



Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 03/2023

District: Aroostook	Date: 09/01/2026
**Office of Readiness and Response: 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: APHC Quarterly Meeting Minutes 08/05/2026 Council Education Topic: <i>"Rural Health Transformation Program Updates"</i> Guest Presenters: Kristen McAuley , RHTP Director, ME DHHS Dates of note in Aroostook District: ➤ Next DCC Meeting: November 4, 2026 ➤ Next Aroostook Chapter of Maine HCC Meeting: October 8, 2026 ➤ Next APHC Steering Committee Meeting: October 7, 2026 Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ Safe Needle Disposal in Aroostook Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: In-district or multi-district collaborations: ➤ Collaboration between District Public Health, PHN, Aroostook Emergency Management Agency, and local hospitals to conduct a statewide extended downtime exercise on 09/16. ○ Stacy (District Liaison), Courtney (PHE III), and Tammy (PHN Supervisor) will participate as hospital evaluators. ➤ PHN, Field Epi, and Public Health Educator to attend the Fall Elder Health Fair in Houlton 09/04. ➤ APHU Monthly Bulletin Board Topics: ○ July: Proper Disposal of Household Sharps ○ August: Aroostook Public Health Unit Spotlight: 2026 AIM Vaccine Champion ○ September: 10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain	
** 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	

strict Name: Aroostook

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

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

A. A district coordinating council for public health shall:

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- 06/15/2026: U.S. CDC Issues Notice of Infant Botulism Outbreak Linked to Powdered Infant Formula
- 06/23/2026: Human Powassan Case in Maine
- 06/26/2026: Bicillin L-A Shortage Extended to Q4 2027
- 07/01/2026: Extreme Heat and Unhealthy Air Quality this Week
- 07/02/2026: Seasonal Arbovirus Update for Clinicians
- 07/15/2026: U.S. CDC: Domestically Acquired Cyclosporiasis Cases in Multiple U.S. States
- 07/18/2026: Air Quality Alert for Saturday, July 18
- 08/05/2026: Influenza A(H5) Detected in Portland Wastewater
- 08/07/2026: Update on Cyclosporiasis Cases in Maine
- 08/12/2026: U.S. CDC: Risk of Severe Arboviral Disease in Patients Receiving B Cell- Depleting or Modulating Medications
- 08/20/2026: Measles Detection in Bangor Wastewater

**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

June – September 2026

- Houlton PHN Position filled
- Caribou PHN vacant
- Easton Baby Sprinkle 9/03
- School vaccine clinics upcoming – Ashland & Van Buren
- PHN Presentation at NMCC – 09/24

**** 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:

- Drinking Water State Revolving fund has opened the 2027 RFP. Applications accepted until Friday, 10/02/2026.
- Fort Kent Route 1 Water Main Replacement Project is under way and will continue construction through the fall and resume in spring of 2027.
- Madawaska Water Tank Rehabilitation Project is nearing substantial completion.
- Madawaska Water Meter Replacement Project is ready to begin and will replace ~1100 customer water meters.
- Caribou River Crossing Water Main Project is under way, and construction is expected to be substantially complete by Oct 2026.
- Houlton Phase 2 Water Main Project is under way, and construction is expected to be substantially complete by Oct 2026.

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- Several other projects in Fort Kent, Grand Isle, and Presque Isle are currently in the design/bedding phase.

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

- 66 Inspections completed between May 20 – September 01, 2026
 - Pool/Spa: 1
 - Eating Place/Takeout: 4
 - Eating Place Tier 3: 4
 - Sporting/Recreational Camp: 1
 - Eating Place – Temporary 1-4 Days: 1
 - Eating Place – Tier 1: 3
 - Eating Place – Mobile: 22
 - Eating Place Tier 2: 9
 - Campground – Agricultural Fair: 2
 - Youth Camp – Resident 100-200 OR NP 100+: 2
 - Youth Camp – Trip and Travel: 1
 - Eating and Catering – 4
 - Eating Place – Mobile Stick Built: 4
 - Eating and Lodging – 1
 - SR Citizen Meals: 1
 - Body Piercer: 2
 - Campground Tier 2: 4

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

➤ Highlight completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors during January – March 2026

- Tobacco Prevention:
 - **Focus Area: Prevention**
 - INDEPTH: 367 individuals
 - Lion's Quest SEL: 156 individuals
 - Catch My Breath: 262 individuals
 - Restorative Circles: 106 individuals
 - **Focus Area: Treatment Services**
 - Promotion /Technical Assistance of My Life/My Quit: 392
 - Quitline Outreach/Support:

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- Baby Sprinkles: 100
- Annual Maliseet Health Fair: 262
- Pride Aroostook: 78
- Maternal Mobile Health Unit: 57

➤ **Substance Use Prevention (SUPS): April – June 2026**

- ACAP onboarded a new SUP staff in April.
- Staff continued to provide Lions Quest at Caswell Elementary School and Van Buren Middle/High School
- Provided Prime for Life training at the Aroostook County Jail
- Staff attended several outreach events, including the Central Aroostook Association's Health Fair and local baby sprinkles.
- Hosted the Annual Community Meeting on May 18th, with 21 attendees.
- Distributed cannabis law cards and safe storage materials, along with other cannabis prevention education during tabling events including Pride Aroostook's Pride Festival in June.
- Began coordination with 6 local schools and the Boys and Girls Club for the Houlton Maliseet Tribe, to schedule facilitation of Lions Quest and Prime for Life
- District finalized their State FY27 Maine Prevention Network Substance Use Prevention workplan, to start 07/01.

➤ **HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living): May – July 2026**

- HEAL connected with the Northern Maine Medical Center located in Madawaska. The hospital was interested in Milk Bank information, Breast Feeding Storage brochures and 10 Common Questions Flyers for their clients. They will disperse and discuss the information at one-on-one appointments with their new and expecting moms.
- HEAL staff began working with Framework Church to develop a new food pantry in the community. To date, there is only one pantry supporting a town of about 10,000 which is not nearly enough. Relationships are being built, resources are being shared, communication chains are now growing to make this development happen. This is a huge gap and a need in the community.
- HEAL staff supported the Aroostook County Food Council with administrative responsibilities providing support for their shared gifting process from the Maine Food Council Network. The group was granted funds by the Maine Food Council to continue the work being planned.

