



Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 03/2023

District: Aroostook	Date: 06/01/2026
**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 05/06/2026 Council Education Topic: <i>"Emerging Cybersecurity Threats for Public Health"</i> <i>"Human Trafficking: Identification and Response in Health"</i> <i>"International Travel: Precautions & Considerations"</i> Guest Presenters: Seth Goodman , CISSP, Cybersecurity Program Director, UMPI Wendy Page , Sexual Assault Services Coordinator, AMHC Maura Lockwood , Field Epidemiologist, Maine CDC Dates of note in Aroostook District: ➤ Next DCC Meeting: July 1, 2026 ➤ Next Aroostook Chapter of Maine HCC Meeting: July 9, 2026 ➤ Next APHC Aging Committee Meeting: TBD ➤ Next APHC Steering Committee Meeting: June 3, 2026 ➤ Next APHC Care Management Committee: TBD Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ Researching strategies for safe sharp disposal across the district. Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: In-district or multi-district collaborations: ➤ PHE attending Project ECHO series ➤ Public Health Staff and PHN Staff hosted and attended the Maternal Mobile Health Clinic along with community partners in Houlton on April 30. Outreach to 57 community members. ➤ APHU Monthly Bulletin Board Topics: ○ April: Stress Management ○ May: Respiratory Illnesses ○ June: Proper Disposal of Household Sharps	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	

strict Name: Aroostook

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22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

A. A district coordinating council for public health shall:

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Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

Disease reporting Contact Information: Phone: 1 - 800 - 821 - 5821 (24 hours a day)

- Aroostook Epi presented at the Aroostook Public Health Council quarterly meeting on International Travel and Preparedness
- Maine CDC ID Epi continues to work with USDA to assist in both air and group rabies baiting activities in May.

HANS

- 04/07/2026: U.S. CDC: Medetomidine in the U.S. Illegal Fentanyl Supply Increasing Risk for Overdose and Severe Withdrawal Syndrome
- 05/08/2026: Ongoing Investigation of Contaminated IV Sets from ICU Medical
- 05/11/2026: U.S. CDC: 2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise Ship
- 05/13/2026: 2026 Lume and Other Tickborne Disease Information
- 05/13/2026: Health Risks from Browntail Moths
- 05/15/2026: Standing Order for Administration of measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine to Children and Teens by Qualified Pharmacy Licensees

** Division of Public Health Nursing

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

April – June 2026

- Maternal Mobile Health Unit event in Houlton in April – 57 attendees
- Kylie SanAntonio will be starting as a new PHN in the Fort Kent area on May 22
- Outreach happening with NL AR Gould Hospital to discuss Cradle ME referrals
- MAT Recovery Program in Presque Isle invited PHN to their staff meeting to discuss HIV / HEP vaccine partnership.
- Partnering with Maine Families playgroups to collaborate with regional partners and identify community needs for future parenting groups.

** 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:

- District H, (Aroostook, Penobscot, Washington, Piscataquis, Somerset)
 - 20 out of 50 Sanitary Surveys have been completed and 7 scheduled soon.
 - 3 New Well Approvals for this year
- District G:
 - Inspector position – hired Joshua Fletcher.
 - District H inspector is currently covering this district as well.

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- Several funded projects around Aroostook County in various stages between engineering design and bid award with anticipating Notice to Proceed soon:
 - Fort Kent – Rt 1 Water Main Replacement Project – construction began in May and will continue throughout the summer.
 - Houlton – Phase II Water Main Replacement – Progressing and will continue throughout the summer.
 - Madawaska
 - Water Tank Rehabilitation Project – began in May and will continue for approx. 2 months.
 - Meter Replacement Project – Plans and specifications were reviewed and approved, and the project will be issued for bid in May.
 - Fort Kent – Highland Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – design work is progressing.
 - Caribou – River Crossing Project – will begin on June 1st and will continue throughout the summer.
 - Presque Isle – State Street Water Main Replacement Project – Plans and specs were reviewed and approved, and the environmental review was completed.

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

- 23 Inspections completed between April 01, 2026 – May 20, 2026
 - Eating and Catering: 5
 - Eating Place – Mobile: 2
 - Eating Place – Takeout: 3
 - Eating Place Tier 1: 3
 - Eating Place Tier 2: 3
 - Eating Place Tier 3: 7
 - Pool/Spa: 2
 - Sporting/Recreational Camp: 2

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:

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

- **Tobacco Prevention:**
 - **Focus Area: Prevention**
 - INDEPTH:
 - Lion's Quest SEL: Caswell School (221)

