

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15th, 2026, 2:00-2:45 PM

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Meg Dlusniewski	Shared Service Coordinator	NSPHC
Hannah Laffer	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Steven Kahn	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Laura Nash	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Matthew Woolaver	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Caitlyn Matykiewicz	Community Health Worker	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Public Health Social Worker	NSPHC
Skyler Lesser-Roy	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Kelli Padilla	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Andrew Petty	Health Director	Marblehead
Laura Ricci	Health Director	Beverly
Teresa Kirsch	Public Health Nurse	Beverly
Lisa Tobin	Health Director	Lynn
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	Lynn
Erini Kamarinos	Epidemiologist	Lynn
Sharon Cameron	Health Director	Peabody
Brenda Wolff	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Jeff Vaughan	Health Director	Swampscott
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
Breanna Livingstone	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Danvers

PHE Updates

- Meaghan Dlusniewski noted that while feedback surveys have been twice a year, we're now moving to send them out once a year.

Training Hub Updates

- There were no training hub updates.

Legislative Updates

- This is a new agenda item we are adding to keep the group updated on changes in the health policy landscape.
- Skyler Lesser-Roy updated the group on the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB3)'s impact on Medicaid coverage. While most on MassHealth won't be effected, some who are 19-64 years old will have to comply with work requirements. These changes will occur in January of 2027 and MassHealth is currently working to get this information out to all members by this summer. If you currently have MassHealth, it is advised to continue getting care, create a MyServices account, and stay up-to-date with any messages sent from MassHealth channels.
- In terms of private insurance, Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits (PTCs) expired at the end of 2025 and were left out of OB3. An extension for PTCs is moving from the House to the Senate currently, but if no deal is reached ~4.8 million people are projected to lose health insurance coverage. This may place an undue burden on federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) as a result.
- The Department of Health and Human Services issued a memo on January 5th, decreasing the number of recommended vaccines for children from 13 to 7, lowering the number of diseases targeted from 17 to 11. Governor Healey issued guidance in September making Massachusetts the first state to require insurance companies to cover vaccines recommended by the Department of Health instead of the CDC.
- Some good news in health policy included MA receiving a B grade for telehealth access in 2025. Additionally, Governor Healey awarded >\$3 million to 6 organizations providing supportive housing for those in recovery; those organizations are Bay Cove Human Services, GAAMHA, Gandara Center, Mental Health Association, the Brien Center, and the Vietnamese American Civic Association.

Epidemiology Updates

- Laura Nash updated the group on respiratory illness in MA. As of this meeting, influenza cases are rising at the highest level we've seen since 1997-98. H3N2 remains the dominant flu strain, causing 3 pediatric and 29 adult deaths in MA. Antivirals can work as treatment for the flu by shortening illness duration and reducing the disease's severity, functioning best within 48 hours of symptom onset. Steven Kahn created an influenza heat map for Salem and Peabody in December 2025, highlighting areas that are experiencing more cases. Finally, COVID-19 and flu vaccinations rates continue to be lower this year compared to 2024-2025 rates across our region.

- There were 2,144 cases of measles in the U.S. in 2025, with 93% of cases coming from those who were unvaccinated. Outbreaks are continuing in South Carolina and the Utah/Arizona region with 170 confirmed cases since 1/1/2026.
- The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee just released a new inverted food pyramid to replace MyPlate. The new guidance has been controversial as its praise for “real whole foods” is accompanied with misleading language. The new guidance is successful in some areas, including the focus on whole foods, increasing the recommended protein intake for average Americans, including information on the gut microbiome, and recommendations on reducing sugar for sedentary individuals. However, their recommendations on alcohol consumption intake were vague, communication on fats was contradictory, fruit intake recommendations were decreased, and the inverted pyramid shape is conflicting with the report’s guidance. The NSPHC is working to create a social media campaign for the next 10-12 weeks to help the public make sense of this confusing information.
- The NSPHC World Cup Working Group met for the first time last week. At the next meeting on 2/5, the group will go through communicable disease scenarios.
- Additionally, there was a class 1 listeria food recall for several brands of cheese, and preliminary data from the CDC shows a decline in fatal opioid overdoses for the second year in a row.

Workplan Updates

- Meaghan Dlusniewski noted that we had spent \$413,000 of the budget as of 1/8. She also reminded the group to use municipal funds for training and membership fees first before tapping into PHE funds.
- Total inspections, MAVEN, and NSMVP coverage was presented, and it was noted that Matt is now doing independent inspections which is increasing capacity.
- While the Swampscott public health nurse role is vacant, Steven Kahn and Laura Nash are helping out with MAVEN coverage.
- The first community baby shower for the NSPHC is on 3/21 from 1-3 PM at the Saltonstall School in Salem. We currently have 4 vendors and are continuing to look for more.
- Caitlyn Matykiewicz is now a certified lactation counselor and can aid with NSMVP visits. Several staff members are training to be MassHealth certified application counselors and are aiming to be trained by the baby shower.
- We plan to record the legislative breakfast presentation to distribute on public TV, and municipalities can add department specific highlights if they’d like.

- We continue to work on the NSPHC newsletter and hope to schedule a PHE day in April for cross-collaborative professional development and networking opportunities. This may take place at North Shore Community College.

Opioid Settlement Funds and Community Updates

- Lisa Tobin noted that the City of Lynn is piloting a middle school drop-in program with their funds. This past Monday 75 kids attended, and they will continue to run the program once a week for the next year.