



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
(Formerly Bureau of Health)
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Brenda M. Harvey
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Public Health Director
Maine CDC Director

If you are a Town Clerk, please deliver this letter and attached survey to your designated Local Health Officer. Thank you!

June 22, 2006

Attention: Local Health Officer

Enclosed is a survey the Maine CDC, formerly the Bureau of Health, is mailing to all 497 local health officers (LHOs) like yourself, in order to get feedback on how you function as a local health officer in your community.

The results of this survey will help inform two statewide efforts. First, the Legislative Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs recently introduced legislation that is now enacted requesting me to report to them this September. The language of their request follows:

Sec. 18. Report on local health officers. The Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in conjunction with stakeholders and interested parties, shall study the qualifications and duties of local health officers in Maine and develop recommendations for enhancing the role of local health officers in emergency preparedness plans. The Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall report by September 18, 2006 to the Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs on the results of this study and proposed recommendations.

Additionally, Governor Baldacci has convened the Public Health Work Group to make recommendations about a statewide public health infrastructure. The Legislature has also charged this Work Group with some related tasks (LD 1614). I am scheduled to provide this Public Health Work Group some draft recommendations regarding the Local Health Officer system in late July.

Therefore, we are asking that you please take the time to fill out this survey and provide us any other feedback that may be helpful in these efforts.

The enclosed survey is designed to collect:

1. basic demographic data;
2. information on what roles and functions you play in your municipality; and
3. your ideas on the future of the Local Health Officer system.

We appreciate your time and willingness to answer these questions. **Please return your survey by Friday, July 14th in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. Additionally, if you have other feedback you would like to provide, you can email me at: dora.a.mills@maine.gov.**

If you have any questions about the survey please contact Elaine Lovejoy at 287-3266, elaine.lovejoy@maine.gov or Diane Friese at 626-5283, dfriese@usm.maine.edu.

Thank you for participating.

Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH
Director, Maine CDC
State Health Officer

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