

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



MASSACHUSETTS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

What is the Ambassador Program?

- Mission: The MEHA Ambassador Program aims to promote careers in public and environmental health among high school and college students.
- Ambassadors are all of us!
- They visit educational institutions of their choice to talk with students about careers in public and environmental health
- MEHA has developed training materials that Ambassadors may use as-is or adjust to meet their presentation style or their audience
- Ambassadors are reimbursed for travel-related costs

How to Become an Ambassador

- Eligibility: You are eligible to be a MEHA Ambassador if:
 - You have an active MEHA membership
 - You work in the field of public or environmental health, for example, if you are a health agent, sanitarian, health director, or other professional with environmental health experience
 - You have worked in your field for at least two years
- Submit application to admin@maeha.org
- Visit maeha.org/ambassadors for more information

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN MASSACHUSETTS

(ENTER YOUR NAME), **MEHA AMBASSADOR**



MASSACHUSETTS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

An affiliate of the
National Environmental Health Association



Topics to be Covered

Local Public Health

- Role of Local Public Health

Environmental Health

- Role of Environmental Health

Employment

- Local, State, Federal, National

Credentials

Continuing Education Resources

- Internships
- Tuition Waiver

The US Public Health System

- Federal
- Tribal
- State
- Local
 - County
 - City
 - Town
 - Regional Communities



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Massachusetts has 351 Public Health Departments!

Local Public Health

In Massachusetts



- Local Public Health in MA is **decentralized**.
 - 351 independent boards of health
 - All have legal authority to enact local public health laws
- MA has **no dedicated state funding for a local public health dept. to operate**, leaving funding decisions left to each municipality. But that is starting to change!
- Regional Grants and Specialized Services