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- Catch My Breath: Washburn Elementary School (191), Summit Academy (78), Loring Job Corps (31), Fort Fairfield (1), Limestone Community School (22), Connor Consolidated School (32), Houlton Middle School (133)
- Restorative Circles: Loring Job Corp (24). Connor Consolidated School (47)
- Photovoice:
 - **Focus Area: Treatment Services**
 - Technical Assistance: WIC Faculty (1), Carleton Project (13), Houlton Middle School (40), Fort Fairfield Middle/High School (3), Loring Job Corps (33), ACAP (2), Pregnancy Care Center – Aroostook (1), SAD 27 (1), Connor Consolidated School (15),
 - Zoom Presentation:
 - Maine Quitlink: Intakes/Referrals (4)
- **Substance Use Prevention (SUPS): January – March 2026**
 - Hosted 15 sessions of Prime for Life between December and early January
 - Restorative circles were hosted in 2 new schools – Washburn & Limestone. Two sessions were held per day with two different groups of students.
 - Facilitated a Photovoice project with the Carleton Project in Houlton to 10 students.
 - Attended the Maine Youth Leadership Conference and distributed over 400 Detera drug disposal bags at the conference.
 - Continued providing Lios Quest to Caswell Elementary School with 14 students, and at Washburn Elementary School to 11 students.
 - Provided medication disposal pouches at the Northern Maine Community College career fair.
- **HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living): February – April 2026**
 - “The HEAL Coordinator and Regional Local Food Coordinator successfully collaborated with the State WIC Director to secure approval for implementation of FarmDrop’s online ordering platform. This system will allow WIC participants to order food directly from local farmers, improving year-round access to fresh produce through designated pickup locations and scheduled distribution times. In conjunction with this effort, HEAL staff are supporting WIC outreach initiatives to onboard additional farmers, particularly in Aroostook County, to strengthen the statewide voucher system. As a result of these efforts, MicMac Farms officially joined as an authorized WIC farmer after receiving technical assistance related to the enrollment process”.
 - “HEAL staff supported the Northern Maine Comicon event, hosted at Ignite PI, through the development and implementation of a community literacy initiative featuring a themed story walk titled Misplaced in Middle Earth. The story was collaboratively written and

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illustrated by SAD #1 art students. Digital copies of the publication were distributed to VIP attendees, while participating students received bound copies of their work. Story walk pages were displayed throughout downtown storefront windows along Main Street. HEAL staff provided technical assistance to students throughout the creation and publication process, ensuring materials were professionally prepared for public display. The three-day event attracted approximately 360 attendees, highlighting the success of this collaborative effort in promoting literacy, youth engagement, and community arts participation”.

- “The HEAL Coordinator supported the Children’s Museum in Caribou in hosting an Earth Day planting workshop for community members. In collaboration with the Food Council Lead and partnering organizations, educational activities and hands-on planting opportunities were provided for attendees. The Washburn Recreation Department assisted by transporting participants to the event. Approximately 25 individuals attended. Following the success of the workshop, HEAL staff were invited to support an upcoming gardening-related workshop for the senior group in Washburn”.

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

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

April

- National Public Health Week (April 6-April 12)
- Webinar: Better Communication for Better Health (April 7)
- Webinar: Smart Home Technology – Making Home Work for You (April 8)
- Webinar: Disability Justice 101 (April 12)
- Webinar: Youth Tobacco & Nicotine Use in Maine: Insights from the 2025 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (April 14)
- Webinar: Declining US Alcohol Consumption: Lessons for Substance Misuse Prevention (April 16)
- Webinar: CHW Strategies for Tobacco Use: Supporting Recovery and Maternal Health (April 21)
- Webinar: OFI 101: MaineCare, SNAP, TANF, and more! (April 21)
- Webinar: Talks About Changing the Conversation: A Virtual Panel Discussion about Alcohol Misuse Prevention in Maine (April 21)

May

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Build Healthy Places Network’s Virtual Summit (May 5)
- Webinar: Humanizing Public Health: Rebuilding Trust in an Age of Misinformation (May 11)
- Webinar: A Conversation with the Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (May 14)
- Webinar: Creating Accessible Documents – The Basics Part 1 (May 19)

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- Webinar: Preparation Saves Lives: Strengthening Your School's Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention Protocols Presentation (May 21)

June

- Webinar: Public Health Actions for Extreme Heat Protections (June 2)

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District: Central		Date: 6/18/26
** 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: July 23, 2026 • Next Healthcare Coalition (HCC) Meeting: August 5, 2026 Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ The April 30 Quarterly DCC meeting was via Zoom and started with a District Epidemiology Update from Maine CDC Central District Field Epidemiologist, Devin Myles; who then gave a presentation on Rabies Information and Prevention. We then had Kristen McAuley, Director of the Rural Health Transformation Project from the DHHS Commissioner's Office present on the new Rural Health Transformation Program and Maine's \$190 million award for Year 1. ➤ Onboarding replacement for district SCC representative ➤ Use Central District Public Health Unit updates to communicate important information to DCC, LHOs, chief municipal officials, 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 ➤ 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 materials for district public health unit epidemiology and health inspections ➤ New Local Health Officer orientations ➤ 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 and Rabies awareness for the district at the April DCC meeting.		
** Division of Public Health Nursing		
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ The Central District PHN team staffed the two district Maternal Mobile Health clinics in April.		



Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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

- **Smoothie Bike** at RSU 18, Gardiner MS, Gardiner HS, Hall-Dale Elementary School, KV YMCA; **700+ students and staff** served with Smoothie Bike in from February to April 2026.
- Increased StoryWalk partnerships by **6+ organizations**: Kennebec Land Trust, UMA, KV YMCA, Belgrade Central School, Age-Friendly Communities (Fayette, Hallowell, Vienna, and Augusta) etc.
- Completed **PALs Train the Trainer Certification** in April 2026.
- Hosted Kennebec County Breastfeeding Support Work Group Meeting with **4 attendees** in April 2026. (Provided MaineCare eligibility updates including Vitalis Dried Milk coverage, added **1 new attendee from Kennebec Pediatrics**.)
- Selected winner of Community Mattering StoryWalk Competition; New involvement from **Maranacook Community High School**.
- Presented at Maine Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association in collaboration with Katie Palano (PT, MD), and Betsy Cyr (PT) to educate **5 physical therapists on ParkRx**. Upcoming event at Viles Arboretum to highlight accessible trails and outdoor therapeutic practices on May 30, 2026.
- Reviewed and updated **RSU2 Wellness Policy** in March 2026.
- Go NAPSACC; 3 Programs Connected: **182 Children Served** (George Mitchell, Boys and Girls Club, Imaginations Daycare)