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

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Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

June

- Pride Month
- 06/05/2026: Webinar: Governor Mills Monthly Opioid Response Seminar Series
- 06/10/2026: Webinar: Fundamental of Public Health
- 06/16/2026: Webinar: Advancing Health Equity in Stroke Prevention and Recovery
- Maine Food Access Map Resources
- Extreme Temperate Response & Resilience
- Expanding Access to Women's Health Resources

July

- Disability Pride Month
- 07/07/2026: Webinar: Behind the Scenes in Medicaid- How States are Navigating a Changing Environment
- 07/09/2026: Webinar: Mobile Health for Rural Communities
- 07/16/2026: Annual Opioid Response Summit
- 07/22/2026: Webinar: Exploring Assistive Technology for Students with Blindness and Low Vision: Magnification, OCR, Braille, and Beyond
- SUN Bucks and SUN Meals
- Maine CDC Summer Health Tips

August

- National Immunization Awareness Month
- 08/06/2026: Webinar: Extreme Temperature Response and Resilience: A Guidebook for Maine Communities Overview
- 08/12/2026: Webinar: WHO Health Emergencies EPI-WIN: Preparing for El Nino and Climate-Related Health Risks: Global Insights and Country Experiences
- 08/19/2026: Webinar: Aligning Strategy and Systems to Improve Breastfeeding Outcomes: Five Years of the Continuity of Care Blueprint Webinar
- 08/20/2026: Webinar: Driving Fitness, Health & Aging: Considerations for Safe Mobility
- Upcoming Federal Change to Medicaid Eligibility for Some Noncitizens

September

- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
- 09/08/2026: Webinar: Restoring Capacity in Public Health: Leading When the Work Keeps Changing
- 09/18/2026: Webinar: Vital Signs: Health Care Access for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Patients
- 09/22 & 09/24/2026: Webinar: Hospice & End of Life Care for Community Health Workers (CHWs)
- Maine Expands Universal Immunization Program to Adults Ages 19-64

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- Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave

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District: Central	Date: 9/17/26
** Office of Readiness and Response: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and notes available on district's webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district5/council-main.shtml	
➤ Dates of note in Central District: • Next District Coordinating Council (DCC) Meeting: October 22, 2026 • Next Healthcare Coalition (HCC) Meeting: November 4, 2026 Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ The July 23 Quarterly DCC meeting was via Zoom and started with a District Epidemiology Update from Maine CDC Central District Field Epidemiologist, Devin Myles. We then had Anne Connors, MaineGeneral Community Health Department Director, update us on the new Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (SCHNA) process and highlight the MPHA award recently presented to Denise Delorie. We thanked Denise for her many years of valuable service with a certificate of appreciation and wished her well in her upcoming retirement. Lucas Schrange from Project Home then gave us information on the new 2026 Eviction Prevention Program that starts this fall, and we heard from Jon Godbout, Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP); Brandi Farrington, Kennebec Behavioral Health (KBH); Teresa Sinclair, Bread of Life ARTs House; and Dr. Katie Spencer White, Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter and Services about district housing resources and contacts, with a focus on new initiatives. ➤ New district SCC representative ➤ Changes to next round of Shared Community Health Needs Assessment process and partners ➤ Ongoing review of District 211 reports and updating resources where possible to address unmet needs Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ Onboarding our new district Public Health Educator ➤ Use Central District Public Health Unit updates to communicate important information to DCC, LHOs, chief municipal officials, and partners ➤ Monitoring and communicating Transforming Rural Health grant and Transforming Maternal Health grant projects and opportunities ➤ Concerns about lack of primary care and emergency department capacity in the district due to Northern Light Inland Hospital closure ➤ MaineCare Transportation contracting changes In-district or multi-district collaborations: ➤ Updating LHORIS and municipal contact lists; DCC and HCC membership changes ➤ New Local Health Officer orientations and technical assistance ➤ Assistance with basic needs (housing, transportation, food, utility, healthcare), infectious disease	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ The District Field Epidemiologist gave an update on infectious disease data for the district at the July DCC meeting.	



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**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Children's vaccination information and connection

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/ Subcontractors:

This report on the Maine Prevention Network (MPN) Contract Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) contractor/subcontractor work accomplished during this quarter was prepared and sent to us by the Maine CDC/DHHS Obesity Program Manager:

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area

- 8+ new StoryWalk sites in collaboration with HCCA
- 1 Poetry Walk installed at Starling Hall in collaboration with Fayette Age Friendly
- Hosted a PT/OT training for ParkRx implementation with Viles Arboretum and MaineAPTA.
- Promoted healthy nutrition and strengthened engagement with schools by utilizing the smoothie bike- over 700+ smoothies were served.
- Promoted MEFTI Summer Institute and Smarter Lunchroom Programs to over 100 attendees at the MSNA Conference.
- PFAS and comprehensive soil testing completed for the Augusta Food Garden project in collaboration with UMaine Cooperative Extension and the Kennebec County Sheriff's Department
- Provided resources to families and community members at Waterville Wonderfest and SENA Night out.

Somerset Public Health

- 4 schools successfully celebrated School Lunch Hero Day and completed all goals established at the start of the school year related to Smarter Lunchroom.
- Continued work with the Somerset County Jail and schools on the food garden project (e.g., established seedlings, planted 600 seedlings at the jail, and prepped for Summer maintenance).
- Provided Bumper Crop support to farmers markets and Redington Fairview General Hospital (RFGH)
- Promoted Somerset Paths & Places website through community events, partner meetings, and assistance through other local organizations.
- Over 25 schools statewide offered 100 Mile Club with a total of 3,011 students and 190,969 miles.

This report on the Maine Prevention Network (MPN) Contract Substance Use Prevention contractor/ subcontractor work accomplished during this quarter was prepared and sent to us by the Maine CDC/DHHS Substance Use Prevention Program Manager:

- Somerset Public Health is working to develop a whole child wellness team, to connect substance use prevention and physical activity to approach schools and organizations with a comprehensive approach.
- Policy efforts continued:
 - Collaborated with MSAD 59 to recommend updates to their student-facing substance use policy. While the superintendent did not feel they had the capacity to update the policy at this time, the relationship building was valuable.



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- Finalized policies with:
 - Two Rivers Campground
 - Canaan Public Library
 - Skowhegan Free Public Library
 - Salt Breeze Learning Center
- District staff continued with implementation of education in schools throughout the district, highlighting refusal skills and other skill-building activities.
- Planned and hosted a Meaningful Mealtimes workshop at the Readfield Library, which focused on shared meal times as a protective factor.
- In Somerset County, there was ongoing support for student wellness champions, allowing opportunities for the students to share their projects and receive feedback from other students.
- HCCA, the Kennebec Valley United Way Health Cabinet and 211 Maine convened to discuss opportunities for expanded substance use prevention activities in Kennebec County as well as strategies to encourage local organizations to collaborate with 211 to share information on resources with the general public.
- Kennebec County Youth Advisory Board (KCYAB) continued work on their graphic medicine series, working to develop reflection questions, make edits, and finalize the stories to be able to send to the graphic designer.
- In May, the You Matter to Me event was hosted, with about 45 attendees and several vendors in attendance. HCCA conducted a mattering survey where people answered questions about what mattering meant to them, and suggestions on improving sense of mattering in the community.
- Somerset Public Health survey with Somerset County schools, which included substance use prevention questions. The survey aimed to identify challenges facing schools and students and to assess support for restorative practices. There were a total of 224 completed surveys.
- Distributed medication disposal resources, including permanent takeback locations and education materials throughout Somerset County.
- District finalized their State Fiscal Year 27 Maine Prevention Network Substance Use Prevention workplan, to start 7/1.

