



# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Template updated 03/2023

<b>District:</b> Aroostook	<b>Date:</b> 12/02/2024
<p><b>** Division of Public Health Systems:</b> 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 11.06.24</p> <p><b>Council Education Topic:</b>  “Health care and related workforce challenges and current strategies for Aroostook”  “Understanding financial hardship in Aroostook using ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) data”</p> <p><b>Guest Presenters:</b>  <b>Galan Williamson</b>, Northeastern Workforce Development Board, Executive Director  <b>Sarah Duncan</b>, United Way of Aroostook, Executive Director</p> <p>➤ Dates of note in Aroostook District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next DCC Meeting: 02/05/2025</li> <li>• Next Aroostook Chapter of Maine HCC Meeting: 01/09/2025</li> <li>• Next APHC Aging Committee Meeting: TBD</li> <li>• Next APHC Steering Committee Meeting: 01/08/2025</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</b></p> <p>HCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Several inquiries from HCC members in Aroostook wanting to serve on the statewide committee.</li> <li>➤ Working with AKEMA on mutual aid agreements with members of the HCC in case emergency resource sharing is needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ICS Trainings: PHE is reaching out to Division Directors/ Program Managers with division specific employee data, to target employees that still need to complete ICS form and training required by the MCDC Strategic Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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</li> </ul>	

strict Name: Aroostook

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

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22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

A. A district coordinating council for public health shall:

- (1) Participate as appropriate in district-level activities to help ensure the state public health system in each district is ready and maintained for accreditation; and
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Program, and UMFK to provide catch-up vaccines to UMFK students – providing four immunizations: Influenza (Fluarix), COVID-19 (Moderna Spikevax), MMR (MMR11), and TDAP

**\*\* 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
  - 09.26.24: Ongoing High Risk for Arboviral Infections, Continue to Test Patients
  - 10.02.24: U.S. CDC: Prevention Strategies for Mpox, including Vaccinating People at Risk via Sexual Exposure, for U.S. Travelers Visiting Countries with Clade I Mpox Outbreaks
  - 10.08.24: U.S. CDC: First Marburg Virus Outbreak in the Republic of Rwanda
  - 10.16.24: U.S. CDC: Disruptions in Availability of Peritoneal Dialysis and Intravenous Solutions from Baxter International Facility in North Carolina
  - 10.25.24: 2024 Record Number of Tickborne Illnesses Reported
  - 10.30.24: Pertussis Uptick in Maine: Information on Testing, Treatment, and Prevention
  - 11.04.24: Preparing for Fall/Winter Respiratory Virus Season
  - 11.07.24: Maine CDC Reports Human EEE Case

**\*\* Division of Public Health Nursing**

**Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:**

- Vaccine Clinic – UMFK on Dec. 6
- Baby and Me Connections Group – working on outreach. Collaborating with the Comms team on inclusive language
- Community Baby Showers - Linneus, Caribou, Fort Kent. A lot of community participating; helpful to get providers/programs/daycares etc., together.
- School vaccine clinics – continued collaboration.

**\*\* 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:

- All (54) 2024 Sanitary Surveys for DWP-H have been completed.
- MSAD 70 (Hodgdon Schools) are near the completion of having their PFAS Treatment installed. Will be inspecting first week of December.
- Currently DWP-G (Bangor Office) is vacant. Aroostook is working in that area to get all the Community System and Sanitary Surveys completed. To date there are 4 complete and 3 more scheduled for the upcoming weeks.

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- Houlton Mobile Home Park is now connected to Houlton Water District and has been deregulated as of the week of 11.18.24. This system has tested very high for PFAS and residents of the park have been provided with Bottled Water. They now have clean water from Houlton Municipal Water System.

Health Inspections Program: \*data retrieved from Maine.gov Health Inspection Website

- 34 Inspections completed between September 1, 2024 – November 25, 2024
  - Eating Establishments - 19
  - Lodging – 5
  - Correctional Facility – 1
  - Sporting/Recreational Camp – 8
  - Micropigmentation – 1

**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 during August – September 2024

##### Tobacco Prevention:

##### ➤ August

- Back to School Bash Presque Isle: 1000 attendees, received information on Maine Quitlink, MPN + Influence “9/10 Maine teens do not use tobacco” messaging, and lip balm.
- Back to School Bash Easton: 60 families: Maine Quit Link and My Life My Quit, Secondhand smoke and your pet, secondhand smoke and asthma + thirdhand smoke resources
- 2 Workplace policies signed with The Healing Cove & Martin Dineen, LLC
- Distributed My Life My quit + Maine Quitlink Information to The Healing Cove, Martin Dineen LLC, Presque Isle VA Health Center, Fort Fairfield Middle High School Open House, Town of Island Falls staff

##### ➤ September

- Delivered 34 requested Maine Quit Link materials, 30 vaping resources to Aroostook Recovery Center of Hope (ARCH)
- Prepared and delivered 10 CACE packets to Presque Isle High School and 10 CACE packets to Ashland District School
- Distributed 4 Tobacco Folders that included blank MOU and CATCH My Breath PE activities
- Completed tobacco MOU with Fort Fairfield Middle School
- Delivered 24 requested resources (metal signs, MQL poster, MP Tips rack cards) to Island Falls Town Office
- 40 CACFP folders distributed to 40 daycare providers

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- Signs provided to Big Bear Realty
- Mini grant check completed with The Healing Cove
- Connected with new to Maine physician at the Fort Kent Baby Shower Community Event and connected physician to Maine Quit Link. Mailed 25 packets of information for patients and medical team.