Somerset Public Health

- Reviewed 12 school district wellness policies and provided color coded copies for compliance.
- Provided three round table presentations on 100 Mile Club expansion to nine schools during the annual Wellness Summit.
- Provided three technical assistance meetings to HEAL Coordinators working on 100 Mile Club expansion objectives.
- Facilitated a planning meeting with Seeds of Hope/FPFP Innovation grant partners to plan for 2026 planting.
- Presented to staff at MSAD 54 Wellness Workshop about adding Movement to their Classrooms.
- Presented MIYHS data and wellness policy review at RSU 74's school board meeting
- Facilitated a 2-hour staff wellness afternoon with a focus on mental health and team building to all 140 staff in RSU 74.
- Facilitated MSAD 59's District Wellness meeting and energy drink discussion.
- Facilitated monthly School Nutrition Directors meeting focusing on Smarter Lunchroom Support and the Annual School Nutrition Training; a half-day training event for all kitchen staff at 5 school districts to receive the majority of their required annual training hours.
- Conducted 7 small student focus groups, in collaboration with the school health teacher, creating student lunch suggestions for cafeteria implementation in the month of April.



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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health

District Project Update

District: Cumberland	Date: June 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 20th, 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 of Southern Maine's ALICE project.	
May 15 th , 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 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.	
In-district or multi-district collaborations: ➤ Maine CDC cooperated with Maine Medical Association, The Opportunity Alliance, Public Health Nursing on two maternal mobile health unit visits- April 6th in Westbrook, and May 5th in Bridgton. ➤ Cumberland district vaccination coordination group continues to meet, 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 ➤ Cumberland DL is participating in the Community Engagement working group for the shared Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) ➤ Public Health Educator is overseeing a pilot maternal health conversation tool for emergencies	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:	

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- Maine CDC ID/Epi cooperating with City of Portland on response to surveillance reporting increased number of HIV cases amongst people who inject drugs in Cumberland District- Community meetings taking place regularly- testing efforts are going well, focus on encouraging people who are higher risk to begin taking PREP.
- 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
- A new PHN Supervisor for Cumberland and York has been hired.
- MCH PHN and Cumberland PHE are exploring the possibility of hosting a community baby shower

**** 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:

- A Do Not Drink order was issued for Camp Sebago/Standish on May 26th due to high Manganese.
- With the warmer weather, the frequent water leaks of February and March, have largely subsided.
- A Do Not Drink order was issued for areas of Gorham for planned maintenance on March 2nd

Health Inspections Program:

- No update available

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 (HEAL) February-April 2026:

- HEAL and SUP team leads are facilitating an extended learning opportunity at South Portland High School to build peer-to-peer education and outreach around using the bus in the region. This effort is directly informed by youth advocacy goals in 2024 and will incorporate the Youth Activity Map developed in 2025. They have been working with a team of three students to design strategies drawing from other local and national examples and the HEAL team lead has brought in guests from Greater Portland Metro and the Greater Portland Council of Government's Mobility for All work to support the process.

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- The HEAL team lead continues to partner with the Cumberland County Food Security Council (CCFSC) and FoodCorps to promote healthy, local, and culturally important foods and education efforts in South Portland, Portland, and Westbrook school districts. MPN funds were used to provide staff training, menu planning activities, and curriculum development to increase Indigenous foods in school cafeterias and create connections to the Wabanaki studies curriculum. Partnership with CCFSC and FoodCorps will continue in South Portland and Portland again next year and planning and recruitment processes have begun. Westbrook plans to create a sustainable position within its food service department to continue the work that the FoodCorps service member has built.

Tobacco:

- The Tobacco Team has deepened work with parent engagement, prevention education, and best practices with various communities. The tobacco team has been working with New England Arab American Organization (NEAAO) to develop a culturally relevant workshop educating parents on tobacco prevention and skill building best-practices. This workshop took place on May 18th with 38 parents in attendance. Tobacco team staff have also connected with Portland Public Schools Family and Community Partnerships Multilingual and Multicultural Center staff to discuss multilingual family engagement strategies, especially around tobacco prevention and cessation efforts and alternatives to suspension/restorative practices. Celena Ranger, the Tobacco Treatment Specialist, was also able to facilitate a brief workshop on motivational interviewing with parents in South Portland. During this workshop youth leaders engaged in a discussion with parents about communicating with young people.
- The tobacco team has continued advancing multi-unit housing and secondhand smoke reduction efforts through relationship-building and strategic planning with community partners. Staff has connected with various housing authorities and organizations to discuss current tobacco use trends, resident experiences, landlord engagement opportunities, and strategies to reduce secondhand smoke exposure in multi-unit housing settings.
- Tobacco team staff have implemented a tier 2 tobacco cessation group at Deering High School for youth who have been using tobacco products such as vapes. The group will be led by our tobacco treatment specialist, Celena Ranger, and our School & Community Builder, Claire Schroeder, offering tobacco education in alignment with other best practices for cessation.