The Maine Prevention Network (MPN) Contract Tobacco contractor/subcontractor work spreadsheet for the district is also available by request.

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District Project Update

District: Cumberland	Date: September 2026
** 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/healthy-living/healthy-communities/public-health-districts/cumberland	
Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:	
➤ DCC Meetings:	
March 20, 2026 Our SCC Representative reported out on the SCC meeting of 3/19; OFI provided an update on eligibility changes to MaineCare and SNAP; and 14 individuals participated in a listening session for United Way	
July 17, 2026 32 people came to the in-person panel on Street and Community Medicine, held at the public safety building in Windham. Panelists included Greater Portland Health Mobile Unit, Project Connect, MaineMom Project, Preble Street, Mobile Medical Outreach/PFD, and Maine CDC PHN	
Next CDPHC Meeting: September 18 th – in-person only at Raymond Fire and Rescue, Topic is homelessness with a rural focus.	
Other activities:	
➤ Executive Committee meets regularly to plan future agendas and other activities	
➤ Monthly DCC newsletters continue to improve communication and information-sharing (April, May, June)	
➤ Health Care Coalition (HCC) chapter is moving forward with a pilot using EMResource (a free tool to track resources and events). At the chapter meeting on 6/4/26, a dry-run event and communication drill took place.	
➤ Healthcare Coalition after action review of a recent patient evacuation from Hawthorne House took place on 9/14	
In-district or multi-district collaborations:	
➤ Cumberland district vaccination coordination group resumed meeting after summer break, on September 9 th , ensuring school-based clinics are covered, and duplication of effort is avoided, in cooperation with MaineHealth, Northern Light, Midcoast Hospital, Portland Public Health, DOE, MIP, and other partners	
➤ District Liaison participated in MECDC Ebola Response tabletop exercise on July 9 th and participates in an internal working group on transport.	

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➤ Public Health Educator is overseeing a pilot maternal health conversation tool for emergencies, and participated in the 9/12 Lakes Region Rally for Recovery ➤ Cumberland District Public Health Unit meeting was held on September 2nd with PHN, ID/Epi, and HIP ➤ District Liaison participating in annual USPS Medical Countermeasures Event planning for Scarborough facility
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ Cumberland District Field Epidemiologist has reported recent increase in foodborne infection cases. ➤ Rabies activity is higher than usual, a large number of calls came in regarding bats in early August ➤ DIS continues to call for sustained education for the public & providers to include syphilis testing in routine health exams, especially for pregnant people 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: • Active TB cases, and maternal child health visits continue to be a focus for our Cumberland PHN team, although the number of TB care cases has decreased. • Caitlyn Wright has assumed the position of PHN Supervisor for Cumberland and York • Cumberland PHN have started a limited number of elder care cases, which may be expanded • Cumberland PHNs are seeing a high number of MCH referrals from Brunswick, including an increase in prenatal referrals.
** 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: ➤ Boil water orders were issued for Standish and Naples on June 22nd and 26th respectively due to treatment system malfunctions. ➤ A Do Not Drink order was issued for Camp Sebago in Standish on May 26th due to high Manganese ➤ Cumberland District Extreme Heat Information Session took place June 12th, with participation from Maine CDC EH Division, Cumberland County EMA, and NOAA Health Inspections Program: ➤ HIP District team is busy with fair season inspections ➤ HIP has a new Program Director: Stuart Leckie ➤ A new computer system will be implemented to document HIP complaints

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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 Contractor/ Subcontractors:

Healthy Eating Active Living (May – July 26)

- The HEAL team collaborated with the Maine Federation of Farmers' Market, Maine WIC, the Bridgton Farmers' Market, and various local partners to organize an event in early July to promote enrollment and use of benefits that can be spent on local produce at the Bridgton Farmers' Market. These included Maine Senior Farm Share, SNAP EBT/Maine Harvest Bucks, and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The team was able to welcome 50 SNAP households to the market, many of whom were new shoppers, and provide extra bonus incentives. They enrolled almost 20 new people in Maine Senior Farm Share. They plan to track the impact of the event on local produce purchasing over the rest of the season.
- HEAL staff at Portland Public Health continued their collaboration with Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Public Schools, and multilingual community partners to launch a redesigned fee waiver form and updated registration process aimed at increasing access to free and low-cost programming for multilingual families. These improvements directly incorporated prior community feedback, including shifting registration to 6:00 PM with hybrid options, removing paystub documentation, and adding automatic eligibility for unhoused students. The team was able to streamline the overall waiver application and translate the materials into key community languages. They distributed the new form and MyRec access guides directly to families through Portland Schools' ReachMyTeach platform in their preferred languages. They plan to track how these changes impact overall registration rates and program access for multilingual families over the coming season.

Tobacco (3rd Quarter August 25, 2026):

- Hawa Shir from the Tobacco Prevention Team has been working closely with the Young Muslims of Portland (YM), a group of middle school youth, high school youth, and young adults. In June YM hosted a 3 day Wellness Summit where participants engaged in various tobacco prevention workshops, a Sidekicks training learning motivational interviewing skills, and opportunities for evaluation and reflection of the program. 4 young adults from the YM board co-facilitated prevention workshops to 15 youth participants. Feedback about the YM Wellness Summit was positive and many participants are interested in continuing to engage in prevention work later in the year.
- In May and June, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Danny Mejia, and Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Celena Ranger, facilitated tobacco prevention education at South Portland High School in health classes reaching 162 high school youth.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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- This summer CCPH wrapped up the FY26 Data to Action projects.
- In June the New England Arab American Organization (NEAAO) facilitated a tobacco prevention workshop to 17 fathers in the Arab community. This was the second workshop after previously facilitating a workshop to 37 mothers. Both workshops were facilitated fully in Arabic, shared information about tobacco use, offered best practice tips for parents, and opened space for discussion on these topics. Additionally Gateway Community Services facilitated a second youth serving organization facing workshops to inform about tobacco-related disparities and evidence-based strategies to address health inequity and increase BIPOC youth engagement in their programs.

