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## **MHOA Spring 2021 Newsletter**

### Message from the President

Case counts are dropping and vaccination rate climbing, there is finally some relief on the horizon. We continue to ride the pandemic rollercoaster but hopefully the new normal is in sight.

We can celebrate a significant win with 10 million dollars appropriated by the state legislature to local public health departments. Of that appropriation, \$7.7 million dollars in grants directly to local health departments to help strengthen local public health services. A total of 29 groups were funded representing 191 cities and towns to increase cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health services and staff.

MHOA and the Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH) will continue to advocate for sustainable local

communities, increase capacity, effectiveness, and improve responses to future emergencies, support development of a uniform data system to track progress statewide.

I would like to recognize and thank two retiring local public health officials and long standing MHOA executive board members. Ruth Clay retired at the end of May and is a past president of MHOA.

Beverly Hirschhorn recently retired and represented western mass for many years on the executive board. Thank you for your service to the board and to local public health and best of luck in retirement.

Thank you for all your hard work and for leading our communities through this difficult time. Hopefully, it will time to celebrate the end soon.

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**JOIN MHOA NOW**

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HEALTH  
VOLUNTEER  
CORPS

## CLICK HERE FOR TIMELY GRAPHICS FOR SUMMER AND RE-OPENING PROCEDURES

THESE GRAPHICS WERE MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR  
VACCINE PROMOTION AND TO COMMUNICATE  
ABOUT RE-OPENING GUIDELINES!

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A message from Sam Wong on a resource to look  
forward to:

"We are developing an Orientation Resource Guide for local public health officials. This guide will provide you links to resources and information on many different topics and areas which are critical for the success of a 21st century local public health department. We plan to organize a webinar to introduce this guide some time in late summer/early fall."

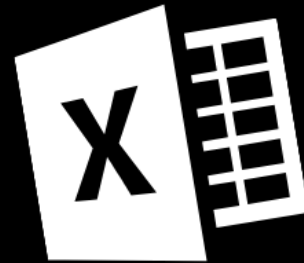
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MHOA worked to compile a spreadsheet of all 351 communities in Massachusetts and the COVID-19 vaccine clinics in which local public health has been involved or organized

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Check it out to see the impressive work local public health has completed to vaccinate their communities!

This information comes from the DPH website or from a public records request MHOA made to get the information in addition to your individual responses in an effort to make it as accurate as possible.



[Click here to check out the spreadsheet](#)

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Save the date for MHOA virtual quarterly meeting!

# Local Public Health: Pivoting from the Pandemic into the Future

2 contact hours for RS, REHS, CHO, CP-FS and RN  
(requested)

Please join MHOA and our local public health colleagues for a panel discussion to help local public health departments plan for the future. The panelists will present resources and tools to help prepare for the future. They will discuss lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and present helpful ideas for moving forward.

[Click here to register!](#)

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Statewide Accelerated Public Health for  
Every Community Act

# LEARN MORE ABOUT SAPHE 2.0

Click here to read more about this act and to  
learn ways to support the coalition.

# ANNUAL MHOA CONFERENCE

**When: October 2021**

**Where: Seacrest Hotel in Falmouth, MA**

**In-person with a recorded option,  
more details coming soon!**



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