### Substance Use Prevention (SUPS):

#### ➤ August

- Distributed 50 Deterra bags to Caribou Rehab & Nursing
- Weekly restorative circles and Lion Quest Programming weekly at Pathways in Presque Isle during the school year
- ACAP Back to School Bash: distributed 29 Deterra Bags
- Recruiting Materials for Drug Free Aroostook distributed at 3 community events
- Prime For Life given to 6 individuals
- Back to School Bash Easton: provided information and program resources to 50 students
- Student Intervention and Reintegration Program (SIRP) classes weekly in Caribou
- Lions Quest for grades 3-5 and 6-8 weekly in Caswell

#### ➤ September

- Distributed 115 Deterra bags to three different locations in Houlton and Fort Kent
- WAGM interview: SIRP program and Prime for Life
- Prime For Life given at Caribou High School to 2 individuals
- Lock Bags Distributed to 1 individual

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

### Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- November 21 – National Rural Health Day
- November – Native American Heritage Month
- November 13 – Webinar – The 5Rs Art Exhibit: Journey through Post-Traumatic Growth
- November 14 – Webinar – Community Health Worker (CHW) Climate Resilience: Disaster Preparedness & Response
- November 19 – Webinar – Maine Cancer Plan Listening Session
- November 20 – Webinar – Leading the Way for Community-Driven Health Transformation: Lessons Learned from the Vaccine Equity Project
- December 13 – Webinar – Maine DHHS Office for Family Independence’s monthly webinar series

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<b>District:</b> Cumberland	<b>Date:</b> 12/12/24
<b>** Division of Public Health Systems:</b> 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: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district2/council-main.shtml">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district2/council-main.shtml</a>	
<b>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</b>	
➤ DCC Meetings:	
<b>September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Full Council Meeting with 46 participants</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of CHNA Accomplishments by hospital partners</li> <li>• ALICE presentation by Lee Klarman of United Way of Southern Maine</li> </ul>	
➤ Bridget Rauscher has been selected as Portland Public Health Director	
➤ Maggie Mclaughlin is Portland's new Director of Health and Human services.	
<b>November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Full Council Meeting with 36 participants</b>	
➤ 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)	
<b>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</b>	
➤ CDPHC issued call for public comment on proposed GA rule changes	
➤ Cumberland District Maine CDC produced and circulated: vaccination promotion materials; holiday meal guides; and a list of community vaccination clinics	
<b>** Division of Disease Surveillance;</b> Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
<b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b>	
➤ ID/Epi is responding to infectious disease reports as needed	
➤ 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 12/6/24	
Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)	
<b>** Division of Public Health Nursing</b>	
<b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active TB cases continue to be a focus for our Cumberland PHN team</li> <li>• MCH challenges related to contracting issues continue to be a stressor on Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook, as Portland Public Health has halted visits pending resolution</li> </ul>	

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**Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:**

- Since September 2024, 3 Do Not Drink Orders (Naples, Harpswell, Raymond), 1 Boil Water Order (Naples), and no Do Not Use orders, were issued in Cumberland County
- 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
- 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 participated in 10/18/24 **Maine Department of Health & Human Services/Community Health Worker Steering Committee meeting**
- **Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors during September-November 2024:**
  - HEAL team lead presented at the Town of Bridgton’s Open Space Committee meeting and gained the committee’s approval for gathering and integrating youth input on the implementation of the town’s 2023 Open Space Plan. MPN HEAL will support the committee in incorporating youth voices.
  - The HEAL team lead worked with the Cumberland County Food Resources Coalition, a group of multi-sector individuals who support community-level food security, to launch a new initiative. The group will gather community input around food assistance through focus groups and individual interviews. This input will inform tools to increase household access to food benefits and resources, address education gaps, and support advocacy efforts.
  - HEAL staff at Portland Public Health are collaborating with Portland Parks and Recreation to address linguistic gaps and expand communication strategies around programming. Staff will support registration assistance at 4 community nights and 1 parent teacher conference and are creating multilingual outreach materials.

**Tobacco and SUPs:**

- Maine Prevention Network (MPN) Substance Use Prevention (SUP) team is supporting South Portland Parks and Recreation with an organizational assessment of practices that support LGBTQ+ inclusivity and belonging in their Parks and Rec spaces and programming. To establish a common language and foundation for future system changes, the SUP team funded a training

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by Cassie Cooper, Associate Director from OUT Maine, for South Portland Parks and Rec’s annual training day which had 23 participants representing 7 programs across SP Rec. In November, the SUP team started hosting meetings with each program leader to further clarify goals and priorities.