Substance Use Prevention (April – June 2026):

- Mid Coast Hospital conducted several visits to the Woodlawn Towers and Terrace in Brunswick.
- Advanced the School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) work with Gorham schools. The high school will be focusing on Family Engagement as their focus area, and the middle school will be focusing on Teaming within the Mental & Behavioral Health teams.
- CCPHD staff spoke to Gorham Town Council on the progress made by the Gorham Action Team for Youth, the local youth prevention coalition. The town council voted to transfer \$7,500 of the town's opioid settlement funds to the coalition for prevention activities in FY27.
- Coordinated with Gateway Community Services, CCPHD's Data to Action partners, to finalize development of a youth serving organization workgroup to support and engage young people from immigrant and BIPOC backgrounds.
- CCPHD staff presented to 14 Cumberland County Superintendents at their May meeting, highlighting ways their prevention services can support school districts.
- Staff at Freeport High School led their peers in restorative circle protocol developed by the district, which will prepare them for fall rollout of student restorative circles.
- District finalized their State Fiscal Year 27 Maine Prevention Network Substance Use Prevention workplan, to start 7/1

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

- DPHE is convening regular partner meetings
- DL participating in several agency-wide infectious disease and preparedness working groups

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Information Session on Extreme Heat and Public Health with Maine CDC Environmental Health Team, NOAA, and Cumberland County EMA was held on 6/12/26

District Name: Cumberland

4

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

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 03/2023.

District: Downeast Public Health District (Hancock & Washington Counties)	Date: September 17, 2026
Office of Readiness and Response: District Public Health; Rural Health and Primary Care; Public Health Emergency Preparedness; and Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
Agendas and minutes available on district's webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/healthy-communities/public-health-districts/downeast	
➤ Downeast Public Health Council Meeting Dates (10:00 am to 12:00 pm) • 2026: January 16, March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18, and November 20.	
July 17, 2026 Meeting Virtual	
➤ Topic: Personal, Organization, and Community Resilience: Andrew Sankey, the Director of Hancock County EMA, provided an overview of building resilience at different levels to be ready for any natural and human-made emergency. These were practical ideas to being ready at the personal household level, then at a person's jobsite or organization, and then taking that and scaling it to the community level. Tobacco Prevention and Treatment: the district council is concerned with current indicators related to tobacco usage and hosted two organizations who are doing work in the area. Sarah Rines, the Program Manager of the Maine Health Center for Tobacco Independence, gave an overview of the various services and resources, with a discussion on the use of the Maine Quit Link resource for tobacco users to get confidential counseling and support for quitting tobacco uses. Lindsay Ball, the Program Coordinator of Baby and ME Tobacco Free, gave an overview of this newly initiated program in Maine, focused on pregnant women who use tobacco products, with providing telehealth counseling services as well as ongoing screening and monitoring to lead women to quit and sustain quitting post-pregnancy period. September and November Meetings Preview: we discussed the focus of the in-person September 18 meeting on domestic violence and chronic disease data, and the November 20 meeting that will be a Downeast Public Health Summit.	
Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues:	
➤ The Downeast Public Health District is aligning its Age-Friendly Public Health System Recognition work plan into Downeast Public Health Council Committee Work: https://afphs.org/recognized-leaders/	
➤ Emergency readiness planning by coordinating and collaborating with Hancock County EMA, Washington County EMA, Downeast Chapter Health Care Coalition, and Downeast MRC to	

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

offer training, courses, and three levels of exercises to improve coordination and communication at the organization and regional level.

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Healthy Brain Initiative Community Convening Project: Downeast District is working with the Alzheimer's Association in developing an outreach approach to communities that educates the reduction of risks to the progression of dementia and Alzheimer's disease, using two community meetings in the spring/summer 2026.
- Develop Downeast Medical Reserve Corps Unit Membership and Training.
- Develop protocols and outreach on Well Water Quality and promotion of well testing.
- Partner with Maine DHHS Maine Care Transforming Maternal Health Model Initiative.
- Rural Health Transformation Program Funding Initiative.

In-district or multi-district collaborations:

- **Mobile Health Clinics:** district is following statewide expansion of mobile health units to assess how they would work in rural Downeast communities.
- **Substance use/Opioids Recovery:** 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.
- **Community Mental Health Trainings:** building off a pilot project that AMHC conducted in Calais in training businesses in mental health triggers, develop a model of training to key businesses in preventing suicide ideation.
- **Community Housing and Patient Centered Care:** Healthy Acadia with broad coalition of partners assesses readiness and developing outcomes regarding sustainable and affordable housing for vulnerable populations.
- **Bundle Project for New Moms and Babies:** Heart of Maine United Way has introduced the Bundle Project that had success in Piscataquis County. It involves a series of baskets for moms that have a baby that provide appropriate developmental materials and resources for the betterment of the mom and baby. Our partners in Downeast have started to distribute these sets of baskets to new moms and babies in the two counties.

Disease Surveillance Division; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Hepatitis C and HIV: assessment of services and providers for population.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

- **Congratulations to Maura Lockwood**, our field epidemiologist, for being named Maine's 2026 Association of Immunization Managers Immunization Champion. 
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:

- PHN Staff in both counties are:
- Conducting maternal and child health assessments and appropriate services.
 - Conducting older adult health assessment outreach program.
 - Support immunization needs for schools and communities.
 - Conduct TB treatment and monitoring.
 - Organizing a Health Aging Expo in Washington County for October 2026.

Cynthia Grass, PHN Supervisor

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:

- Inspections and compliance for food establishments.
- Building local infrastructure on private well water testing and maintenance that is not regulated by Maine CDC or under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Questions on cemeteries and rules/procedures for burying family member on private land.
Stuart Leckie, Program Director, Health Inspection Program, and Amy LaChance, Program Director, Drinking Water 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 District Vendor: Healthy Acadia staff provide the prevention work in Downeast.**

Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL): May to July 2026 <Adlin Deering>

- ❖ School Nutrition staff benefited from local Seafood Culinary Training at Hancock County Technical Center hosted by Gulf of Maine Research Institute, with coordination, recruitment, and logistical support from our HEAL Coordinator. Locally offered training is much more

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

accessible for staff to attend. Also, a Smoothie Bike was ordered for our district, which we will bring to schools as well as loan out to make it more accessible to more schools Downeast.

