

The Latest News From MCDPH - February 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Each year in April, we gear up for National Public Health Awareness week. This is an important educational opportunity with events and conversations taking place to promote public health across the United States. However, here at MCD Public Health we want to look at public health every day and in every way. During these very critical times for many communities across our nation and globe, it's imperative that we remind ourselves that public health is an interwoven and integral part of our everyday lives.

For example, safe drinking water, healthy mothers and babies, immunizations across the lifespan, food security and nutrition, safe sidewalks and streets, proper waste removal and water treatment, mental health support, substance use prevention and treatment, supporting older adults to age in place, and so much more! This only scratches the surface, and we know that there are many more facets of public health. Therefore, the MCDPH team will be launching a "What is Public Health?" educational campaign, and we want to hear from you.

Our newsletter goes out to over 7,000 readers and we invite all of you to take a few moments and answer 3 very brief questions on what public health means to you and your community, and if you're willing, share your stories. Public health is at the heart of so much in the communities where we live, work and play and we need you to help us tell those stories and spread the word on "what is public health."

[Click here to tell us what public health means to you.](#)

We look forward to your responses and as always, we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Best Regards,
Danielle Louder & Elizabeth Foley
Co-Directors, MCD Public Health

February is American Heart Month

American Heart Month, is a federally designated event to remind Americans of the importance of their heart health. The first American Heart Month took place in 1964 after being proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in December of 1963. At the time, more than half of the deaths in the United States were caused by cardiovascular disease. Although here in the US we

celebrate American Heart Month, it's important to be reminded that heart disease knows no borders and is a leading cause of death throughout the globe. For more information on American Heart Month, visit the [American Heart Association](#).

Did you know

83,000
people in Maine

have coronary heart disease?



Small lifestyle changes can lead to a healthier heart.
Learn more about heart disease and risk factors at [hearttruth.gov](#)

[www.nhlbi.nih.gov](#)

Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Survey Data, 2017.



The Heart Truth® and its logo are registered trademarks of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



For American Heart Month 2019, the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (DHDSP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are honing in on the theme, "Let's Talk About Cholesterol." With nearly 1 in 3 adults in the US having high cholesterol, it makes a timely conversation topic. Throughout February, DHDSP will be starting important conversations about heart health. For more information, [click here](#).

News From the Nation and Abroad

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy: A WHO Priority

#VACCINESWORK TO SAVE LIVES

An estimated **2-3 million deaths** are prevented every year.



Vaccines protect against **26 diseases**.



And help **limit the spread of antibiotic resistance** by preventing diseases in the first place.



Increasing immunization globally could **save an additional 1.5 million people** every year.



In the last edition of the newsletter, we highlighted the World Health Organization's top priorities for 2019, one of which is addressing vaccine hesitancy. Vaccine hesitancy is "the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines" which threatens to reverse the life-saving progress vaccines have made in addressing vaccine-preventable diseases. One of the most notable concerns right now is measles, as there has been a 30% increase in the number of cases, globally. In 2018, Europe saw the highest number of measles cases in over a decade.

For 2019, the World Health Organization plans to work diligently to increase coverage of the HPV vaccine worldwide with a goal of eliminating cervical cancer. In addition, efforts to eliminate polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan will continue in hopes of eradicating the disease for good. These are just a few examples of the initiatives underway to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases. Remember, vaccines prevent 2-3 million deaths per year, and an additional 1.5 million could be avoided if global coverage of vaccinations improves.

[Click here to learn more about vaccine hesitancy from the WHO.](#)

PHAB Launches New Accreditation Program

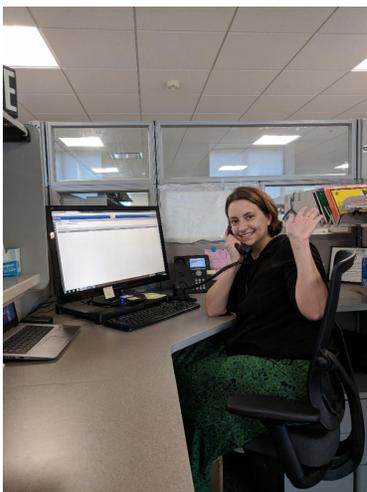
Earlier this month, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) announced the launch of their newest accreditation program, which brings the benefits of national accreditation to the vital records and health statistics (VRHS) units of state and territorial health departments. The Vital Records and Health Statistics Accreditation Program is a voluntary accreditation certification program and comes as result of a multi-year collaboration between PHAB and the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS). For more information, and to read the full press release, [click here](#).



*Advancing
public health
performance*

Here at MCD Public Health, we are fortunate to have a public health accreditation expert on staff. Kate Marone Martin, former Accreditation Coordinator for the Maine CDC, has been a PHAB lead site visitor on multiple public health department site reviews and has volunteered her time and expertise as a site visitor during the VRHS accreditation beta testing. For more information or questions on how MCDPH can assist with your accreditation needs, please email kmartin@mcdph.org.

Meet Our Team



Meredith Backus is the new Project Coordinator for the Healthy Kids Healthy Future (HKHF) project at MCD Public Health, with the goal of giving early care and education providers in Maine the tools to help children get a healthy start. A graduate from the University of Maine at Farmington with a Bachelor's degree in Community Health Education, Meredith comes with a vast knowledge of project management and is well versed in data management from her time working for Maine CDC, Maine Children's Trust, and Maine Department of Education.

Please join us in welcoming Meredith!

Join Our Team

MCD is seeking talented individuals for both domestic and international positions:

Domestic Public Health

International Public Health



[Click here](#) to see more opportunities.



[Click here](#) to see more opportunities.

2019 Northeast Regional Telehealth Conference Call for Presentations And Sponsorship/Exhibitor Opportunities are Open!

The Northeast Telehealth Resource Center is thrilled to return to Portland, ME for our next Regional Telehealth Conference: June 17-18, 2019!

The NETRC team invites you to submit a proposal to present a breakout session on June 17 or 18. **Proposal deadline is Friday, March 1.**

There are also multiple opportunities to sponsor and exhibit at this year's event.

Visit the [NETRC Conference webpage](#) or click on the buttons below for more information. **We hope to see you there!**

[Call for Presentations](#)

[NETRC 2019 Sponsorship](#)



NORTHEAST regional TELEHEALTH conference

a practical tour of the telehealth landscape



June 17 + 18, 2019 | Westin Portland Harborview | Portland, ME

Upcoming Events

World Health Day - April 7, 2019 - For more information, [click here](#).

2019 NNPHI Annual Conference - May 20-22, 2019 - Washington, DC. For more information, [click here](#).

2019 Northeast Regional Telehealth Conference - Save the Date!! – **June 17-18, 2019** – Portland, Maine. [Click here](#) for more details.

2019 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo - November 2-6, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA. For more information, [click here](#).

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