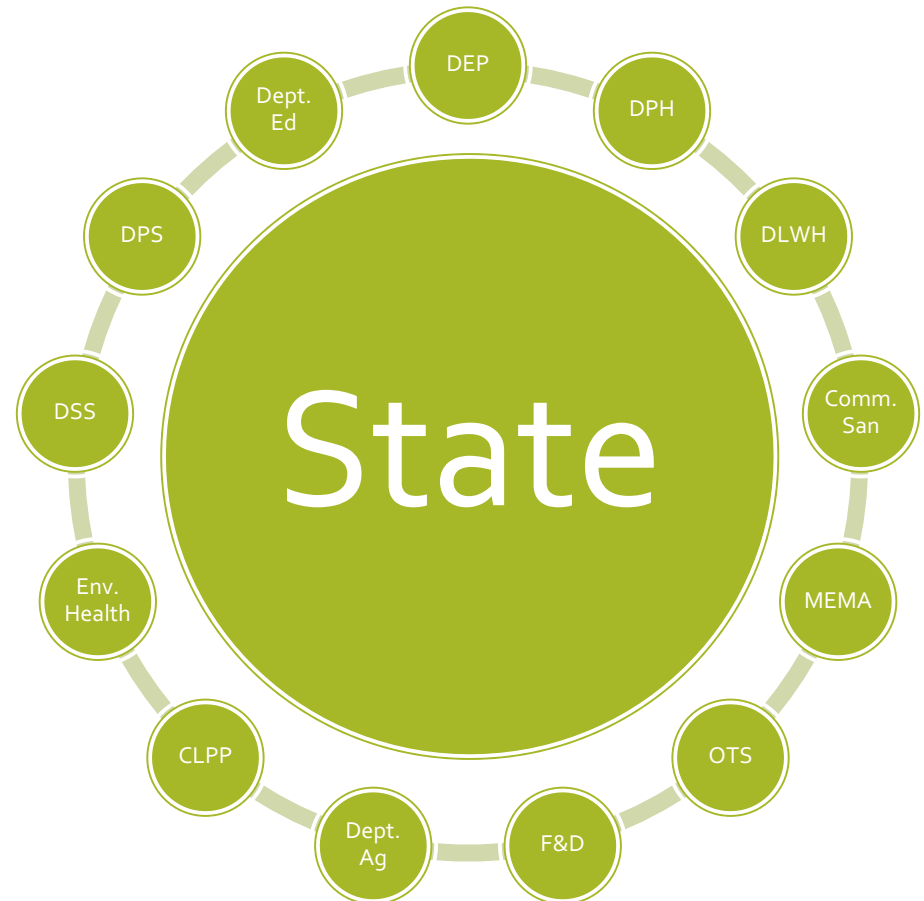
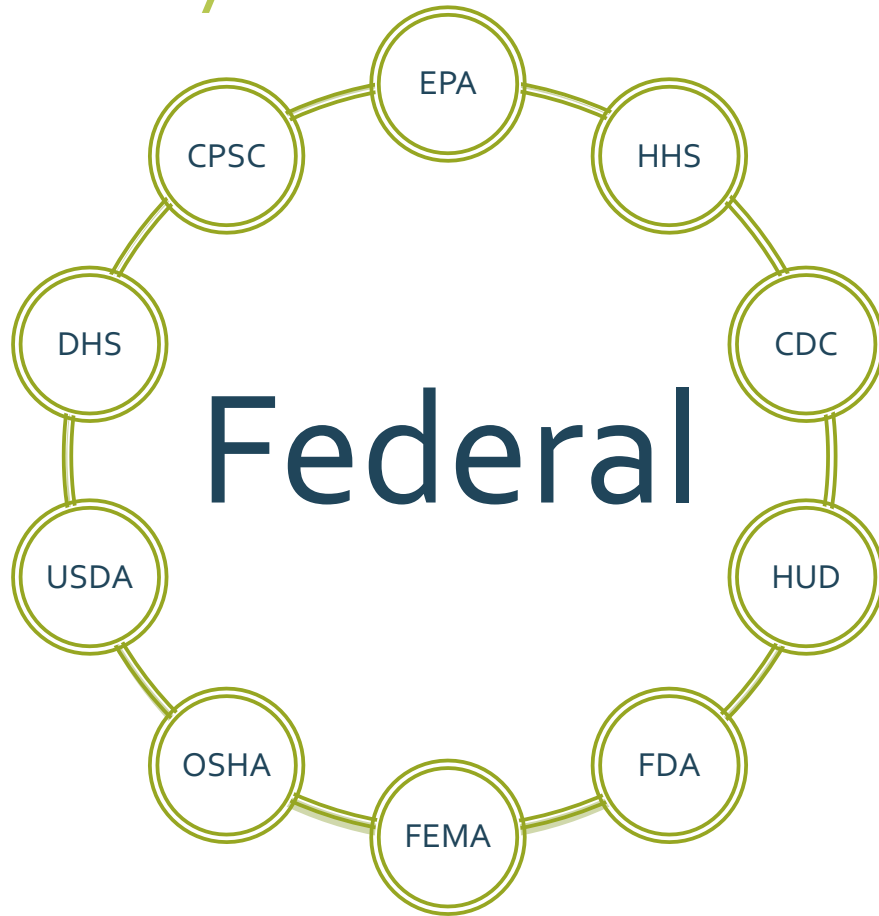
Role of Local Public Health

Local health departments impact our lives every day



Environmental Health

Key Stakeholders - Potential Employment



Environmental Health

Definition:

- Environmental Health is a key division of the Public Health system. Environmental health practitioners are on the “front line” in the public health battle to prevent injury, disease and possible death. Many tools (science, technology, laws & regulations) are used to achieve this mission.

Role of Environmental Health in Local Public Health

Permitting
Licensing
Regulatory

Code
Enforcement

Technical
Assistance

Education

Environmental Health

Food Safety – Municipal Level

Restaurants
Retail Stores
Mobile Food
Fairs/Festivals
Mass Gatherings
Cottage Food
Marijuana Hemp Edibles