Substance Use Prevention:

- SUP Specialist Eilish Carpenter supported the Gorham Action Team for Youth (GATY) facilitator Brooke Proulx to present on Gorham's MIYHS data results and GATY's goals as a way to educate the town council who was considering a vote to allocate \$5,000 in the town's opioid settlement funds towards the coalition's future work. In April, the council voted to allocate \$7,500 in opioid settlement funds. This coalition has historically been unfunded so this is a great advancement to

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have resources available to support their work. These funds will support the coalition to continue to build out parent engagement and youth leadership strategies. • SUP staff supported a professional development opportunity with all Freeport Middle School staff to introduce the community building restorative circle framework. The school is piloting a restorative practice circle protocol within their last 3 staff meetings of the year and plan to integrate this circle practice into their advisory block with students next academic year with our team's support. • Our two Data 2 Action projects serving our immigrant and BIPOC communities had a couple of implementation milestones this quarter. Gateway Community Services Maine (GCSM), our implementation partners, hosted the first workshop designed to enhance belonging for BIPOC and immigrant youth in youth serving organization spaces with Maine Audubon staff. Additionally, our team co-hosted the first of 3 learning sessions with GCSM for our immigrant community leaders project. We had 11 community leaders attend and participate in the learning session about the developing adolescent brain. • Two student leadership cohorts in restorative practices at Deering High School (DHS) (Portland) and Lake Region High School (LRHS) have initiated and accomplished implementation projects within their schools. DHS students were trained to facilitate circles in the 9th grade advisories and LRHS students provided a professional development on circles to the faculty.
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: June 18, 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. May 15, 2026 Meeting Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben: 16 attendees ➤ Topic: Our field epidemiologist, Maura Lockwood, provided an annual report of infectious disease for our two counties. She earmarked the new disease dashboard for best data and then educated the audience on measles, tuberculosis, mosquito-borne diseases, and tick-borne disease and prevention. Becca Boulos, the Executive Director of the Maine Public Health Association, gave her annual legislative report and organizational updates. She shared the six priorities of MPHA and how that shapes their work in the legislature and with members. Due to the higher than state rates for tobacco usage in both counties and especially by women who smoke while pregnant, the council is taking on a tobacco treatment initiative to develop a network of resources and treatment options for our population. We identified past successes with programs that had local support groups while most of the newer programs are based more on the telehealth model. We are looking to educate people on the telehealth models while also looking to see how we can use local providers to host a support group. Our four committees provided their priority strategy or objective for the council to focus on in the next six months with results by the end of the year. Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ The Downeast Public Health District has been recognized nationally as an Age-Friendly Public Health System by the Trust for America's Health and the John A. Hartford Foundation: https://afphs.org/recognized-leaders/ ➤ Ongoing emergency readiness planning through a collaboration with Hancock County EMA, Washington County EMA, Downeast Chapter Health Care Coalition, and Downeast MRC to	

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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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 Volunteer Handbook and Recruitment Strategies; determine plan for aligning MRC with Downeast Public Health Council and Downeast Health Care Coalition Planning.
- Well Water Quality and promotion of well testing in communities and providing support to overcome barriers to it.
- Downeast District will be one of the focus areas for the new Maine DHHS MaineCare Transforming Maternal Health Model Initiative.
- Waiting to see how the Downeast District will be engaged in the work plans of the Rural Health Transformation Program Funding Initiative.

In-district or multi-district collaborations:

- **Maternal Mobile Health Clinics**, a collaboration between Maine Medical Association, Maine Primary Care Association, and the Downeast District Partners, held three events in Milbridge on May 20, Blue Hill on May 21, and Calais on May 22. In Milbridge, we had twenty-three participants and the oral health team provided services to six patients. In Blue Hill, we had fifteen participants, leading to twenty-four interactions, and oral health helped three patients. In Calais, we had twenty-nine participants with excellent service connections, and three patients received oral health care. In Calais, we also had the WIC van from the Passamaquoddy at Pleasant Point Health Center and the van from Community Partners of Aroostook-Washington-Hancock Counties, providing housing and energy assistance.
- **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**: AMHC and local business partners pilot a mental health awareness and first aid training at high customer sites in Calais to recognize and minimize suicide ideation and other mental health incidences.
- **Community Housing and Patient Centered Care**: Healthy Acadia with broad coalition of partners assesses readiness and developing outcomes regarding sustainable and affordable housing, both emergency (e.g., winter warming centers) and long-term housing units.

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- **Working Communities Challenge** focused on reducing child poverty in Washington County, with strategies like the Washington County School Consortium and assessing resources to schools by surveying organizations in Washington County that provide services or resources to schools. This is a Federal Bank of Boston Project.
- **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.

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

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Hepatitis C and HIV education, prevention, referrals, and outreach occurring in response to potential increase in cases in the state.
- Reporting and checking with US Customs and Border Patrol on awareness of runners with address from Ebola areas registered for the Bay of Fundy Race in Lubec on June 21.
- Thank you to Maura Lockwood, our field epidemiologist, for the annual epidemiology report for Downeast at the May Council Meeting.
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 coordination with other organizations in coordinating support and resources.
 - Initiating an older adult health assessment outreach program.
 - Looking at opportunities for building program outreach at the community level.
 - Coordinating with schools to support vaccine requirements for students.
 - Ongoing support for TB treatment and monitoring.
 - Planning Maternal and Child Health events in two counties for spring and summer.
 - Organizing a Health Aging Expo in Washington County for fall 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

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Inspections and complaint investigations continue for food businesses and other businesses that program licenses.
- Ongoing consultations with Health Inspections on local food preparation concerns and complaints.
- 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.
Lisa Silva, 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): February to April 2026 <Adlin Deering>

