

- The HETL will provide analytical, technical, and enforcement capability to help control the abuse of alcohol & drugs and the attendant public health consequences.

Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL)

Central Office:

221 State St., Augusta, Maine 04333

Telephone:

207-287-2727

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For more news please visit: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/news>

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