

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 8/3/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Sam Wong, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Arianne Henry, Glynnis LaRosa, and Laurie Courtney, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Antonia Blinn, Dawn Sibor, and Surpriya Adhikari, Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps, DPH
- Helene Bettencourt, Anne Gilligan, and Laurie Woo, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

Announcements

Academic Public Health Corps: The mission of the APHC is to leverage public health students, alumni, and expert volunteers to augment, amplify, and promote state and local public health efforts in Massachusetts. Wide breadth of experience amongst the Corps, from Associates Degrees to Doctorates. Services include the following: Epidemiological and Statistical Data analysis; Community Outreach; Health Communications; Mobilizing Partnerships; Infographics and Signs; and more!

Epidemiological support: Connecting LBOH with census data that may be pertinent to COVID; Mapping COVID cases as a way to identify clusters and trend (how COVID spread through maps over time); Creating dashboards to see if/when anything needs to be shut down.

Health Communications: Creating and using flyers, radio spots, and social media to reach local audiences.

Mobilizing Partnerships: Enlisting community members and heritage speakers.

Need support? Email APHVCFIELDops@mass.gov

Q: Can Corps members help other departments? Do Corps members have additional support beyond the local health department?

A: Absolutely. We can create a description of what is needed and Corps members can apply to support. We might also do interviews to make sure the member is a great fit. Corps members are supported by the program itself and their teaching institution.

Q: Translation support?

A: Yes, about 13 different languages available.

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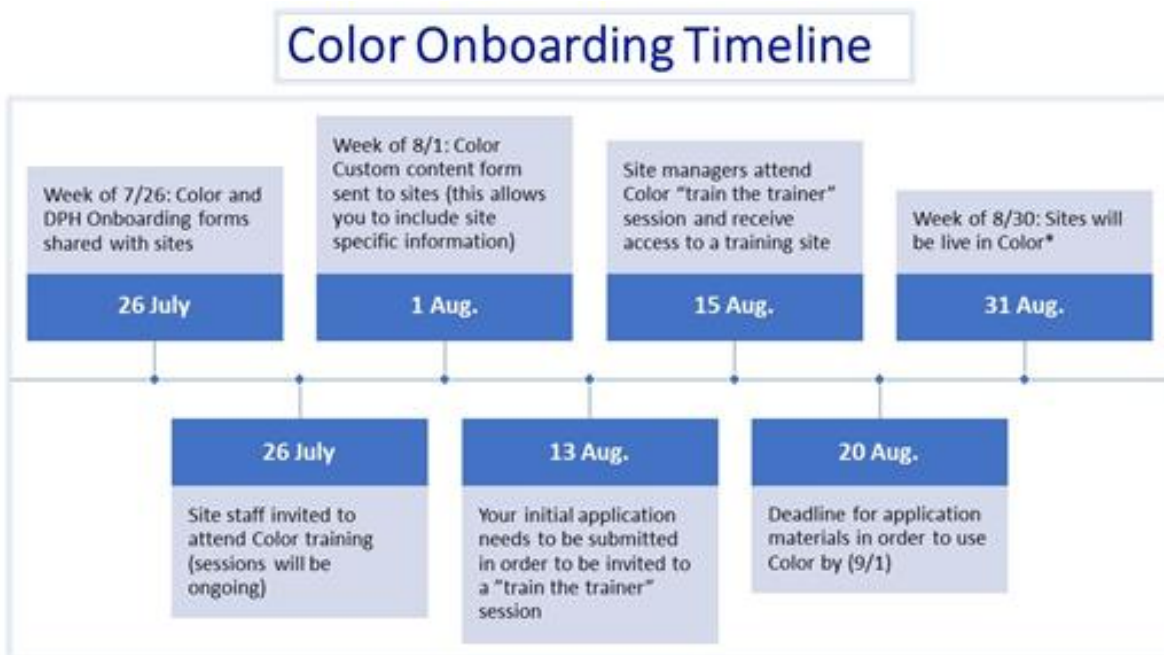
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Additionally, please complete the survey to provide feedback to the APHC.

Help us understand why health departments used, or did not use, the APHVC during COVID-19 Pandemic. It will help us design a program to meet local health department capacity needs in the future. Takes only 15 minutes to complete. Provides an opportunity to participate in a key informant interview. https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJvVbMPkpuu7XAW

Color Onboarding Timeline:



Week of 7/26-Color and DPH Onboarding forms shared with sites. Site staff invited to attend Color training/demo (sessions will be ongoing).

Week of 8/1: Color Custom content form sent to sites (this allows you to include site specific information).

8/13: Onboarding forms sent July 26th need to be submitted by August 13th so local staff can attend the "Train the Trainer" event. This will help the local administrators train future local administrators.