- ❖ School Nutrition continues to benefit from collaboration with MDOE Regional Local Food Coordinating in funding for food for taste tests and technical assistance in direct services has allowed seven schools to participate in Blueberry Smoothie including physical activity on a “Rock the Bike” Smoothie Bike Blender loaned from Waldo County HEAL Coordinator.
- ❖ More than 300 pounds of free Maine-harvested seafood has been distributed to 5 more schools where taste tests are being conducted to help debunk the myth that “kids don’t like fish”. Most schools have learned that more than 50% of students do like local fish.
- ❖ Partnering with ReTree US has enabled us to establish two new orchards in Downeast. Cherryfield Elementary School will install a fourteen-fruit tree orchard, including berry shrubs and herbs. Healthy Acadia will install a fourteen-tree orchard at their Ellsworth office to support Food Security initiatives. Plots have been set out for weed barriers and compost; with plant installation planned for this fall.
- ❖ Our presentation at the Hancock County ECE Conference on Outdoor Play at the Bay School and Golden Sun Early Care site in Blue Hill provided a new learning experience for thirty Early Care Providers. Following presentations, staff led participants on a Shinrin Yoku Mindful Nature Walk and facilitated a site evaluation for improvements to physical activity using easily accessible pieces and parts for their outdoor play area. Bay School requested a future Shinrin Yoku Mindful Nature Walk for their staff and students to participate in the fall.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

- ❖ Beals Elementary School participation with 100-Mile Club has inspired them to continue through the summer and they have been awarded funding for forty-four participant kits in the 262 Club this summer
- ❖ Recent activities to support food access have included meetings of the Hancock and Washington County Food Security Networks, organizing the EMROOTS Conference in partnership with UMaine Cooperative Extension, the Downeast Institute, the Washington County Food Council, the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, and the planning and execution of the Hancock County Food Drive.

Substance Use Prevention: January to March 2026 <Alexis Perry>

- ❖ Planned and organized a youth event on Exploring Health Careers at Regional Medical Center at Lubec, making some important connections between middle and high school students and community health professionals.
- ❖ Provided resilience training with Lubec Consolidated Schools through UPENN program activities. Staff also organized Outing Club trips with students at Lubec Consolidated.
- ❖ Brought five youths to the Maine Youth Action Network Youth Leadership Conference.
- ❖ Supported the Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center with a review of workplace wellness/prevention resources.
- ❖ Facilitated a discussion on the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) at the DESUPC meeting in January.
- ❖ Presented to the Mount Desert Island High School Restorative Board about youth substance use trends and alternatives to suspension.
- ❖ Implemented SPORT Prevention Plus Wellness, a comprehensive evidence-based curriculum, with upper elementary and middle school students.
- ❖ Staff attended the Maine Prevention Network Hall of Flags event on March 18 where they spoke with legislators from the district, sharing resources, success stories, and program education.
- ❖ Staff continued to plan for the DownEast Teen Leadership Camp for 2026.

Tobacco Prevention: January to March 2026 <Christopher Richards>

- ❖ Beginning January 5, 2026, Maine increased the tax on tobacco products from **\$2.00 to \$3.50.**
- ❖ During the first quarter, 122 activities were reported compared to 126 for Q4; 3,264 people were reached compared to 6,314 for Q4.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

- ❖ Strong variety of populations reached this quarter and good reporting efforts.
- ❖ The settings for the quarter activities included: 12 health care facilities; 69 other settings; 21 schools; 8 businesses; 6 non-town owned public venues; 1 county government; 4 municipal governments; and 2 social service agencies.
- ❖ The target populations for these activities included: 43 adults; 21 general population; 10 high school; 7 middle school; 6 middle and high school; 15 youth and parents; 14 youth; 3 municipality leaders; 1 parent; and 2 underage (under 21).

Maine Youth

- ❖ No report this time.

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

- **CDC Operations:** Maine CDC Health and Safety Committee reviews and improves site plans and documents that meet OSHA standards and state requirements for employee health and safety.
- **State Health Improvement Plan:** ongoing work by committees.
- **Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health:** has gone through reorganization and welcomes Bethany Sanborn and Jen Gunderman as Co-Chairs with addition of new members.
- **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:** working across different collaboratives—Downeast Public Health Council, Downeast Health Care Coalition, Downeast Medical Reserve Corps Unit, and County Emergency Management Agencies—to meet assessment of training and exercise needs.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

Midcoast District (Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc & Waldo Counties)	Date: June 18 th , 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) meeting held on June 9th, 2026, featured a presentation and panel discussion with leaders in the district involved in community paramedicine, community navigation and community health workers. This presentation was productive in identifying ways that these programs can collaborate and work to improve community health outcomes. Matt Wellington from Maine Public Health Association (MPHA) provided a legislative update and future priority areas for the next legislative session. Members from the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) team from Maine Prevention Network (MPN) also provided updates on the current projects occurring in the district. The MPHC Steering Committee Meeting met on May 12th and focused on planning for next District Coordinating Council meeting on June 9th with a focus on connections between community paramedicine and community health and navigation work. The Steering Committee has also begun to plan for its annual in- person meeting on Sept 8th, 2026. Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ The Midcoast Public Health Unit (PHU) will meet on June 16th and feature a presentation from Johnathan Dyer and Andrew Hunt from the Division of Environmental and Community Health, Office of Radon Control on strategies for radon mitigation. The PHU continues to meet quarterly and focuses on collaboration between unit members at the district level. ➤ Midcoast District Liaison met with the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care to discuss opportunities for the Midcoast district to be highlighted in the Maine Rural Health Field Guide which is a guide for best practices in rural regions throughout the state. In-district or multi-district collaborations:	

22 M.R.S. §412 (2011).

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- The Midcoast District Chapter of the Health Care Coalition of Maine (HCC) is scheduled to meet on June 24th from 2-3pm. The meeting will feature Taylor Wood from the Maine Seacoast Mission. She is an RN that travels on the boat Sunbeam to deliver essential health services to unbridged island communities.
- Healthcare Coalition of Maine (HCC-ME) continues to plan the Statewide Conference which will be a day-long conference in September 2026 featuring insights from experts in cybersecurity, fire safety and emergency management services.