- Freeport Middle School successfully launched BASE, an evidence-based SEL curriculum. With support from Cumberland County Public Health Department consultant Sarah Jorgensen. The school has also established a Culture and Climate team to focus on building internal utilization of circle processes and to increase teaming among staff.
- The Substance Use and Tobacco Prevention team’s Restorative Practice Systems Specialist (RPSS) continues to support integration of restorative practices within Deering, Gorham, and Lake Region High Schools this fall. Additionally, the RPSS continues to support a parent restorative circle in partnership with SoPo Unite in South Portland, and offered a workshop for 45 of Portland Rec’s before and after care staff on restorative practices to support their staff restorative circle practice to begin the new school year.

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

- Maine CDC Presentation to Region 1 Homelessness Council on HIV/HepC outbreak at Bangor encampment held 12/4/24

**Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:**

- Two CHNA forums were completed in Cumberland District (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> in Bridgton, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> in Portland)

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Template updated 03/2023.

<b>District:</b> Downeast (Hancock & Washington Counties)	<b>Date:</b> December 19, 2024
<b>Division of Public Health Systems:</b> 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: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district7/publications.shtml">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district7/publications.shtml</a>	
➤ <b>Downeast Public Health Council Meeting Dates for 2024:</b> January 19, March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20, and November 15.	
<b>November 15 Meeting</b>	
<b>In Person Meeting</b> held at Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben (no hybrid or virtual option)	
<b>Topic:</b> Healthy Acadia as our district vendor for the Maine Prevention Network provided an interactive approach to youth substance and tobacco use in Downeast Maine, giving specific data indicator trends using MIYSS data as well as summarizing some of the activities they have conducted in the schools. The second half of the meeting was focused on the 2024 Downeast Public Health District Improvement Plan Priorities in Chronic Disease Awareness, Older Adult Health and Safety, Mental Health, and Emergency Operations Response. As an open discussion, the participants discussed current work being done and the district council recommended that for each of the priorities, organizations consider each priority within their organization by levels; the employee or individual, the organization, the community, and the region/district.	
<b>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In January 2025, we will set the district council agenda for developing a five-year 2025-2030 health improvement plan with an annual report like our first annual report.</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ Well Water Quality and promotion of well testing in communities and providing support to overcome barriers to it.</li> </ul>	

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## **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:**

- Ongoing surveillance of respiratory disease, such as RSV, Influenza, and COVID. We continue to encourage schools test and provide vaccines to students.
- Support to Health Inspection Program for complaints or concerns from restaurant food that may cause illness, as a means of education and potential cluster surveillance.
- Support for obtaining and giving rabies treatment.

*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: PHN Referrals and Visits have dropped in number over last quarter.
- PHN Staff have participated in trainings and exercises to support district emergency preparedness priority.
- PHN Staff have participated in health fairs at Harrington Family Health Center and Mano en Mano.
- Working on new standards of care and procedures/policies for new older adult outreach and services in 2025.

*Tammy Mitchell, 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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## Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Ongoing consultation with municipalities on well water testing days
- Health Inspection Program Update:
  - Staff meet quarterly: 12/18/2024
  - Staff will present at Board of Pesticide Meeting 12/2024 on our procedures on handling cockroach infestations in licensed establishments.
  - Staff completing emergency preparedness ICS courses.

*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)**

- ❖ Fifteen ECE sites were awarded mini grants supporting 267 children across Hancock and Washington County. Ten of the sites implemented Farm to ECE environmental improvements, one implemented nutrition and water access initiatives and six sites improved access to physical activity. At the Washington County ECE Conference, 40 childcare provider professionals received local produce, Farm to ECE resources and Breastfeeding Policy resources.
- ❖ Participation in a TEACH ME Outside workshop helped identify 2 schools working on outdoor learning and increasing physical activity. Access and awareness of local physical activity assets was improved by adding Schoodic National Scenic Byways Kid’s Quest sites for outdoor learning (<https://schoodicnationalbyway.org/new/kids-quest/>) on TEACH ME Outside mapping <https://teachmeoutside.org/add-listing/places/>.
- ❖ MPN HEAL team provided a presentation, “Strategies for Cafeteria Challenges; Goals and Actionable Steps” at the School Nutrition DIRIGO Alliance Professional Training. There were 100 cafeteria staff from 18 schools in attendance. Attendance by Downeast school staff was lower this year. Identified barriers include time constraints, distance to travel, and lack of staffing.
- ❖ In Washington County, we coordinated the establishment of the Senior Farm Share program at both tribal communities by linking each community with a participating farm. This season we have 44 shares allocated to the two communities (Indian Township and Pleasant Point). We provided administrative support to connect the two farms with a coordinator in each community and administrative support to Folklore Farm that provides 120 shares to elders across the region.
- ❖ In Washington County, our Downeast Gleaning Initiative provided 45 shares (253 pounds of vegetables) for clients of WIC, distributed over 5 drop-offs in July, August and September via Machias, Calais and Milbridge sites. The shares included at least 3 crops of fresh and locally

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## Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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grown produce from the Washington Academy Garden, the Downeast Restorative Harvest community-corrections farm, as well as some donations by local home gardeners.