8/15: Site trainers (Mondays and Weds throughout the summer) attend Color "train the trainer" session. Will be provided access to Fake Boston Site Sandbox Environment to get generally familiar.

8/20: Deadline for application materials in order to use Color by 9/1.

Week of 8/30: Sites will be live in Color.

Q: Limitations—is it limited to health departments only or is this available to other clinics, ex. VNAs? VNAs also help public and private clinics, can private clinics also use Color?

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A: If you're hosting clinics that are open and available to the public we are happy to help you set up your own account on Color, for example VNAs and School Departments. Yes, VNAs supporting private clinics can also use Color.

Q: Are the trainings/content information for people who are new to Color or is there additional work for those already on Color?

A: Color team will do separate outreach to already participating health departments. This is forthcoming, you do not need to submit the application materials. We do recommend you do attend the training sessions because there are additional features now.

Q: What is happening to PrepMod?

A: DPH has decided to contract with Color for fall flu clinics. We are phasing out of PrepMod. We encourage everyone to no longer schedule any first dose clinics after July 31st on PrepMod. If you are now scheduling 2nd dose clinics, we are reaching out to you to confirm they are 2nd dose clinics and will send out additional communication about vaccination data in PrepMod. For right now, local administrators still have access to PrepMod and the data.

Q: Who should we send these questions to?

A: If you reach out to colorhelp@mass.gov, we will take your questions and triage it to the right person.

Q: August 15th is a Sunday, is it the only day to attend the "Train the Trainer" event?

A: This is actually the beginning of the week, so the communications will go out the week of the 15th for how to attend the trainings.

Q: If PrepMod is not to be used for first dose clinics now, and Color isn't active, how long do we have to wait to schedule the second dose clinics?

A: Submit your application as soon as possible and reach out to us at colorhelp@mass.gov and we can expedite your application.

Delta variants and testing:

Q: Is there information to suggest that people can get the Delta variant more than once?

A: Dr. Brown: Haven't seen data that answers that question specifically. You can definitely get COVID-19 more than once, so I think the question is if you can get the same variant more than once. I believe the answer for some of the variants is yes, and I don't know why Delta would be different.

Q: At home kits being sold in retail pharmacies, how are these results reported?

A: Many, but not all of the at-home test kits, and BinaxNOW is one of them, are integrated with some of the national reporting platforms. It comes with a QR code that you scan with your phone, and then when your test result is ready you have to scan the QR code again to view the

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result. Positive test information will go to the national platform. There will be some test kits where we will not be able to record the results in MAVEN.

Q: Any recommendations about best practices/when it's appropriate to do this type of testing? For example, most useful for symptomatic individuals?

A: A little unclear at this point because they haven't been made widely available. Antigen test slightly less sensitive than PCR tests, but remain good tests. If someone is potentially exposed and they tested themselves 3 consecutive days and they're negative on all three days, then this is good news. When we were talking with our colleagues in Provincetown about how to utilize these homebased tests, couple options were to hand them out to people who are coming off the ferry or jumping onto the ferry so they could be used while the person was in Provincetown. People who are symptomatic, this is the obvious place to use them, and testing in the absence of symptoms but when there is a reasonable chance you could have been exposed.

Other Updates:

-Extending the CTC contract until the end of the year because we understand that hiring Epidemiologists/Contact Tracers take time. Capacity right now is reduced, but as cases rise a number of municipalities are opting to use the CTC. The combination of scaling down and increasing cases has caused a backlog (4-5 days). We switched back to a surge protocol which is our best attempt to reach as many people as possible. Everyone receives a text message and a long voicemail to call the inbound line. We are trying to hire those who were phased out in July and we plan on working until November. We are also open to having conversations with LBOH to hire existing contact tracers once the CTC sunsets. If you want to take back some of your cases this can easily be done through the Local Health Liaison.

Q: Indoor masking?

A: DPH issued mask recommendations based on Massachusetts data. Over 64% of total Mass population are fully vaccinated. Breakthrough cases are still really low in proportion to the numbers of who have been vaccinated. In last 90 days, less than 1% of breakthrough COVID cases led to hospitalization. All available data continue to support that the three vaccines are effective in preventing severe disease and hospitalization. People who have weakened immune systems, are at an increased risk of severe COVID-19 because of age or health conditions, or who live with anyone who is unvaccinated or at an increased risk, are advised to wear a mask or face covering when indoors and not in their own homes.

