

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

(Session times are still subject to change. Please check back for updates.)

## 2026 MHOA Annual Conference

*Sharing Insight. Celebrating Impact.*

Tentative: 10/27, Tuesday afternoon Preconference Workshop with Growing A New Heart  
“Success in the field: Excellence in Action”

| Date        | Time                                             | Local Public Health Practice & Management Meeting Room #1                                            | Environmental Health Meeting Room #2                                                                                              | Food Safety Meeting Room #3                                                                                                   | Public Health Nursing & Epidemiology Meeting Room #4                                                                                  | The Public Health Playbook - <i>Insights across the spectrum</i> Meeting Room #5           | Wastewater Ballroom C                                                                                   |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Weds 10/28  | 8:00                                             | Registration, Breakfast, & Exhibit Hall                                                              |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | 9:00-9:50                                        | Crowd Sourcing Your Management Style                                                                 | Surface Water and Foam Sampling on Nantucket: Sampling Methods, Analytical Challenges, and Communication                          | ROP and Food Code Requirements**                                                                                              | From Collection to Connection: Data Strategies for Stronger Communities**                                                             | Recognizing and Responding to Animal Cruelty: A Collaborative Approach for Health Officers | The Morass of PFAS - What that four-letter word has to do with septic systems.                          |
|             | 10:00-11:20                                      | Dr. Katelyn Jetelina, Your Local Epidemiologist** (Ballrooms A&B)                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | Exhibit Hall                                     | 20 minutes                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | 11:40 -12:30                                     | Hot Topics in Public Health with Dr. Catherine Brown** (Ballrooms A&B)                               |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | 12:30-1:30                                       | Lunch - 1 hour (Exhibit Hall A)                                                                      |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | 1:30: 2:20                                       | Grow Through Mentorship: Stories, Insights, and How to Get Involved                                  | Toxic and Hazardous Materials/ Implementing an Environmental Protection Program in Your Town**                                    | Foodborne Illness Complaints for Inspectors: An introduction to Report My Meal complaint intake to investigatory follow-up ** | From Idea to Impact: A “How-To” Guide for Building Public Health Social Media Campaigns Using the Talk Early, Talk Often Initiative** | Crafting a message with impact: Public health messages with a heart**                      | Biomat – The Myth, the Lore, and the Truth                                                              |
|             | 2:30 - 3:20                                      | What's Coming Down the Pike from the Tobacco Industry                                                | The Environmental Toll of the Vaping Epidemic: Addressing the Toxic Impacts of E-Cigarette Waste on Behavioral Health Populations |                                                                                                                               | Cradling Collaboration: Building Up a Regional Program for Safer Starts                                                               | Sustaining Local Public Health: Strategies, Funding, and What’s Next: Panel Discussion     | Energy Efficient, Robust, and Easy to Maintain Advanced Treatment Technology With a Proven Track Record |
|             | Exhibit Hall                                     | 20 minutes                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | 3:40 - 4:30                                      | Putting Metrik Into Action: The Software Powering Stronger Local Public Health Through Better Data** | Who, When, and Where: Using All-Cause Heat Data to Target Public Health Action in Greater Boston**                                | Beyond the Bottle: Enteric Pathogens in Raw Milk and Outbreak Response**                                                      |                                                                                                                                       | Advocacy 101 - Breaking down barriers to legislative engagement for Local Public Health    | TBD                                                                                                     |
|             | 5:15 - 6:00                                      | MHOA Member Meeting and Elections (Marriott Ballroom, 6th floor)                                     |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | 6:00 - 7:00                                      | Social hour ( Marriott 6th floor foyer)                                                              |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
| 7:00 - 8:00 | Networking Dinner (Marriott Ballroom, 6th floor) |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |
|             | 8:00 - 10:00                                     | Paint and Sip                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |

RN contact hours -pending

SE/SI TCHs - pending

\*\*PHEP funding approval - pending

Food sessions qualify for CP-FS contact hours

All sessions qualify for RS/REHS and CHO/CPH contact hours

(last updated 8/17/2026)