- ❖ The Hancock County Food Security Network quarterly meeting was held in early July. There were 15 attendees and two presenters that discussed Food System planning in the Ellsworth area and educational training for community partners on access to state benefit programs. The group discussed the ways in which the network has been beneficial to them and their organization as well as successes and updates over the past few months.

### Substance Use Prevention

- ❖ Rx Safe Storage and Disposal distribution and materials: interactions and rack card distribution to grocery store pharmacies, municipalities, law enforcement, and aging partners.
- ❖ Evidenced-based opioid/cannabis prevention presentations - Elementary, Middle and High School: education and trainings provided to schools in both counties.
- ❖ Restorative Schools policies and practice: meetings with families (parents, students, younger siblings) providing skill training in communication and peer support.
- ❖ Health Messaging: various outlets for sharing health messaging, including social media, shared media resources, workplace prevention toolkit, and community partner meetings.
- ❖ Cannabis safe storage education and materials, RBS Trainings, and Sticker Shock.
- ❖ Outreach to schools on participating in the MIYSS process.

### Tobacco Prevention

- ❖ Prevention of tobacco products: Ongoing training and evidence-based programs including Catch My Breath, Sidekicks, and Vape Busters.
- ❖ Secondhand Smoke Exposure: staff provided policy review and update and/or development support for organizations==health care sites, businesses, higher education; Maine Quit Link information shared; focus on LBGTQ through Pride events and associated group meetings.
- ❖ Promote tobacco treatment: tobacco training and evidence-based treatment programs discussed with various health care and district partners.
- ❖ Prevention is Inclusive: focus on education and outreach to specific populations through Pride events, use of behavioral health services, and use of shelters and food pantries.
- ❖ Environmental: outreach to tobacco retailers, recreational organizations, local community groups, municipalities, and higher education on policies and environmental changes.

**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).

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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- Maine CDC has created an operational strategic plan that will be implemented by divisions and programs during 2024 and 2025.
- State Health Improvement Plan: implementation planning kicked off in November meeting.
- Ongoing collaboration with HETL for securing appropriate well testing kits for municipal-based and tribal well water testing days.

### **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: December 12, 2024**

**\*\* 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>

### Dates of note in the Midcoast District:

The MPHCC meeting held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, featured speakers from the Maine Prevention Network (MPN) discussing Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiatives (HEAL) in the Midcoast District. Future MPHCC meetings will be spotlighting the Maine Prevention Network (MPN) work occurring in the Midcoast District. Sheila Nelson from the Maine Suicide Prevention Program (MSPP) provided an update on state-wide Youth and Adult suicide prevention programs. Becca Boulos from Maine Public Health Association (MPHA) discussed the Maine Legislative process.

Midcoast Public Health Council (MPHC) Steering Committee Meeting meets January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The Midcoast Public Health Educator is working with ME CDC Public Health Nursing (PHN) and Midcoast community partners to plan a Community Baby Shower and resource sharing event. The Baby Shower is open to all expectant parents and caregivers in Knox and Lincoln County on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:

- The Midcoast Public Health Unit (PHU) met on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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.
- Midcoast Public Health Council is preparing for the upcoming annual election in February 2024. MPHCC continues to seek interested members from all facets of the health care systems and communities.

### Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Future MPHCC committee focus will be directed towards developing a strong Public Health Infrastructure.

District Name: Midcoast

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22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

**Public Health**  
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➤ The Midcoast Maine Community Shared Health Needs Assessment (SCHNA) Local Planning team completed all its in-person Stakeholder Forums in November 2024. The final district reports will be completed in March 2025.

**In-district or multi-district collaborations:**

➤ The Statewide Healthcare Coalition of Maine (HCC-ME) met virtually on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Midcoast District Chapter continues to focus and identify interested members for District Chapter Chair and State Chapter Representative.

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

**\*\* Division of Public Health Nursing**

➤ Public Health Nursing (PHN) Supervisor Brooke Payne is currently on leave and Nicole Snowdon, PHN Supervisor from the Central Office is covering. District 4 continues to recruit for another PHN 1 position.

**\*\* 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 August-September 2024

Midcoast Substance Use Prevention (SUP) Activities include:

- MPN staff collaborated with Rinck Advertising this month to support the campaign targeting the fishing community and plan to continue developing relationships at the Maine Coast Fisherman’s Association. MPN staff continue to work to create a focused connection with the fishing community.

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

**Public Health**  
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- MPN staff had success in **Lincoln County** as they piloted a new safe storage and disposal partnership program with local businesses that included two community pharmacies, two funeral homes and two fisherman co-ops.
- MPN staff in **Sagadahoc County** met with Richmond middle and high school staff to present the 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey data and discuss prevention programming and educational opportunities that MPN team can offer to support schools. Staff also tabled at multiple community events promoting SpeakUp prevention resources.
- MPN Staff in **Knox/Waldo County** provided 20 medication lock boxes and 20 medication safe storage flyers to Coastal Recovery Community Center which serves individuals seeking peer support during their recovery journey.
- **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 **Knox/Waldo County** presented tobacco prevention education to 102 students at Camden Hills Regional High School and each student received a “No Vape is Safe” business card.