- ❖ Planting the vegetable, herb and flower gardens with Rayitos de Sol Childcare at Mano en Mano was a huge hit with the families. The kids planted the seedlings we started with them in the Spring.
- ❖ Students from Connors Emerson and other community members participated in the MDI YMCA Healthy Kids Day Bicycle Coalition of Maine Bike Rodeo, which we hosted. This program is a direct result of initiatives we set with the Bar Harbor Safe Streets Committee.
- ❖ Recent activities to support food access have included meetings of the Hancock and Washington County Food Security Networks, operation of the Downeast Gleaning Initiative, Downeast Restorative Harvest, and Folklore Farm, and providing support to farms and seniors to participate in the Maine Senior Farm Share Program.

Substance Use Prevention: April to June 2026 <Alexis Perry>

- ❖ Healthy Acadia implemented a great deal of safe storage and disposal work throughout the quarter. Some initiatives to highlight include collaboration with Maine CDC and the manufacturer of Detera pouches to distribute pouches via mail in Washington and Hancock Counties, and distribution to Eastern Area Agency on Aging, Maine Families, and Maine Family Planning.
- ❖ A radio ad about the associations between alcohol use and cancer risk was aired throughout the month of May on two local radio stations in Washington County. An additional ad about parent/caregiver role in supporting teens/prevention substance use was aired in both counties in the month of May.
- ❖ Social hosting prevention initiatives were implemented this quarter, including Sticker Shock with several retailers.
- ❖ Staff continued to participate in several workgroups and collaboratives, including the Community Caring Collaborative.
- ❖ Staff presented to both the Washington and Hancock County Superintendents meeting and the Hancock County Curriculum Coordinators meeting about prevention resources and programs Healthy Acadia can offer for schools.
- ❖ Staff provided oversight for youth leaders for the Samara Design Hub planning meeting and for a statewide leadership retreat, which included team-building activities for youth. Four youth

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

from the Downeast Hub attended the retreat. In June, the Samara Design Hub planning process focused on mental health and identity.

- ❖ Throughout the quarter, the program worked to plan and coordinate the Downeast Teen Leadership Camp, scheduled for a mid-July start. Planning activities included organizing workshops, securing presenters, securing staff for the camp, and registering youth participants.
- ❖ Staff collaborated with the Calais High School librarian to create an area in the library for resources on prevention and resilience for youth and adults.
- ❖ Staff attended the Jackson Laboratory Safety Fairs (2), distributing prevention resources including safe medication disposal and storage resources.
- ❖ Staff supported the Downeast Rainbow Alliance in planning local Pride events and tabled at the Ellsworth Pride event.
- ❖ June's Lubec Outing Club involved a walk to the beach for activities and an exercise to practice resilience skill-building and participate in prosocial activities. 24 youth members participated in this month's outing.
- ❖ District finalized their State Fiscal Year 27 Maine Prevention Network Substance Use Prevention workplan, to start 7/1.

Tobacco Prevention: April to June 2026 <Christopher Richards>

- ❖ During the second quarter, 79 activities were reported compared to 122 for Q1; 6,202 people were reached compared to 3,264 for Q1.
- ❖ The settings for the quarter activities included: 6 health care facilities; 43 other settings; 8 schools; 6 businesses; 3 non-town owned public venues; 2 county government; 4 municipal governments; and 6 social service agencies.
- ❖ The target populations for these activities included: 32 adults; 8 general population; 4 high school; 1 middle school; 1 middle- high school; 8 youth and parents; 13 youth; 1 municipality leaders; 1 young adult; 4 parents; and 2 underage (under 21).

Maine Youth

- ❖ No report this time.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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

- **CDC Operations**
- **State Health Improvement Plan:** Access to Care at district level (assessment)
- **Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health:** Bethany Sanborn and Jen Gunderman as Co-Chairs with new members; meet quarterly.
- **Rural Health Transformation Program:** updates at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth>
- **Maine Immunization Program:** ongoing development of universal vaccine coverage and working with Downeast Immunization Team on providing vaccine to different populations.
- **Alignment of State Plans:** committee has been formed to develop a matrix that compares and aligns the State Health Improvement Plan, the State Alzheimer's Plan, and the State Aging Plan.

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- **Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency**

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

Midcoast District (Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc & Waldo Counties)	Date: September 17th, 2026
Office of Readiness and Response includes District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Data, Research and Vital Statistics (DRVS)	
Agendas and minutes available on District's webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/lphd/district4/publications.shtml Midcoast Public Health Council: The Midcoast Public Health Council (MPHC) held its annual IN-Person meeting at Inn Along the Way, Chapman Farm in Damariscotta on Sept 8th. The meeting featured guest speakers including Dr. Va, ME CDC Director, Maine Prevention Network (MPN) and the Alzheimer Association-Maine Chapter Teams. Members learned about future state priorities and programs including Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) and the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Grant. The Maine Prevention Network (MPN) presented workplans for prevention work planned for the district in the next year. The Alzheimer's Association-Maine Chapter concluded with a presentation about risk reduction work for Dementia and Alzheimer's through their Healthy Brain Initiative work. The Midcoast Public Health Council (MPHC) Steering Committee will meet on October 12th, 2026. We will be welcoming a new Steering Committee member; Andrea Sanuik-Gove, who will replace Melissa Fochesato. We thank Melissa for her long tenure on the Midcoast Public Health Council Steering Committee and support of the council. Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ The Midcoast Public Health Unit (PHU) will meet on September 15th and will learn about ongoing projects occurring in the district. In-district or multi-district collaborations: Maine CDC Midcoast District Liaison, Public Health Nursing and Maine Immunization Program (MIP) planned a Vaccination Coordination meeting with community paramedicine and MaineHealth community health departments to explore increasing access for individuals that are homebound or reside on an island. This group continues to meet and explore ways for community paramedicine programs to become Maine Immunization providers.	

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

- Healthcare Coalition of Maine (HCC-ME) held its first statewide conference in Bangor on September 9th. Healthcare Coalition members were able to network and learn about cybersecurity, life and fire safety and hazard vulnerability assessments. The Midcoast Chapter of HCC-ME will not be meeting for its regularly scheduled meeting on September 23rd, instead HCC-ME members will be offered in person workshops on Emergency Operations Planning (EOP).
- The HCC-ME workshops for the Midcoast Chapter are scheduled for September 23rd from 9am-12pm at Knox County Emergency Management Agency and on October 29th at Midcoast Hospital-Parkview Campus from 9am-12pm. These workshops are aimed at providing support for facilities that have to update emergency operations plans.

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

Infectious Disease Epidemiology continues to do case and outbreak investigations as well as consultations for stakeholders and members of the public. Investigations have included perinatal hepatitis B cases & checking for vaccine for infants, arboviral infection and meningoencephalitis cases early reporting, Scombroid reactions in fish, bat rabies and use of PEP report.