Questions not answered out loud from the Q&A Chat:

Kristin Black - 2:59 PM

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Q: The State's Free Regional Express COVID-19 testing sites have very limited availability for appointments. Is the state going to expand the number of appointments each day to meet demand? As of Monday am, there were no tests available until Friday. -

-Samuel Wong - 3:08 PM

A: Hi Kristin. We are working with the vendor to assess testing capacity at each site. We recognize that testing demand has increased recently. In addition to the Stop the Spread regional express testing sites, there are many other testing sites for residents to use. See here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>

-Marina Lent - 3:12 PM

Q: How many Abbott BINAX Now tests is the state able to provide to communities that request them?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:13 PM

A: Tests are in increments of 40, so no fewer than 40 and in increments of 40. We haven't really set a limit, but are trying to make space for everyone to order if they would like.

-Colleen Fermon - 3:08 PM

Q: can I get Suepriya Adhikari's email address-

-Antonia Blinn - 3:14 PM

A: aphvcfieldops@mass.gov-

-Adrienne Klein - 3:13 PM

Q: Would corps members be able to support other city offices in roles where some public health background would be beneficial, and do they have access to appropriate debriefing/supervision through the Corps if they faced difficult situations? I'm thinking homeless outreach, navigating housing challenges, etc.?-

-Antonia Blinn - 3:18 PM

A: Yes, Here's the link to the survey:

https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJvVbMPkpuu7XAW

-wendy machmuller - 3:12 PM

Q: fantastic collaboration! does the corp have language translation services? we are working on a campaign and need to translate it from -

-Antonia Blinn - 3:25 PM

A: Yes, you would need to reach out to Suepriya to discuss specifics and timeline at aphvcfieldops@mass.gov-

-James Philbrook - 3:24 PM

Q: Do we need to notify Arianne Henry if we are interested or DPH? -

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-Jana Ferguson - 3:26 PM

A: Arianne-

-Tira Hanrahan - 3:14 PM

Q: can you put the link for the survey in the chat?-

-Antonia Blinn - 3:26 PM

A: Here's the link for the LBOH/Health Department survey:

https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJvVbMPkpuu7XAW

-Emily Lachance - 3:26 PM

Q: Who is the contact for color questions? Onboarding a new PHN to replace me next week and curious as to the process of her taking over our site account-

-Samuel Wong - 3:28 PM

A: Arianne Henry (arianne.henry@mass.gov)-

-Samuel Wong - 3:30 PM

A: colorhelp@mass.gov-

-susan rask - 3:25 PM

Q: Are private schools eligible to receive the BINAX Now test kits?-

-Anne Gilligan - 3:33 PM

A: Public Schools are eligible, the information can be found here:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/BinaxNOW/>-

-Cathleen Liberty - 3:33 PM

Q: Hi, I submitted all the Color paperwork last week. What is the turnaround time to hear back from them?-

-Arianne Henry - 3:38 PM

A: Hi Cathleen, The Color team will reach out to you with next steps soon. At the end of this week, for all those who have submitted their materials, Color will reach out to collect some more information. If any of your application materials are missing, the MA DPH Color Team will reach out to you directly. All those who complete their materials by August 20th will go live and have access to the system the week of August 31. Please feel free to email ColorHelp@mass.gov with any questions.

-Anita Arnum - 3:41 PM

Q: Can Fire Departments obtain BinaxNow kits as well?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:41 PM

A: Anyone ordering kits requires a CLIA waiver and the process is the same. -

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-maura reimer - 3:39 PM

Q: How do school/towns report positive results with Binax cases?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:43 PM

A: Instructions about reporting are included to the schools as part of the test kit ordering.-

-sharon cameron - 3:42 PM

Q: What is timeframe for announcement of grant awards for contact tracing? Communities will need sufficient time to hire and train staff before the CTC shuts down. -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:44 PM

A: These are currently under review and we hope to announce these very soon.

-Wes Chin - 3:45 PM

Q: Can a local BOH issue an order to require workers and patrons at indoor businesses to show proof vaccination before entry?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:47 PM

A: Municipalities have the legal authority to require these types of measures. You should speak to local legal counsel before doing so. -

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:49 PM

A: The Mayor of NYC just did this for restaurants, fitness centers and entertainment venues.-

-Allyson Larsen - 3:53 PM

Q: Do positive BinaxNow tests still need to be followed with a PCR test w/in 48 hours to confirm a Covid case and the need to isolate and contact trace?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:55 PM

A: They do not. Antigen tests are reported as probable cases and can be followed as usual. -

-Kristin Kennedy - 3:56 PM

Q: Will this extension to CTC apply to Higher Ed? -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:58 PM

A: There is no current plan to extend this for Higher Ed beyond supports for LBOH generally. -

-christine paulik - 3:57 PM

Q: How long are you thinking the CTC will continue with the service?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:58 PM

A: The end of November or December 2021-