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

District Public Health (DPH) Staff attended an in-person all Division meeting in November. Staff learned about projects occurring across the division from Rural Health and Primary Care (RHPC), Data Research and Vital Statistics (DRVS) and the Public Health and Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) team.

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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Template updated 03/2023

<b>District:</b> Penquis	<b>Date:</b> 12-06-2024
<p><b>** Division of Public Health Systems:</b> 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 the district's webpage:</p> <p>➤ Dates of note in 12-06-2024 District:</p> <p>Report out on Maine Prevention Service Grantee activities Presentation on initiatives by Penquis Public Health District's Primary Prevention Staff. Focus on supporting children's growth and health at all stages of life. Discussion on priorities for the upcoming year and promoting health in the two counties.</p> <p>Overview of Penquis Public Health District's efforts to support health at all life stages. Discussion on priorities for the year ahead and promoting health in the community. ALICE Presentation (Matt Donahue, Heart of Maine United Way).</p> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improving council membership</li> <li>➤ Supply Chain Integrity Assessment</li> <li>➤ Planning the 2025 meeting agendas</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HCC</li> </ul> <p><b>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MYAN's Role: Leads youth leadership &amp; engagement through CDC; focuses on social justice, restorative practices, and public health.</li> <li>• Key Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Community Impact Projects: For youth (10-18 yrs), promoting community-building and adaptive skill development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

strict Name: Aroostook

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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- o Regional/Statewide Events: Youth-planned events for peer connections and new skills.
- o Training & TA: Resources for leadership and workforce development for youth, adults, and organizations.
  - Council Collaborators: MYAN, WPHW, OUT Maine, USM Catherine Cutler Institute, and more.
  - Affinity Group Programming: Tailored for historically underserved youth, promoting bonding and community engagement.
  - Program Highlights (Q1, July-Sept 2024):
- o Healthy Acadia: Downeast Teen Leadership Camp for 25 campers, trained 21 youth staff.
- o WPHW: Hosted Camp Neeloon, intertribal gatherings, UNITY event, and community-building activities.
- o OUT Maine: Expanded LGBTQ+ outreach in Aroostook County, Haystack weekend arts retreat.
- o ME-RAP: Participated in community events, including the Augusta parade.
- o AMHC: Aroostook Teen Leadership Camp focused on wellness and community.
  - Performance Metrics (Q1):
- o Youth participation in projects: 321 of 750 (43%).
- o Total trained: 524 of 5,000 (10%).
- o Technical assistance: 166.5 hours of 1,200 (14%).

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

### Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

#### ➤ Infectious Disease Epidemiology:

September 26, 2024 – Public Health Advisory issued for ongoing high risk for arboviral infections, clinicians encouraged to continue testing in appropriate patients.

October 2, 2024 – U.S. CDC recommends prevention strategies for Mpox for U.S. travelers visiting countries with Clade I Mpox outbreaks.

October 3, 2024 – Air quality alert issued for Eastern Interior and Mid-Coast Regions due to smoke from a fire in Orrington causing high particle pollution levels.

October 8, 2024 – U.S. CDC announces first Marburg Virus Disease outbreak in the Republic of Rwanda.

October 30, 2024 – Pertussis cases in Maine, and nationally, surpass 2023 total. HAN issued for information on testing, treatment, and prevention.

November 7, 2024 – Maine CDC reports a human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a Penobscot County resident.

November 26, 2024 – U.S. CDC announces first case of Clade I Mpox diagnosed in the United States.

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

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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<p><b>** Division of Public Health Nursing</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <p>➤ No update given at this time.</p>
<p><b>** Division of Environmental and Community Health:</b> Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program</p> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <p>➤ No update given at this time.</p>
<p><b>Division of Disease Prevention:</b> Maternal Child Health Program, Chronic Disease Prevention, Tobacco &amp; Substance Use Prevention and Control, Women, Infants and Children</p> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <p>➤ Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors:</p> <p><b>Chronic Disease Prevention HEAL Updates</b></p> <p>Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors during July 2024-September 2024</p> <p>Healthy Eating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In Penobscot County, a Free Community Food Exchange was established at the Bangor Area Recovery Network in Brewer. Approximately 165 pounds of produce (gleaned from the Brewer Farmers’ Market and harvested from the BARN collective garden) was placed on the stand for any community members to take, free of charge.</li> <li>● In Penobscot County, a workplace wellness partnership was established with the Eastern Area Agency on Aging. After completing the Healthy Eating Checklist and Strategies in the Healthy Us Scorecard, the organization received a mini-grant for the purchase of Bumper Crop gift certificates from the Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets.</li> <li>● Piscataquis County hosted three Free Produce Pop-Up Markets in partnership with Piscataquis Regional Food Center, giving away 558 bags of fresh produce free of charge to employees and community members. From July to September, over 6,000 pounds of fresh produce were distributed through these markets.</li> <li>● A farm-to-hospital initiative was established in July at Northern Light Mayo Hospital, providing fresh produce every two weeks during the growing season at no cost to employees. This program is made possible through collaboration with the Mainers Feeding Mainers program at Good Shepherd Food Bank. From July to September, 500 pounds of produce was distributed to Northern Light Mayo and Dexter Family Practice employees.</li> <li>● In Piscataquis County, one garden was established at Miss A’s Daycare in Guilford. To date, the</li> </ul>

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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Piscataquis County HEAL coordinator has provided technical assistance to establish gardens at three ECE programs.