- Epidemiologist Megan Kelley is currently working to monitor travelers to and from Ebola effected countries, now returned to Maine as well as Ebola and Measles Response.
- Epidemiologist Megan Kelley is working with Isleboro at the request of the select board to explore the increase in tick-borne illnesses occurring on the Island.

**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

Public Health Nursing (PHN) has been busy with multiple projects across the district.

Due to an increase in referrals within the district, a PHN position is being moved to District 4. With the new position included, D4 will have a staff of 4 field nurses and 1 supervisor to better meet the referral capacity in the district.

D4 PHN team continues to meet with community orgs to improve coordination of care - recently met with MaineHealth's Community Health Worker (CHW) program, Early Intervention, and the Rockland Community & Resource Center.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

PHNs statewide completed Narcan training - PHNs now able to carry and administer Narcan.

Public Health Nursing (PHN) continues to co-facilitate the Bumps & Babies perinatal support group at the Belfast YMCA for Waldo County residents. For more information about this group reach out to Brianne.Fokine@maine.gov

**** Division of Environmental and Community Health:** Drinking Water Program, Health Inspection Program, Radiation Control Program, Environmental and Occupational Health Program

The Drinking Water Program has an updated website with new links to each program. [Subsurface Wastewater Unit | Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

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 May to July 2026
- **District Wide Projects:** Workplans for the next fiscal year were accepted and submitted for the State Fiscal Year 27 Maine Prevention Network.
- **Staff** throughout the district conducted school outreach, education, and implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed programming.
- **Staff** worked to engage faith communities in substance use prevention and stigma reduction conversations.
- **Staff** conducted Responsible Beverage Server/Seller training throughout the district. These efforts also supported a connection to distribute social hosting materials during prom and graduation season.

Midcoast Substance Use Prevention (SUP) and Tobacco Prevention Activities include:

- MPN staff made significant strides in promoting substance use prevention through community outreach and education. Staff in **Sagadahoc County** collaborated with the town of Bowdoinham's Recreation Director who also serves as the EMT/Paramedic director to have EMT's distribute Deterra medication disposal pouches and the local age-friendly coalition.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

- **Sagadahoc County** staff presented Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey data at Morse High School from their school-based health center and the Assistant Superintendent and included an overview of prevention and education options including policy and restorative practice support.
- MPN Tobacco Prevention staff in **Sagadahoc County** shared “Vapes Hurt our planet” educational materials via parent facing school newsletters in celebration of Earth Day. These rack cards remind parents and students of the environmental impact of vape and cigarette litter. MIYHAS data was also shared with RSU 1 and Morse High School staff members.
- MPN Substance Use Prevention staff in **Lincoln County** worked to stand up monthly deliveries of basic needs supplies and incorporated medication safety supplies and education. The team supplied these materials to the Outreach Coordinator highlighting the importance of collaboration for this project.
- MPN Substance Use Prevention staff completed two Responsible Beverage Seller (RBS) training courses in **Lincoln County** for Rising Tide Co-op in Damariscotta, with two more planned for other businesses in June 2026.
- MPN Substance Use Prevention staff in **Knox County/Waldo County** presented community substance use prevention and medication safety to 12 University of New England Medical students through the Rural Immersion Program.
- MPN Substance Use Prevention staff in **Waldo County** PYMCA worked to develop partnerships with the Belfast Teen Center and Big Brothers, Big Sisters to discuss youth programming, youth focus groups and mentoring opportunities.

Midcoast Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Activities from February-April 2026:

- **District 4 MPN HEAL staff** created summer stall talk newsletters for students and staff that promote evidence-based messaging About healthy eating and making appropriate food choices at home and school. They were distributed to a total of 22 schools which included: 192 elementary students, 130 middle schoolers, 111 high school versions and 155 staff and parent versions.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

- **Sagadahoc County** HEAL Staff have developed a resource guide and activity to accompany recreation equipment used for HEAL outreach, supporting, engaging, age-appropriate health promotion activities for children and teens and community partner events.
- **Sagadahoc County** collaborated with the MerryMeeting Food Council to assess the gaps in food access, strengthen coordination around summer meal sites and improve communication with community members.
- **Knox/Waldo** HEAL hosted a virtual network meeting with Knox County Food Council, 7 community members attended and discussion was focused on food access updates and opportunities and partner needs.
- **Knox/Waldo** HEAL partnered with the City of Rockland and South School to support “Bike to Work and School Day” 50 community members attended including students from South School.
- **Lincoln** HEAL staff partnered on smoothie bike events with three schools and three businesses within this timeframe for a total of seven events utilizing the smoothie bike. Events covered various ages including students, staff, families and community members. This event focused on healthy eating and active living. Staff also participated in the MidCoast Food Coalition meetings from May to July.

Maine CDC Administration: CDC Operations, Medical Epidemiology, Communications, Office of Population Health Equity (OPHE), and Environmental Testing Laboratory

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 03/2023

District: Penquis	Date: 09/11/2026
** Division of Public Health Systems: District Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Care and Oral Health; PH Emergency Preparedness, Data, Research and Vital Statistics	
<i>Agendas and minutes available on district's webpage.</i> Next DCC Meeting: November 4, 2026 (virtual) Ongoing or Upcoming Public Health Council Projects or Priority Issues: Planning for the November Council meeting, with a proposed focus on harm reduction, treatment access, and substance use disorder services in the Penquis District. Ongoing or Upcoming District Projects or Priority Issues: Emergency preparedness work, including Ebola planning, local emergency planning, exercises, and cybersecurity preparedness. Monitoring current public health concerns, including measles, bats, and tick-borne illnesses. Community needs related to food access, heating assistance, transportation, and connections to services. In-District or Multi-District Collaborations: Council partners continue collaborative work addressing food access, heating assistance, community resource needs, behavioral health, substance use prevention, and other public health priorities across the district.	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: Infectious Disease Epidemiology: · Powassan virus. We confirmed the first human Powassan case of 2026 on June 23, in a Penobscot County resident who acquired the infection in Maine. Surveillance subsequently identified additional infections: by August 22, four human Powassan cases had been detected statewide this year. That makes Powassan one of the more notable severe tickborne developments of the summer alongside Maine's usual high burden of Lyme and other tickborne diseases. · Mosquito-borne arbovirus activity started early. Maine detected Jamestown Canyon virus in mosquito pools in Augusta on June 16 and in Orono on June 25. WNV was also identified in an American crow from	

strict Name: Aroostook

1

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

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Cumberland County and a sharp-shinned hawk from Penobscot County in July. As of late August, Maine had no reported human WNV, EEE, or JCV cases, but environmental activity confirms continued transmission risk heading into September.