Environmental Health

Housing Code

Apartments

Dorms

Community Issues

Condos

Group Homes

Emergency Shelters

Lodging Homes

Problem Properties

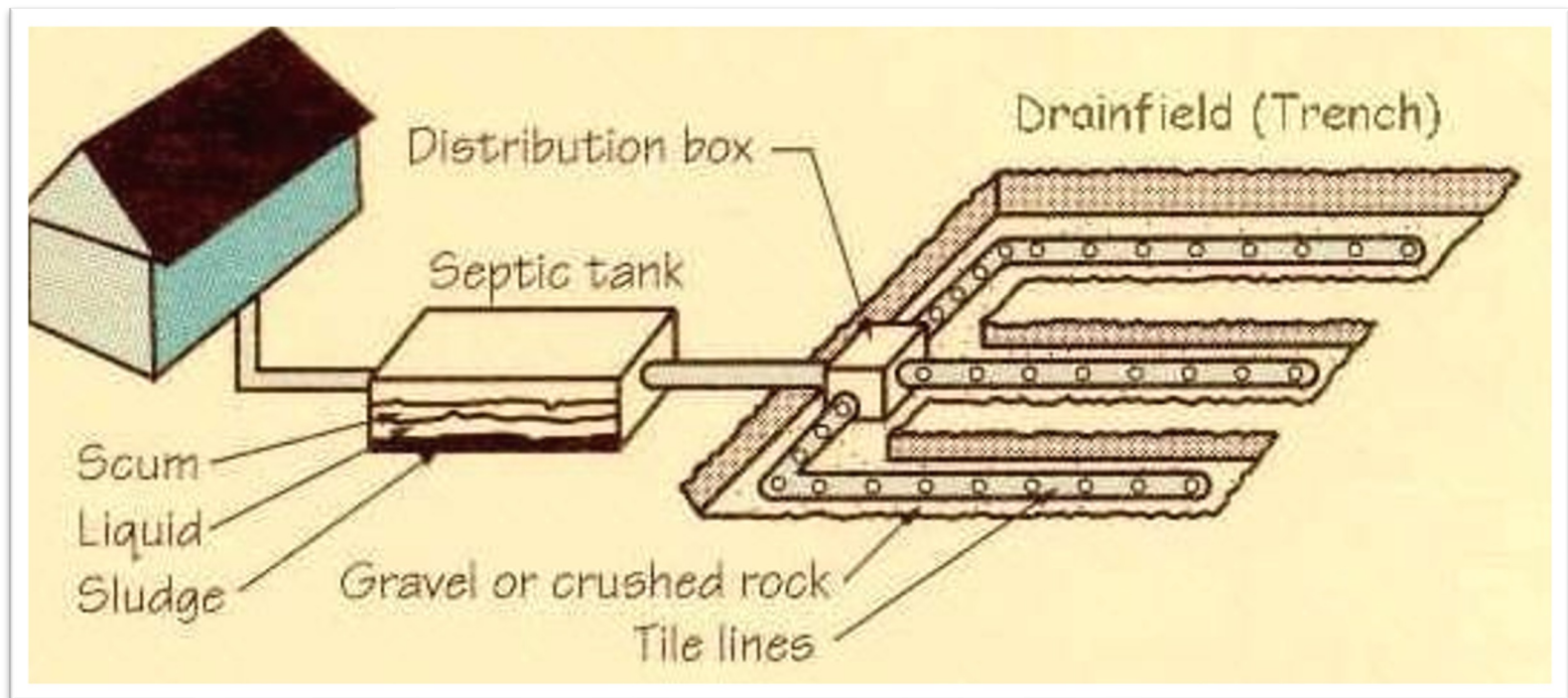
Airbnb



Environmental Health

Sewage Disposal

New England Health Departments continue to have some of the most progressive requirements for **sewage disposal systems**.



Environmental Health

Pest Control

Rats and mice can spread a variety of diseases, including rat bite fever, leptospirosis, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus infection, and in other parts of the country, hantavirus infection and plague.