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| <b>2026 MHOA Annual Conference</b><br><i>Sharing Insight. Celebrating Impact.</i> |              |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                                                                              | Time         | Local Public Health Practice & Management Meeting Room #1                                                                                                        | Environmental Health Meeting Room #2                                                                                                           | Food Safety Meeting Room #3                                  | Public Health Nursing & Epidemiology Meeting Room #4                                                                                                  | The Public Health Playbook - Insights across the spectrum Meeting Room #5                                  | Wastewater Ballroom C (2nd floor)                                                                               |
| Thurs 10/29                                                                       | 7:30 - 8:30  | Registration, Breakfast, & Exhibit Hall                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                   | 8:30 - 9:20  | Harnessing Divergent Energy: How to utilize community activists, affected parties, and public participants to reach a rational, sustainable public health result | Effective Tobacco Retailer Education: Strategies for Compliance                                                                                | Emergency Food Pantry Response to SNAP Cuts in Methuen, MA** | Visualizing Timely Maternal and Child Health Inequity Data: Partnering with Hospitals and Health Centers to Improve Data Access for Decision-Making** | TBD                                                                                                        | Lessons Learned from Long Island's Experience Implementing a Nitrogen-Reducing Septic System Management Program |
|                                                                                   | 9:30 - 10:20 | Evaluating a Fourth-Tier Public Health Response System: Insights from Northampton's Division of Community Care (DCC)**                                           | Communicating with the Public about Tick and Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention: Practical Strategies for Professionals on the "Front Lines"*** | The Wonderful World of Warewashing!**                        | Community Care in Mpox Response: Supporting the Unhoused**                                                                                            | Final Cannabis Control Commission's Regulations on Social Consumption Establishments                       | Septic Designers: More Than Meets the Eye                                                                       |
|                                                                                   | Exhibit Hall | 20 minutes                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                   | 10:40-11:50  | MassDEP & MDPH Commissioners and MHOA Awards** (Ballrooms A&B)                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                   | 12:00 -1:10  | Lunch - 1 hour, 10 minutes (Exhibit Hall A)                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                   | 1:10 - 2:00  | Say It So They Hear It **                                                                                                                                        | Heating and Hot Water Systems: A Practical Guide for Health Inspectors                                                                         | Cannabis Control Commission & Food Safety                    | From Care to Coverage: Bridging Healthcare Access Gaps through a Municipal Free Medical Program                                                       | Accreditation: Needham Shares Strategies for Smaller Health Departments                                    | Piloting Nitrogen-Reducing Onsite Wastewater Technologies on Long Island                                        |
|                                                                                   | Exhibit Hall | 20 minutes                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                   | 2:20 - 3:10  | First Impressions Matter: Turning Public Health Data into Funding-Ready Visuals**                                                                                | The Ripple Effect - Dealing with the Aftermath of Closing Webster Lake**                                                                       | HomeGrown Springfield**                                      | Ticked Off: Turning an Alpha-Gal Syndrome Crisis into an Island-Wide Tick Strategy**                                                                  | Navigating Artificial Intelligence in MA Local Public Health: Successes, Challenges, and the Road Ahead ** | Community Septic Management Program (to be confirmed)                                                           |
|                                                                                   | 3:20 - 4:10  | Local Opioid Abatement Assessment: Successes and Lessons                                                                                                         | Emergency Preparedness session** (to be confirmed)                                                                                             | Open-ended Questions Provide More than Answers!              | Every question counts: Strengthening local disease investigations through complete data collection**                                                  | Late Breaking: One Big Beautiful Bill                                                                      | MassDEP                                                                                                         |

(last updated 8/17/2026)

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|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              | 5:30 - 7:00 | <b>Networking Social (TBD)</b>                                              |
| <b>FRI<br/>10/30<br/>(2)</b> | 8:00        | Registration and Breakfast (Marriott Ballroom)                              |
|                              | 9:30-11:30  | Lessons Learned from the World Cup and BOH Response to Large-Scale Events** |

*RN contact hours - PENDING*

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