- Maine became part of a multistate cyclosporiasis outbreak. By August 7, Maine CDC had identified 27 confirmed or probable cyclosporiasis cases in 2026. Ten of these cases were among people who consumed produce in Maine associated with a multistate iceberg-lettuce recall traced back to Taylor Farms, bringing Maine into the national outbreak definition.

- Wild-type measles detected in Bangor wastewater. This sample was collected on August 13 and tested positive for wild-type measles on August 18. A subsequent August 17 sample was negative. The assay does not detect vaccine strains, but wastewater surveillance cannot identify an infected individual. Maine CDC reported no known human measles infections in recent months at the time of the advisory. Given Maine's measles cases earlier this year and substantial national measles activity, this is something worth watching closely going into the school year.

- Rabies activity in Maine wildlife. By September 11th, 42 animals in 13 Maine counties had tested positive for rabies in 2026, including raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, and a goat. Bat exposures specifically have been an issue this summer; by July 17, five bats had tested positive, and we have been addressing an unusually large volume of rabies exposure consults related to bats. For Penquis specifically, there have been four confirmed rabid animals so far this year including two raccoons and two bats. USDA also conducted another oral rabies vaccine bait distribution in northern Maine from August 12th thru August 24th as part of the effort to prevent raccoon rabies from spreading.

- Nationwide increase in reported human rabies exposures/PEP administration. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert

Network (HAN) Health Advisory in response to recent reports of increases in human exposures to rabid or possibly rabid animals and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) administration errors. Since July 2026, multiple United States jurisdictions have reported local increases in human rabies exposures involving known rabies vectors or animals in which rabies is less commonly reported.

- Maine expanded vaccine access this summer. Our Universal Immunization Program expanded to adults ages 19–64, meaning the program now provides approved vaccines from birth through age 64 through participating providers. More than 300 locations participate statewide in this program. Maine also announced on August 11 that its childhood vaccine guidance and school/child-care vaccination

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requirements remained unchanged following changes at the federal level, and that Maine would continue following evidence-based medical organization recommendations.

· Bicillin L-A supply constraints. Maine CDC issued a HAN on June 26 noting that the Bicillin L-A shortage was projected to extend through Q4 2027. Also known as Benzathine penicillin G, it's the preferred treatment for several stages of syphilis and is essential during pregnancy, so this is an infectious-disease treatment and preparedness issue that is ongoing nationally.

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:

No Update provided

**** 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:

Health Inspections: No update provided

Drinking Water: No update provided

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:

Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors: Penquis District Tobacco Prevention Update, Q2 2026

- 124 tobacco prevention activities were reported across the Penquis District, up from 92 activities in Q1.
- Activities directly reached 7,139 people throughout the district.
- Schools were a major focus, with 41 activities occurring in school settings. Activities also took place in healthcare facilities, social service agencies, colleges/universities, businesses, towns, and other community settings.
- Prevention efforts reached a variety of populations, including youth, parents, adults, young adults, and the general population. Youth and parents accounted for the largest reported reach.

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- Health disparity efforts frequently focused on rural populations and youth, along with people with low incomes, pregnant individuals, veterans, and adults with behavioral health conditions.
- Reported activities included youth engagement, stakeholder education and engagement, tobacco prevention communications, outreach to schools and colleges, and support for youth quit resources.
- One new comprehensive local or tribal smoke-free policy was implemented during the quarter, with an estimated 1,300 people impacted.

Chronic Disease Prevention HEAL Updates: Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors during May 2026-July 2026

Healthy Eating

- Established two Early Childhood Garden Projects in Piscataquis County.
- Conducted three smoothie Bike demonstrations at Mayo Hospital, Greenville Consolidated School, and the Dexter Community Color Run.
- Piscataquis County kicked off its season with two pop-up market events, partnering with the Piscataquis Regional Food Center and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The first, held in June at Mayo Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft, drew 132 attendees and included 40 summer snack bags distributed to children alongside fresh produce. The second market took place in July at CA Dean in Greenville, welcoming 82 attendees and providing 60 summer snack bags to children in addition to produce.

Active Living

- The Mileage Club at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School is continuing into its Spring session for SY 25-26.
- Six Mileage Club programs continue to run across Piscataquis County, engaging a total of 306 students during the 2025-2026 school year, who together logged 24,370 miles of physical activity.
- Sedomocha Schools launched a summer Mileage Club, with 52 students completing a combined 1,400 miles.
- Helped support and organize the Dexter Community Color Run in May. Staffed an informational resource table at the event and provided smoothie bike demonstrations, where community members prepared and sampled strawberry-banana smoothies.

Lactation

- Tabled with resources at two Maternal Child Health events: at the Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft, reaching 37 community members, and at the Lincoln Library.
- Visited the Baby & Me group in May at Thompson Free Library and provided a variety of resources and giveaways for the parents. The group regularly serves between 6-8 participants weekly.

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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:

- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP): Work continues statewide on the RHTP, with several Maine CDC staff involved in advancing the program. The initiative includes five strategic areas aimed at strengthening rural health and healthcare in Maine. Additional updates and activities are expected as the work progresses.
- WIC Access to Local Fruits and Vegetables: The Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets provided \$30,000 to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for Maine WIC families. WIC participants can use benefits with 91 authorized farmers at 40 farm stands and 72 farmers' markets statewide.
- Maine Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team: Marylena Chaisson joined as the new State Coordinator in August. She brings more than 20 years of community mental health experience, including crisis response, case management, and residential care.
- Health Equity: Maine CDC staff and Health Equity Advisory Committee leaders participated in the States Advancing Racial Equity Conference in Portland, with discussions focused on creating community-based pathways that strengthen economic opportunity and population health.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 02/2024

District: Western	Date: 9/17/26
** 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 . Dates of note in Western District: ➤ Next DCC meeting October 20, 2026 at Bates in Lewiston Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ Continued education/speaking opportunities for community partners. ➤ Continued outreach and growing DCC membership and steering committee ➤ Steering Committee working on drafting District work plan Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ Working with public health unit to identify district needs and address cross cutting collaborations surrounding public health preparedness. In-district or multi-district collaborations: ➤ HCC Workshop in October 2026	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: Epidemiology: ➤ Monitoring Cyclosporiasis Cases Infectious Disease Prevention: ➤ No reports Immunization: ➤ Reminder for adults to protect against Flu, RSV, Covid during the upcoming respiratory season ➤ The Maine Immunization Program (MIP) will host its annual Respiratory Season Educational Webinar on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 @ 12:00 PM. Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)	