### Active Living

- In Piscataquis County, two schools participated in physical activity summer clubs for the 2023-2024 school year. In Piscataquis County, Piscataquis Community Elementary School (PCES) and SeDoMoCha implemented Summer Physical Activity Clubs. PCES concluded the summer with 14 students completing 346 miles and SeDoMoCha concluded the summer with 80 students completing 1,127 miles. For the 2024-2025 school year, one new club has been established at Milo Elementary School and three clubs are continuing from last year at PCES, PCSS, and Sedomocha.

### Division of Disease Prevention: Chronic Disease Prevention HEAL Updates

#### Lactation

- Penobscot County has maintained the prenatal, postpartum, and lactation support group (The Mom Connection). The group meets every other week at the Millinocket Memorial Library.
- Piscataquis County has maintained the postpartum, lactation, and prenatal support group (Baby & Me). The group now meets at the Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft every week, with attendance at the end of the quarter reaching five mothers and their infants.
- Penquis MPN HEAL collaborated with the Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition to assist in the development of a state-wide Workplace Lactation Recognition Program for workplaces as part of a Toolkit for Employers to support lactation in the workplace. The toolkit and recognition program was officially launched on September 27th.

### **Bangor Public Health and Community Services**

#### OSH Performance Measures:

- 1f: Tobacco-free policies in K-12 schools (In Progress, 0% completed)
  - 1g: Tobacco-free policies in colleges/universities (Target Met, 100%)
  - 1e: Tobacco-free policies in behavioral health treatment facilities (Not Started, 0%)
- Focus Area A (Prevention of Initial Use):

Penobscot County: Meetings with schools, policy discussions, and alternative suspension strategies.

Piscataquis County: Presentations on vaping (170+ students), youth substance use meetings, anti-vaping poster creation.

New opportunities: Schools, businesses, and community outreach expanding for youth tobacco prevention.

Barriers: Capacity concerns in Penobscot County; time issues in Piscataquis County.

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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## Focus Area B (Secondhand Smoke Prevention):

Penobscot County: Trainings with nursing students, WIC staff, and schools; outreach to healthcare institutions and businesses.

Piscataquis County: Distribution of secondhand smoke resources at schools; signage for school grounds. New opportunities: Collaboration with businesses, and municipalities for policy reviews and prevention efforts.

Barriers: None for Penobscot County; time issues for Piscataquis County.

## Focus Area C (Tobacco Treatment Services):

Penobscot County: Outreach to various organizations (EAAA, Valley Dental, Pulmonology), QTT training for WIC and healthcare staff.

Piscataquis County: Distribution of Quit Link materials at community events; development of Quit Kits for students.

New opportunities: Expanding Quit Kits distribution, reaching out to other schools and healthcare facilities for resource sharing.

## **Maine Prevention Network**

Contact: Robin Carr

Reporting Period: September 2024

## Overall Progress:

Successfully recruited schools for Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey.

In-person staff meeting to share ideas and foster collaboration between Penobscot and Piscataquis counties.

Revised work plan submitted; 2025 plan drafting underway.

Emphasis on coordinated outreach to schools across all domains.

## NL Mayo Notes:

Alcohol compliance checks were delayed due to funding cuts; collaborating with STOP Coordinator.

Transportation barriers for youth and employers in the G2O program.

Positive Action Team at Penquis Valley engaged in prevention activities.

## **Block Grant:**

Bangor Public Health:

strict Name: Aroostook

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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Distributed CDC Worksite Toolkits, engaged Bangor Housing for wellness support.  
Social media posts on substance use prevention and recovery.  
Explored adolescent cannabis use resources; shared with schools.  
Supported Bangor School Department's opioid trust proposal and RSU 22 partnership.

**Mayo:**

Created resource packets for childcare centers, distributed locking bags.  
Facilitated meetings with Positive Action Teams for Red Ribbon Week planning.  
Shared media on underage drinking, suicide awareness, and cannabis/alcohol safe storage.

**PFS:**

Bangor Public Health:  
Hosted Community Meeting with MPHA; recognized local partners.  
Attended statewide workgroups on retail training and cannabis prevention.  
Completed PFS 2022 Evaluation Survey.  
Distributed safe storage materials at local retailers.

**Mayo:**

Attended Maine CHNA Forum to assess subpopulation health needs.  
Distributed substance use resources at a local pop-up market.  
Collaborated with STOP Grant coordinator for compliance checks and RBS training.

**ARPA:**

Bangor Public Health:  
Partnered with clinical programs to create cannabis guidance tools for healthcare providers.  
Continued development of materials for cannabis use during pregnancy.  
Planned workshop for the Maine Breastfeeding Coalition.