**** 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 arboviral infections, food and water borne infections and tick-borne illness.
- Epidemiologist Megan Kelley is currently working to monitor travelers to and from Ebola effected countries, now returned to Maine as well as Ebola response planning.
- Field Epidemiologist Megan Kelley is working on wrapping up a Knox County based pertussis outbreak that occurred in the middle and high schools.

**** Division of Public Health Nursing**

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

- PHN Nurses in the Midcoast District partnered with the Maine Medical Association Center for Quality Improvement (MMC-QI) to deliver a maternal mobile health clinic at each of the four counties in the public health district. Services delivered included blood pressure checks, fluoride varnish application, infant weight checks and lactation education and support.
- Starting July 1st, PHN will be enrolled in Maine's expanded Universal Immunization Program which aims to expand access to vaccinations from children 0-18 years old to eligible adults ages 19-64 years old.
- Midcoast PHN held a catch-up vaccine clinic for students at a high school in Bath. PHN provided vaccination to 16 students.

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- PHN's are continuing to partner with Waldo County YMCA and Maine Families with their "Bumps and Babies" which is a support group designed to support new and expectant families. Megan Kelley, Midcoast Epidemiologist provided an educational presentation on tick borne illness to members in May 2026. Membership continues to grow with eight adults, and five children present at the most recent support group gathering.

**** 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 February-April 2026:
- **District Wide Projects:** Workplans for the next fiscal year and success stories highlighting one success per domain were recently submitted to the Maine CDC.
 - Andrea Sanuik-Gove from MaineHealth Midcoast Hospital won Maine Prevention Network's Ripple Effect award for tobacco prevention efforts.
 - Will Matteson from Healthy Lincoln County (HLC) won ADEPT Maine's Aspiring Leader in Prevention award for his continued substance use prevention work.

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** tabled at the annual Community Baby Shower event in Bath distributing deterra pouches and breastfeeding and cannabis use educational materials
- Hosted two events for liquor licensee's; Manager Forum in partnership with BABLO and one responsible Beverage Server/Seller training. The events provided training to 17 attendees from 7 different businesses in **Sagadahoc County**.

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Update

- 1,152 “Prom Safety Campaign” printed materials distributed across **Sagadahoc County**. The materials included education tailored to either parents/caregivers or students that promoted a “substance-free prom,” along with reminders for safe and healthy decision making.
- 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** installed medication safety display containing locking medication bags, deterra drug pouches, weekly pill organizers and naloxone (provided by MNDI) at the Boothbay Community Center.
- 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** tabled at Oceanside High School for Mental Health Month, which reached a total of 35 students and 15 staff. SUP staff also provided a presentation to Camden-Rockport Middle School on Cannabis (Safety First) training to 97 students and 12 staff members. This was an important event as it was the first time this training had been presented at the middle school.
- MPN Tobacco Prevention in partnership with the Landing Place in **Knox County** (which is a youth center offering free, low barrier services for at-risk youth in Midcoast Maine) helped to plan and attend a spring celebration for local youth with a resource table.
- MPN Substance Use Prevention staff in **Waldo County** partnered and planned with Points North Films for a screening of three films which focused on substance use and overcoming stigma that will be viewed on June 30th. This event will feature a panel discussion with Gordon Smith from Office of Opioid Response and a resource fair with local partners.

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- MPN Tobacco Prevention Staff worked with fifteen residents of the **Waldo County** Re-entry Center to reduce stress and tobacco use. They taught a Tai-Chi class as well as discussed tobacco treatment resources.

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

- **District 4 MPN HEAL staff** partnered with Maine Coast Fisherman's Association to conduct school-based seafood taste tests during student lunches (K-12). From February-April, seven schools across the Midcoast District participated in the local seafood taste tests featuring fish tots from the local community.
- Results from counties included: **Sagadahoc County** had 90 students participate in the taste test and achieved an 86% positive taste-test experience. At a local high school and middle school in **Waldo County**, 100 students at each school participated in the taste-testing and provided an overall positive experience of 84% at the high school and 90% at the middle school. In **Lincoln County**, 100 students participated and reported an overall positive experience of 94%.

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

- An approved Measles Information Kit was disseminated by Dan Dent, Associate Director of Communications and Marketing that included key messages and information about preventing the spread of measles during the busy spring and summer travel season.