Environmental Health

Vector Control

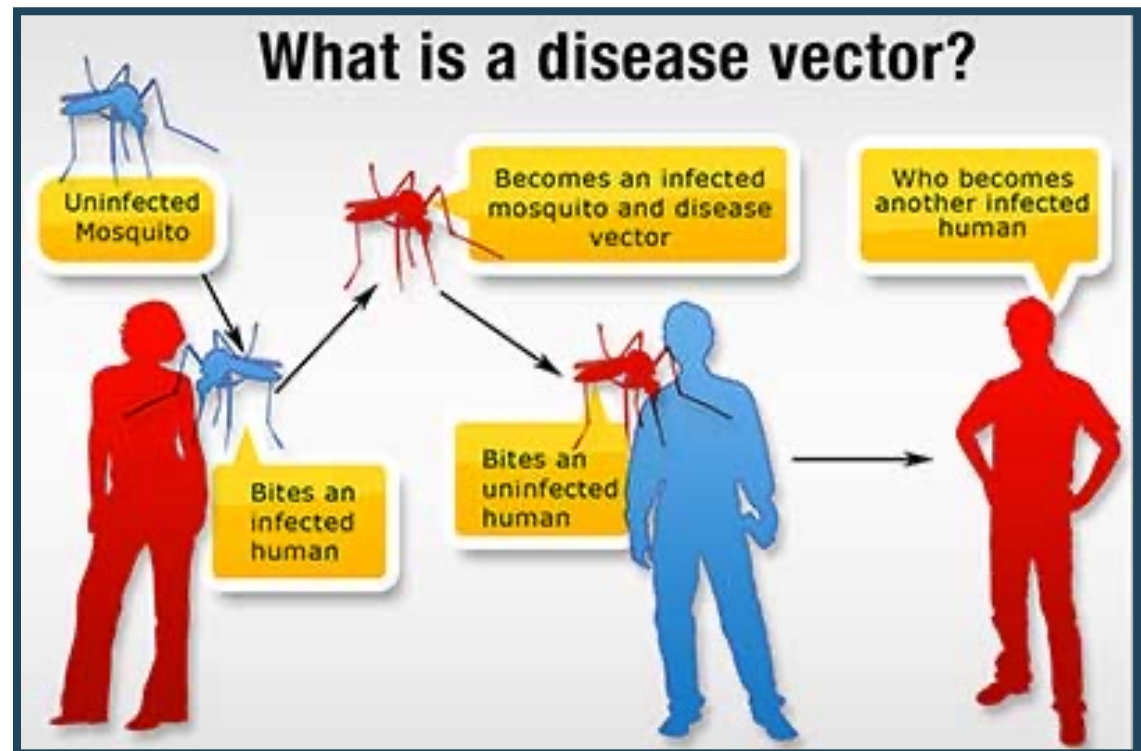


Vector-borne diseases are a major public health concern.

Environmental health professionals are on the frontline of helping individuals, institutions, and communities reduce threats from mosquitoes, ticks, and other vectors.



Examples of vector-borne diseases include West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, plague, tularemia, malaria, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Dengue Fever, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.



Environmental Health

Hazardous Materials

- As part of the New England effort to prevent mercury from being improperly disposed in the waste stream, many health departments held thermometer swap events
- Many health departments also hold Household Hazardous Waste Days, either yearly, bi-yearly, or monthly



Environmental Health

Medical Waste

Medical Waste (Sharps) and Light Bulb Collection



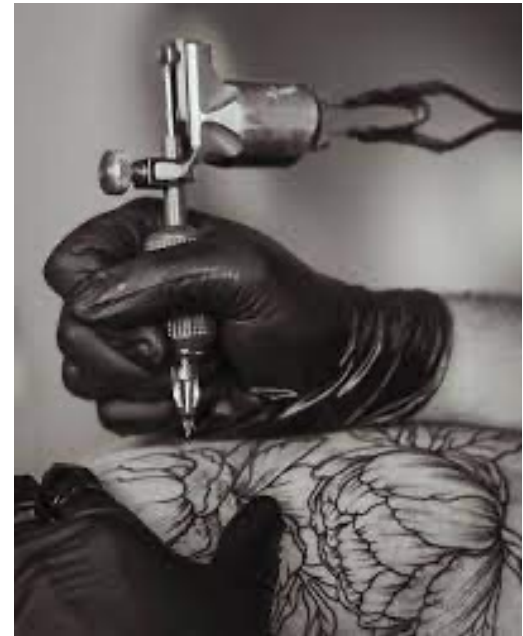
Pharmaceuticals Collection (Police)



Environmental Health

Body Art

Permitting of Body Art Establishments is one of the newest programs in the New England Region. Thanks to the NEHA model guide for Body Art the process was implemented with minimal issues.



Environmental Health

Solid Waste

Residential
Commercial
Recycling
Landfill – Transfer Station
Infectious Waste
Hazardous Waste
Polystyrene
Plastic Bags



Environmental Health

Mass Gatherings



Environmental Health

Public Health Emergencies

The **Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program** works to advance six main areas of preparedness so state and local public health systems are better prepared for emergencies that impact the public's health.