**Mayo:**

Shared cannabis and pregnancy information with healthcare providers.

**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:**



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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

istrict Name: Aroostook

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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Template updated 02/2024

<b>District:</b> Western	<b>Date:</b> 12/9/24
<b>** Division of Public Health Systems:</b> District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes available on <a href="#">district's webpage</a> .	
<p>➤ Dates of note in Western District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next DCC Meeting: Tuesday, January TBD, 2025 10am-1pm (zoom)</li> <li>• Western District SCHNAs were held: Franklin – September 18<sup>th</sup> (in person), Oxford - September 25<sup>th</sup> (virtual), Androscoggin – November 7<sup>th</sup> (in-person)</li> <li>• Western District Healthcare Coalition met on September 11<sup>th</sup>, planning quarterly meetings</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Continued education/speaking opportunities for community partners.</li> <li>➤ Continued outreach and growing DCC and steering committee membership.</li> <li>➤ After success of annual in-person DCC meeting, plans to continue at least one in-person meeting a year in the works.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Working with public health unit to identify district needs.</li> <li>➤ HCC meeting quarterly. Set up leadership roles for Western District Chapter</li> </ul> <p><b>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assisting in ICS for Penobscot HIV cluster.</li> </ul>	
<b>** Division of Disease Surveillance;</b> Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
<p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <p>Epidemiology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Oxford county and Franklin County Tick talks with school and community groups ongoing</li> <li>➤ More flu surveillance reports coming out weekly--To sign up to receive the weekly influenza surveillance reports: <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEHHS/subscriber/new?preferences=true">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEHHS/subscriber/new?preferences=true</a></li> <li>➤ Still watching EEE but cooling weather benefiting occurrence of mosquitos</li> <li>➤ Monitoring travelers returning from Marburg potential countries--no travelers affected in Western District</li> </ul>	

District Name: Western

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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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## Infectious Disease Prevention:

- No report provided

## Immunization:

- Instituting new phase of data loggers
- After success of November annual provider training, there are plans to continue offering vaccine training at least annually
- Immunization Program will start offering provider office hours every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday starting December 19<sup>th</sup>
- Launched Docket app that assists constituents with their vaccine records as it's aligned with ImmPact

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:**

- Western PHN are currently supporting B Street Health Center to assist with staffing support at their LTBI clinic as they build capacity. PHN currently going in monthly to support health center.
- Receiving lots of referrals from lead program for education. Working with lead program to find efficient use of PHN capacity to support community outreach efforts.
- Working with Healthy Franklin County and MaineHealth Franklin to boost PHN referrals in partnership with Healthy Oxford Hills
- Oxford County post-partum support group has been successful and hoping to expand to Franklin and Androscoggin Counties
- 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

#### **Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:**

- No reports received.

**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:**

- New youth advisory board in Franklin County
- Working on "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" campaign
- Drug take back days in October

District Name: Western

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**Public Health**  
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- Many sites promoting, “Talk. They Hear you” campaign materials that they’ve created for outreach
- Many sites working on plans for Great American Smoke Out activities

### Maine Prevention Network activities June–October 2024:

- Healthy Oxford Hills facilitated two breastfeeding and perinatal workgroup meetings to support the Bumps and Babies mom support group. Maine Families, WIC, Public Health Nurses, Community Concepts, Nurses from Stephens Hospital OBGYN and Pediatrics office were all present.
- Healthy Androscoggin staff held a meeting with Lisbon High School’s principal, assistance, principal, and SRO on alternatives to suspension/restorative practices. They shared a PowerPoint on programs such as Stanford and SIRP, and held conversations around how to implement these at the school. Additionally, staff held a training with 7 Lisbon School staff on this same content at their summer institute.
- Healthy Community Coalition staff attended an open house at Mt. Blue High Schools and participated in one of HCC’s largest outreach events of the season, the week-long Farmington Fair. Throughout the month HCC staff were provided ample opportunities to engage in meaningful conversations with parents and guardians about substance use and tobacco prevention for youth, as well local opportunities for youth engagement, reaching over 400 community members. Two members of the Youth Advisory Board, Maine Youth Leaders, also attended the Farmington Fair’s youth night, volunteering their time on HCC’s Mobile Health Unit, engaging with the community.
- HOH MPN staff have also been helping to finalize and develop the Breastfeeding/Lactation toolkit for the workplace with the Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition group. They are just finishing the final touches and will be distributing and promoting the toolkit in the upcoming months.