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Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 03/2023

District: Penquis	Date: June 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: Next DCC Meeting: August 5th, 2026 Ongoing or upcoming Public Health Council projects or priority issues: ➤ Planning for the August 5 council meeting focused on adult-use and medical marijuana policy, including presentations from the Maine Medical Marijuana Program and policy experts. • Exploring opportunities to expand meeting participation to parents, town managers, school officials, and other community partners. • Continuing outreach and recruitment efforts to strengthen Council and Steering Committee membership. Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: ➤ Monitoring environmental health concerns, including follow-up related to elevated childhood lead levels. • Healthcare Coalition partners are preparing for upcoming emergency preparedness and cybersecurity activities. • Supporting community events and outreach initiatives, including maternal and child health programming, food security efforts, and older adult services. In-district or multi-district collaborations: ➤ Collaboration continues with Maine Families, CAP agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations to support maternal and child health initiatives. • Partners continue to collaborate on food security, housing, emergency preparedness, and support services for vulnerable populations. • Efforts are underway to establish an older adult support group within the district. • Ongoing coordination with Healthcare Coalition partners on statewide emergency preparedness and cybersecurity planning.	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:	

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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Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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:

District 6 PHN updates:

- PHN has been busy with a variety of referrals that include Maternal Child Health, Older Adults, Tuberculosis, as well as working with our community partners on the HIV/HCV response in the city of Bangor. The following are several areas that we have been focused on and that we have done within the Penquis district within this past quarter. Our hopes are to continue to gain education so that we may best serve the beautiful communities of the Penquis District.

Events:

- Older Adult Expo 2026-Dover-Foxcroft on April 24th was a great success.
- Attended several community events in March and April throughout the District
- Baby & ME Groups: Dover-Foxcroft & Lincoln (Our groups continue to grow and expand in these areas. Our partnerships with the local libraries have been incredible).
- Maternal Mobile Health Clinics held in Dover-Foxcroft and Lincoln in conjunction with Baby & ME groups were a success.
- Partnering with Maine Family Planning and PCHC to assist in providing HIV care to the Bangor area
- Vaccine Clinics at various schools in our district

Special/Other Projects/Meetings:

- Hosted Boston College Students and Staff in Piscataquis County (2nd year)-March 30th-they joined us at Needlepoint Sanctuary, had a presentation from St. Joseph's Hospital SAFE nurse, did outreach in Piscataquis partnering with Helping Hands with Heart, and did work with students at Milo schools.
- Helping Hands with Heart-Piscataquis County
- PHN skills fair at UMaine in May on nurse's week huge success
- PHN/Maine Families Quartely Meeting will be held at Bangor outdoor park
- MHIRN-BI-Weekly meeting
- START Meeting
- Domestic Violence Task Force
- Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition
- Bangor Breastfeeding Coalition
- Maine Newborn Screening Committee

Education:

strict Name: Aroostook

2

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Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

- Two new nurses recently attained their Certified Lactation Counseling certificates
- Motivational Interviewing Training being completed
- Perinatal Orientation & Education Program certification being completed by PHN
- HIV/HCV training for nurses
- TEEX Training: FEMA Certification for Community Disaster Preparedness for Healthcare- Supervisor has attained certification and additional PHN II will attain by Spring 2026.

**** 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:**
Second Quarter – June 2026
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:
 - Licensing Clerk Alysha Ellis resigned. OA II position posted.
 - Licensing Clerk Lee Smolinsky hired 5/11/26.
 - HIP Quarterly Staff Meeting 4/7/26
 - Maine Food Safety Workgroup 5/19/26
 - Campground Owners Association meeting 4/10/26
 - Annual HIP Youth Camp field training 6/17/26
 - New York Center of Excellence Food Safety Symposium July 21-23 in Ithaca, NY. HIP attending with EPI and HETL.
 - Lisa Silva, Program Manager is retiring on July 31, 2026. Rebecca Walsh, Program Supervisor is contact.
- **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:

➤ Completed activities conducted by Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors:

MPN Tobacco Report Summary:

- Expanded partnerships and outreach efforts to increase awareness of tobacco prevention and cessation resources, including collaboration with public health nursing, WIC, recovery programs, behavioral health organizations, schools, and community groups.

strict Name: Aroostook

3

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Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

- Increased access to the Baby & Me Tobacco Free Program through training and outreach to healthcare providers, recovery homes, breastfeeding support groups, and maternal health partners.
- Provided tobacco and vaping prevention education to youth, parents, first-time offenders, breastfeeding mothers, and school personnel, while promoting referrals to the Maine QuitLink and other cessation resources.
- Strengthened school-based tobacco prevention efforts through implementation of evidence-based curricula, support for policy development, restorative practices, and alternatives to suspension initiatives.
- Engaged more than 120 youth and 30 adults through a regional Youth Summit focused on substance use prevention, mental health, leadership, and youth engagement.
- Supported multiple youth coalitions across Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties, providing leadership opportunities, prevention activities, wellness projects, and peer-to-peer education initiatives.
- Reached hundreds of middle and high school students through evidence-based vaping prevention programs and youth-led prevention activities.
- Enhanced cessation support capacity through completion of Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training and expanded engagement with behavioral health and recovery service providers.
- Developed and launched youth-created anti-vaping media campaigns, including videos promoted through schools, community partners, and social media platforms to counter tobacco industry messaging.
- Continued use of youth survey data and community feedback to inform prevention strategies, address tobacco-related disparities, and guide future program planning and stakeholder education efforts.