Community Resilience:

Preparing for and recovering from emergencies



Incident management:

Coordinating an effective response



Information Management:

Making sure people have information to take action



Countermeasures and Mitigation:

Getting medicines and supplies where they are needed



Surge Management:

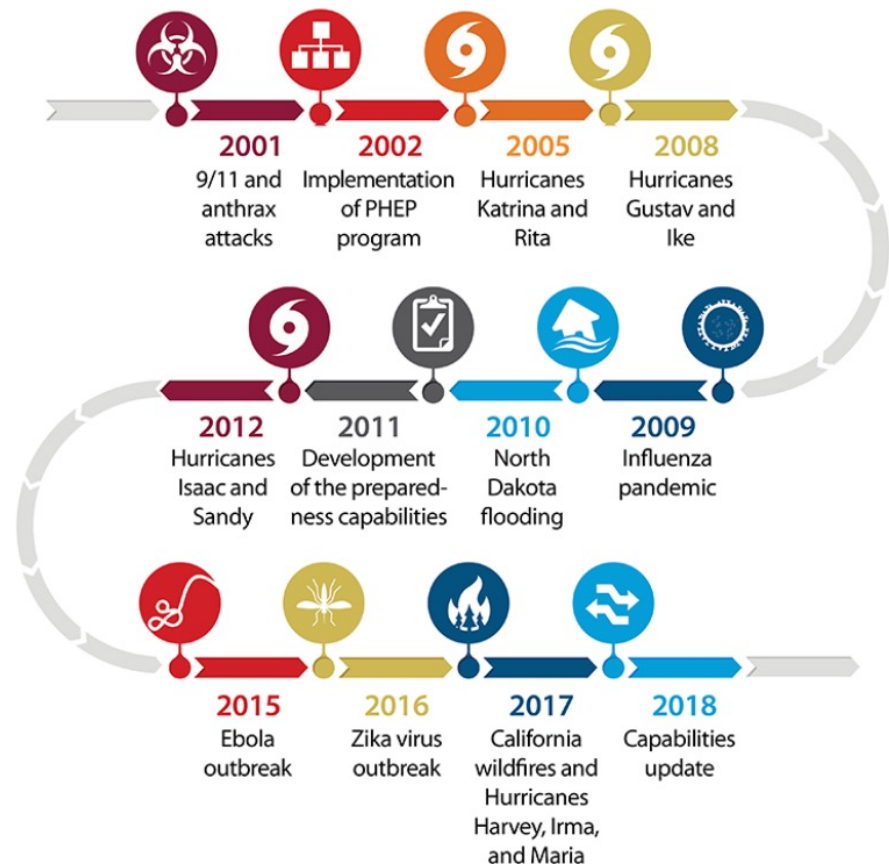
Expanding medical services to handle large events



Biosurveillance:

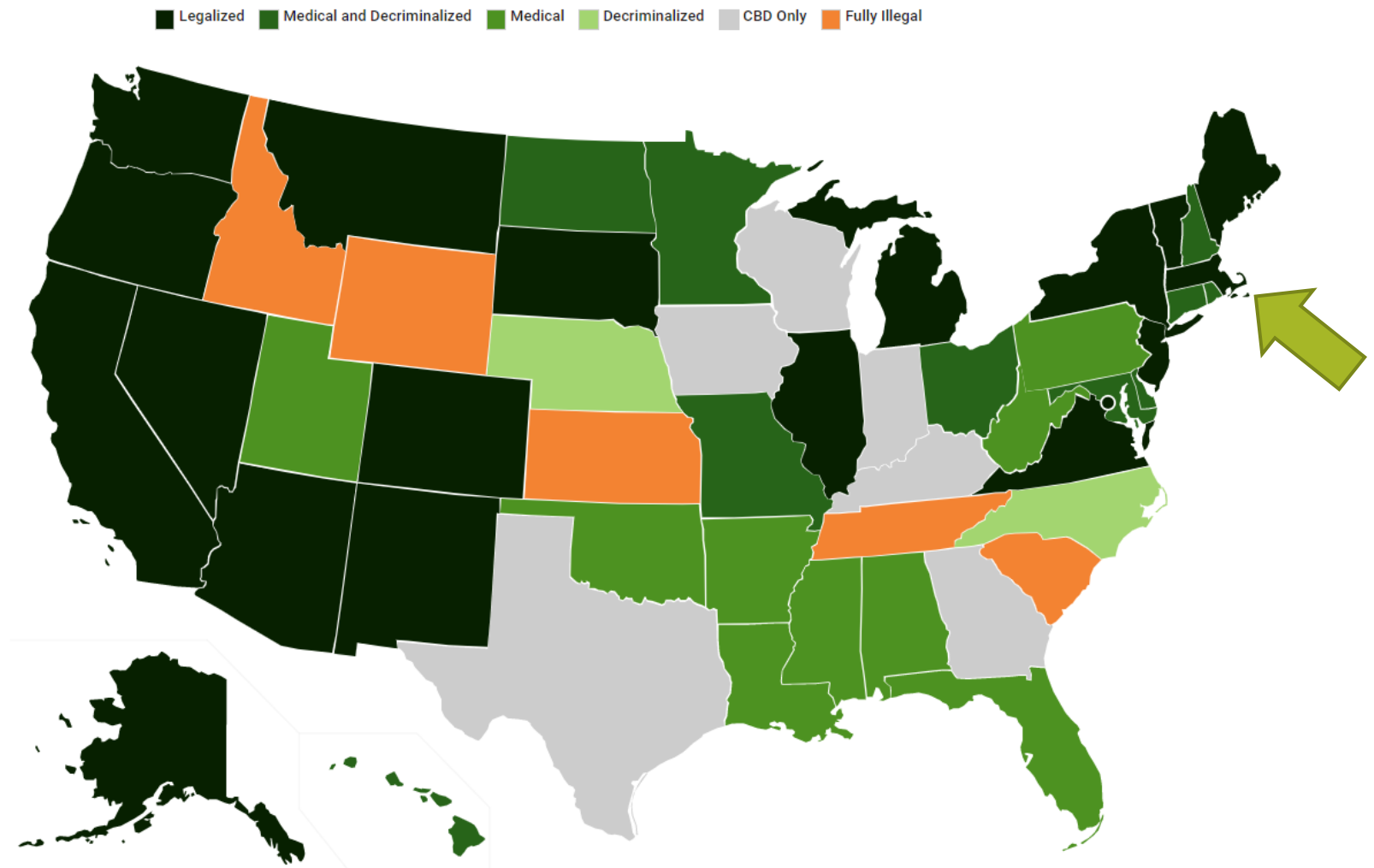
Investigating and identifying health threats

The lessons learned from the diverse challenges faced since 2001 shaped the capability standards to support preparedness programs and keep communities safe and healthy.



Environmental Health

Marijuana



Environmental Health

..and more!

Swimming Pools

Children's Camps

Asbestos Removal

Lead & Mold

Keeping of Animals

General Nuisance Issues

Emergency Preparedness



EMPLOYMENT

INTERNSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH



Employment Locations

Local Level

- Massachusetts Environmental Health Association:
<https://maeha.org/>
- MA Health Officers Assoc:
<http://www.mhoa.com/>
- City and Town Web Pages
 - <https://www.boston.gov/career-center>
 - <https://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities>
 - <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/employment/job-search.page>



Employment Locations

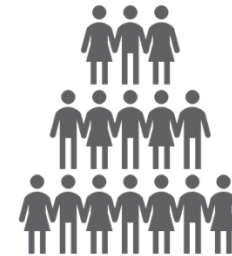
State Level



[https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl?f=ORGANIZATION\(11500120189\)&a=null&multiline=true&ignoreSavedQuery](https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl?f=ORGANIZATION(11500120189)&a=null&multiline=true&ignoreSavedQuery)

Links to Public Health and Environmental Health positions with various departments

Federal Level



<http://www.opm.gov/> Links to various Federal Departments and Agencies

Search titles:

Consumer Safety Officer
Public Health
Environmental Health
Inspector
Sanitarian

Employment Locations

National Level



National Environmental Health Association:
www.NEHA.org

American Public Health Association:
www.APHA.org

National Assoc. of City and County Health Organizations:

<http://www.naccho.org/careers/>

- Consumer Safety Officer
- Public Health
- Environmental Health
- Inspector
- Sanitarian

<https://careers.internationalmedicalcorps.org/careers.aspx>

Environmental Health Dream Job!