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

### Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- No reports received

### \*\* Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL):

### Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- No reports received

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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Template updated 03/2023

<b>District: York Public Health District</b>	<b>Date: 12/12/2024</b>
<b>** Division of Public Health Systems:</b> 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: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district1/council-main.shtml">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district1/council-main.shtml</a>	
<p>➤ Dates of note in York District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DCC will be held a meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> with a focus on the United Way ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) data for York County.</li> <li>• <a href="https://uwsme.org/2023/10/alice-report/">https://uwsme.org/2023/10/alice-report/</a></li> <li>• Updates on Maine CDC activities, and MPN updates were also available at the meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:</b></p> <p>➤ The council is still working to attract new members.</p>	
<p><b>Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:</b></p> <p>➤ The District Coordinating Council continues to work with the Shared Community Health Assessment with a planning team debrief being held on December 3. Once the final reports are ready the council will distribute accordingly.</p>	
<p><b>In-district or multi-district collaborations:</b></p>	
<p><b>Public Health Unit:</b> 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. The meeting will focus on a violence prevention program. Also, a Co-Chair Lee Jackson of Maine Health at Biddeford was selected along with a Representative to the State Healthcare Coalition Council Tom Judge of Life Flight of Maine.</p>	
<p>York and Cumberland Districts are working conjunctly on an initiative on women's health. More information to follow.</p>	

strict Name: Aroostook

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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## Rural Health and Primary Care

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### Rural Health Policy Update

Update provided by Andrew Coats, NOSORH Legislative Liaison

Congress was out of session for the entire month of October. The House and Senate are scheduled to return on November 12 to begin a five-week "lame duck" session to close out the 118th Congress.

On November 13, NOSORH will host members of Congress, congressional staff, and rural health partner organizations in the Senate Dirksen Building at 8:30 a.m. ET for the 2nd annual National Rural Health Day Celebration on the Hill! House and Senate resolutions recognizing National Rural Health Day and the importance of rural health care will also be introduced in both chambers.

In late September, the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Authorization Act was introduced. The strong bipartisan bill (H.R. 9842) was introduced by Reps. Miller (R-WV), Sewell (D-AL), Carter (R-GA), Kuster (D-NH). Here is the bill text. NOSORH plans to get a companion bill introduced in the Senate by November. The end goal is to get the RCORP authorization bill through Congress by the end of 2024. [Read More](#)

New Funding Opportunity: HRSA Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) aimed at improving access to behavioral health services

The BHWET Program for Professionals seeks to increase the supply and equitable distribution of behavioral health professionals, focusing on services for children, adolescents, and young adults

#### Key Details

Total Funding: \$59.6 million across 101 grantees over four years

Eligible Applicants: Public and private institutions, hospitals, rural health clinics, governments, nonprofits, and more

strict Name: Aroostook

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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For full eligibility and details, visit the Grants.gov page.

Application Deadline: January 21, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. E

This opportunity aims to strengthen the behavioral health workforce and increase access to care where it's needed most.

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

**Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:**

1. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/publications/index.shtml>
  - a. The section on Annual Reports breaks down disease surveillance by county, York included.
2. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/newhan.shtml>
  - a. Every HAN we send out is a direct link to every major pre/post investigations/outbreaks we engage in.
3. Maine CDC and District Epidemiologists are working on many issues including vector borne diseases such as EEE, WNV, and Jamestown canyon Virus.
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/eastern-equine-encephalitis/about/index.html>
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/west-nile-virus/>
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/jamestown-canyon/about/index.html>

<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:**

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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➤ The Maine Public Health Nursing Program continues to add staff who provide essential services in Maine communities. In October and early November, new hires in Augusta, Portland, Rockland, and Bangor have continued to increase the statewide number of Public Health Nurses.

- Public Health Nurses from York and Cumberland Counties are continuing to offer catch up vaccine clinics for school aged children.

Maine CDC Public Health Nursing: 207-287-4112

**\*\* 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: Lead & Copper Rule Revision/Lead Service Line Inventories:** All Community and Non-transient, Non-community (NTNC) public water systems must develop and submit a comprehensive and accurate inventory of every service line in their distribution system, regardless of whether any lead is present. Inventories must be completed by October 16, 2024. Lead Service Line Inventory templates are now available for download. The DWP encourages all applicable PWS to begin work on their Service Line Inventories as soon as possible.
- Voice: (207) 287-2070
- Emergency: (207) 557-4214
- TTY: Maine relay 711
- **Health Inspection Program:** The Health Inspection Program exists to provide licensing and inspection services for several different types of businesses to protect the public 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:

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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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
- 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

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# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

**Public Health**  
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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 activities conducted by York Maine Prevention Network Contractor/Subcontractors during July 2024 – September 2024:

### Healthy Eating Active Living

- York District MPN HEAL team promoted playground enhancement opportunities to several school districts, all ECE programs, and other youth serving organizations by using the HEAL team’s complete package of playground stencils, paint, and supplies. Two program sites have utilized the enhancement package to create additional opportunities for physical activity.
- York District MPN HEAL team collaborated with WIC and other community partners to identify a strategic plan to reach pregnant and breastfeeding families during World Breastfeeding Week. This collaborative team created a social media campaign and promotional materials to connect families to local programs. The HEAL team also finalized a York County Pregnant, Breastfeeding, and Infant Support brochure with an inclusive list of York County resources and programs.
- York District MPN HEAL Team collaborated and supported Sanford Regional Technical Center Fire Science program during their nutrition and hydration unit by providing 36 water bottles to fit in their uniform pocket and boost hydration when doing field work.

### 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 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:

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**Public Health**  
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- 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**

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

strict Name: Aroostook

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