District Name: Western

1

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

** Division of Public Health Nursing
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ Still doing requested community events/clinics
** 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
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: Substance Use Prevention: ➤ The district continued facilitation of several evidence-based or evidence-informed curricula with schools across the district. Trainings included LifeSkills, Stanford Safety First, Stanford CATCH, CATCH My Breath SUP. ➤ The district continued with several social hosting prevention initiatives throughout the district, including implementation of Sticker Shock and Parents Who Host Lose the Most. ➤ Conducted a Responsible Beverage Server training at a local restaurant in Farmington, which has historically been more challenging to engage in prevention efforts. Eight staff at this restaurant were trained. ➤ Developed relationships with two cannabis businesses in Lewiston & Auburn, providing prevention materials and educational resources. ➤ Healthy Oxford Hills presented on local prevention efforts and the 2025 MIYHS data at the Western Maine Substance Use Disorder Conference, reaching more than 2,000 individuals. ➤ River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition participated in the Old School Food Pantry Maternal Health Clinic event, sharing prevention materials. They also continued outreach with older adults through the monthly Senior Commodities Food Distribution program. ➤ Presented on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Positive Childhood Experiences (ACEs and PCEs) during the University of Maine Upward Bound training. ➤ Healthy Oxford Hills implemented and debriefed the pilot of iDECIDE Alternative to Suspension with Oxford Hills High School to address questions that arose during the pilot. HOH and iDECIDE Program Manager worked to plan next steps in implementation. ➤ District finalized their State Fiscal Year 27 Maine Prevention Network Substance Use Prevention workplan, to start 7/1.

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Tobacco:

- 122 activities reported for Q2 2026 compared to 115 for Q1 2026. 12,681 people reached in Q2 2026 compared to 30,094 for Q1 2026. Activity target population was diverse, with General Population (Count: 35 of 122) and schools (Count: 27 of 122) being most common followed by MPN Workforce (Count: 15 of 122). Reach was reported mostly among the General population (Reach: 6,546 of 12,681) followed by schools (Reach: 2,154 of 12,681) and young adults (Reach: 1500 of 12,681). Disparity population reach was lead by rural populations (Reach: 3,198 of 6,148) and youth (Reach: 2,128 of 6,148), followed by LGBTQ+ (420 of 6,148) and pregnant individuals (128 of 6,148).

Chronic Disease Prevention:

- No reports

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

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

OPHE:

- Working on health equity trainings
- Working with OIVP on gun violence prevention initiatives

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

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- No reports received

District Name: Western

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 03/2023

District: York Public Health District	Date: 09/17/2026
** 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/district1/council-main.shtml ➤ Dates of note in York District: The DCC will hold a meeting on September 23rd featuring presentations from the York County Food Council and the newly opened York County Food Hub. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the current needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, as well as the food resources and infrastructure available throughout York County to support them. Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ The council is still working to attract new members. Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ The District Coordinating Council is working on the development of the Local Public Health Systems Improvement Plan. In-district or multi-district collaborations: Public Health Unit: The District Liaison continues to coordinate the public health unit quarterly meetings to discuss ongoing projects and current issues to ensure coloration when appropriate. Health Care Coalition: The York District Health Care Coalition will hold an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) workshop on September 14th for agencies that need assistance with reviewing, updating, or developing their emergency operations plans. This workshop will provide an opportunity for participating agencies to strengthen their preparedness and ensure their plans address current emergency response needs. The HCC will also hold a meeting with the National Weather Service on the super El Nino and its possible effects to help local agencies plan for the upcoming season. Rural Health and Primary Care	

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Stay Updated on the Latest Developments

Rural Health and Primary Care

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- Applications for the J-1 Conrad Visa Program were open in October 2025 for the State of Maine. Please [review this guide \(PDF\)](#) for instructions on the application process. If you have questions, email rhpc.dhhs@maine.gov.
- Join the New England Rural Health Association for a day at the [Rural Health Student Summit](#). This event provides tools, connections, and inspiration to help students shape the future of rural health. September 12, 2026, in Lebanon, NH.

2026 HRSA Healthy Grants Workshop Registration

- We are excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2026 Healthy Grants Workshop presented as a web series.
- There is no cost to attend. You can attend as many sessions as you like. A 2026 Healthy Grants Workshop Schedule is available.
- There will be a new session every month through August. Each session includes two topics, such as grants administration, grants budgeting, allowable costs, and more.
- More details, including a registration link, will be added to the Manage Your Grants Workshop Web page as they are available. You'll also find links to previous Healthy Grants Workshop recordings.

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

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

The field epidemiologist is participating and bringing value to both the public health unit meetings and the Health Care coalition meetings. This has been a great opportunity to share information about what is circulating in York County.

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<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:

- The Maine Public Health Nursing Program is fully staffed now.
 - Public Health Nurses from York and Cumberland Counties are still offering one-off catch-up vaccine clinics for school aged children. York District Public Health Nurses are also working to set up vaccine clinics at the Maine CDC office in Sanford, more information to follow.

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: Capacity Development Learning Opportunity: *From Surviving to Thriving***
From Surviving to Thriving is a series of seminars for water utility operators that explores ways to increase their systems' technical, managerial, and financial capacity. Sessions will be held at locations around Maine between June and September, 2025. *From Surviving to Thriving* is co-hosted by the DWP and the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), with support from the Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA). [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **New Online Start-Up Procedures for Seasonal Public Water Systems**
The DWP is pleased to introduce a new submission option for the State-approved seasonal start-up procedure (SSUP). Seasonal water systems, using either groundwater or surface water, can now submit their SSUP information completely online. Certify completion of your SSUP easily to the DWP saving paper, time, and money. The paper SSUP forms will still be accepted, but PWSs should be sure to use the 2025 revision from our website. **Remember:** Seasonal water systems must perform a State-approved startup procedure and provide certification to the DWP that they have met that requirement. Certification must be completed and sent to the DWP *before* serving water to the public. [Click here to learn more or access the new online SSUP forms.](#)



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- **Health Inspection Program:** The Health Inspection Program exists to provide licensing and inspection services for several different types of businesses to protect the public's 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:

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.

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- (1) Participate as appropriate in department district-level activities to help ensure the tribal public health system in the tribal district is ready and maintained for tribal public health accreditation; and
- (2) Ensure that the national goals and strategies for health in tribal lands and the tribal district health goals and strategies are aligned and that tribal district health goals and strategies are appropriately tailored for each tribe and tribal health department or health clinic



Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

- Women's Health
- Adolescents 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, training and develops materials 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 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:

- 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.

strict Name: Aroostook

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

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Public Health
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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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