<http://wdw.disneycareers.com/en/search-jobs/advanced-search/>

Employment Opportunities

Civil Service

Varies from State to State

New York State is very active for positions:

- State
- County
- City
- Town/Village

<https://statejobsny.com/public/howitworks.cfm>

<http://www1.nyc.gov/jobs/exams.page>

***Some jurisdictions have residency requirements (Boston, NYC etc.)**



Credentials



Registered Sanitarian - RS

Registered Environmental Health
Specialist - REHS

- State Registration
- National Registrations
- Civil Service Rankings

Certified Health Officer - CHO

Certified Lead Inspector

Lead Determinator

Certified Asbestos Inspector

Credentials

Certified Professional Food
Manager*

Certified in Food Safety Supplier
Audits & Auditor

Certified in Comprehensive Food
Safety - CCFC

Certified Professional Food Safety
Specialist - CP-FS

HACCP-Auditor*

Certified Foodborne Outbreak
Investigator - CFOI

Certified Pest Control Operator*



*Can be acquired without employment experience

Credentials



Licensed Soil Evaluator - SE

Certified Pool Operator – CPO*

Certified Hazardous Materials
Practitioner (CHMP)

Licensed Site Professional - LSP

Certified in Public Health – CPH*

Certified Health Education
Specialist – CHES*

*Can be acquired without employment experience

Continuing Education



Community and Population Health Trainings

How can we improve health outcomes of communities or populations with a focus on equity?

These trainings focus on issues related to community and population health. Some provide a general overview of public health in the Commonwealth, including: Orientation to LPH in MA and PH Law and Legal Issues in MA.

Others discuss the potential health issues of and regulatory ways to address specific topics, like: Animal Control, Bed Bugs, Body Art, Hoarding, Tanning Facilities, and Tickborne and Infectious Disease.

Also included in this cluster are trainings that detail best practices, specifically: Strategies for Funding BOH Programs, Health Promotion and Health Equity, Dealing with Stress in Disasters, How to Hold a Public Hearing, and Infectious Disease Case Management.

Community and Population Health

Course	Credential	Contact Hours
Animal Control	CHO, RS	1
Bed Bugs: A Special Housing Topic	CHO, RS, RN	1
Body Art Programs for Regulators	CHO, RS, RN	1
Dealing with Stress in Disasters: Building Psychological Resilience	CHO, RS, RN	1.5
Food Protection Programs for Regulators	CHO, RS, RN	2
Health Promotion and Health Equity	CHO, RS, RN	1
Hoarding: A Special Housing Topic	CHO, RS, RN	2
How to Hold a Public Hearing in Massachusetts	CHO, RS	1
Immunizations and Vaccine Management in Massachusetts	CHO, RS, RN	2
Infectious Disease Case Management	CHO, RS, RN	1

Continuing Education

- MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

<https://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/training/on-your-time-trainings>

- NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

<https://www.neha.org/professional-development/education-and-training/neha-e-learning>

- FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

Office of Training Education and Development (OTED) | FDA

<https://www.fda.gov/training-and-continuing-education/office-training-education-and-development-oted>

- CENTERS OF DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

CDC Learning Connection EPHOC –
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/elearn/ephoc.htm>

(Environmental Health Specific)

Internships

Local, State, and Federal

<https://mhoa.com/municipal-links/>

(To all Health Depts. in MA)

- Select community
- Communicate in writing
- Seek contacts for support – promotion
- Sell yourself, training, certification, skills and examples of projects you can do:
Pamphlets, water sampling, level one inspections, nuisance complaint investigations, standing water complaints and issues.
- Follow-up with an email – call or even make a visit!

State Internship Opportunities:

- Academic Public Health Corps
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/academic-health-department-academic-public-health-corps>

Federal Internship Opportunities:

- USAJOBS Help Center |
Students & recent graduates
<https://www.usajobs.gov/help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/students/>
- US Public Health Service
<https://www.usphs.gov/students/>

Tuition Waiver Opportunities

- Indian Health Service:

IHS - Loan Repayment Program

<https://www.ihs.gov/loanrepayment/>

- Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA):

National Health Service Corps – Loan Repayment

Program <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loan-repayment/nhsc-loan-repayment-program>

- Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service:

Loan Repayment Benefit Program

<https://www.usphs.gov/professions/public-health-professional/>



Any Questions?

**Take a MEHA – Student Member Application – First Year
is Free!**



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