Maine Prevention Network - Substance Use Prevention Updates

Reporting Period: January-March 2026 Report Date: 5/18/2026

- Bangor Public Health tabled at the Maine Principals Association Northern Maine High School Basketball Tournament, showcasing numerous prevention programs including the Positive Influence campaign, tobacco quit resources, and problem gambling prevention.
- Supported the Bangor Public Health Wellness Team, with a focus on the impacts of substance use on the heart for February.
- Facilitated the Prevention Plus Wellness curriculum with middle school-aged youth at the Boys and Girls Club of Bangor.
- Supported the transition of school-based prevention services in Dexter Schools from Northern Light Mayo to Bangor Public Health to maximize capacity. Bangor Public Health will also expand retailer, workplace, and municipal prevention efforts in Piscataquis County, while Northern Light Mayo focuses primarily on school-based work through its Drug Free Communities grant.

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Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

- Collaborated with Carol Kelly to develop a twelve-month engagement plan focused on building relationships with policymakers and elected officials around prevention efforts.
- Attended the Maine Prevention Network Hall of Flags Event, engaging representatives from across the public health district about prevention initiatives and administering a problem gambling awareness survey.

Chronic Disease Prevention HEAL: Maine Prevention Network Contractor/ Subcontractors February 2026-April 2026 Healthy Eating

- Technical assistance was provided to Greenville Consolidated School in Piscataquis County to update its wellness policy, ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations.
- Two Early Childhood Garden Projects were secured in Piscataquis County for spring implementation.
- Coordinated Read ME Agriculture programming in five Piscataquis County elementary schools.
- Attended and supported wellness days at Ridge View Community School and Dexter Regional High School during March and April.
- Attended the Maine Department of Education Northern Regional Farm to School Matchmaking Event. Connected with school nutrition directors, farmers, and local food producers and suppliers from Penobscot, Somerset, and Waldo counties, and supported discussions on purchasing local foods.
- Established a partnership with Bangor Clubhouse to begin offering worksite wellness classes, including nutrition education, culinary skills, and food budgeting and purchasing tips for staff and members.
- Assisted with implementation of the Bangor Abraham Lincoln Elementary School Garden Club for the 2025–2026 school year, providing education on germination and plant anatomy.

Active Living

- The 100 Mile Club continued at six Piscataquis County schools: Ridge View Community School, SeDoMoCha School, Milo Elementary School, Greenville Consolidated School, Piscataquis Community Secondary School, and Piscataquis Community Elementary School. To date, 247 students have participated and collectively logged more than 17,000 miles during the current school year.

Division of Disease Prevention: Chronic Disease Prevention HEAL Updates

- Attended the Older Adult Expo sponsored by Public Health Nursing and Helping Hands with Heart, providing nutrition and physical activity resources for older adults.

Lactation

strict Name: Aroostook

5

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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- Baby & Me group meetups continued at Thompson Free Library in Piscataquis County, averaging 6–8 participants each week.
- Provided baby food-making demonstrations and taste tests to the Milk & Cookies Lactation Support Group at Bangor Public Library, focusing on infant nutrition.

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

- Continued development and expansion of Maine CDC trainings through the LUMEN learning platform, including New Staff Orientation and ICS courses.
- Promoted tick bite prevention during Lyme Disease Awareness Month through public awareness messaging and the annual student poster contest.
- Supported ongoing public health communications related to seasonal health concerns, including tickborne disease prevention and hand hygiene.
- Continued work to advance health equity and community engagement initiatives across Maine.

Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory

- Continued laboratory support for disease surveillance and public health response efforts statewide.

Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues:

- Maine Prevention Network Spring Conference, highlighting prevention efforts related to substance misuse, tobacco use, healthy eating and active living, and youth engagement.
- Continued efforts to expand access to preventive oral health services for Maine children through school-based programs.

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Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 02/2024

District: Western	Date: 6/18/26
** 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 July 21, 2026 on Zoom 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: ➤ MRSE exercise in July 2026	
** Division of Disease Surveillance; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Prevention, Maine Immunization Program	
Ongoing or upcoming District projects or priority issues: Epidemiology: ➤ Monitoring ebola travelers, currently a low-risk concern ➤ Tick awareness campaigns Infectious Disease Prevention: ➤ No reports Immunization: ➤ Maine's Universal Immunization Program Expansion to Include Adults 19-64 years ➤ To support providers during the transition, MIP will host Expanded Immunization Program Office Hours every other Thursday at 12:00 pm, beginning June 25	

District Name: Western

1

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Public Health
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➤ Standing order authorizing qualified pharmacy licensees to administer the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine to individuals 3 to 17 years of age 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: ➤ Still doing requested community events/clinics ➤ Bumps and Babies program started in Farmington
** 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: ➤ Supported the Mountain Valley High School wellness day, focusing on mental wellness, resilience, healthy relationships, leadership, and mattering. ➤ Implemented evidence-based curricula in several schools/agencies, including Hartford and Sumner (6th grade), Sacopee Valley Middle School (4th-6th grade), Oxford Hills Day Treatment, Oxford Hills Middle School, and Spurwink. ➤ Hosted a Responsible Beverage Server/Seller training in Bethel ➤ Healthy Androscoggin staff are continuing to support Central Maine Community Health with updates to their substance use policy. ➤ At Dirigo Middle School, students interviewed staff on substance use disorder and prevention and presented their findings to the school and community on March 12th to highlight local substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery resources in the Greater River Valley Region. ➤ Staff attended the Maine Prevention Network Hall of Flags event on March 18th, where they spoke with legislators from the district, sharing resources, success stories, and program education. Tobacco: ➤ 115 activities reported for Q1 2026 compared to 159 for Q4 2025. 30,094 people reached in Q1 2026 compared 154,623 in Q3. Reach in the last two quarters is largely due to signage in Franklin county, a great broad reach activity. Great work in schools and social service agencies. Three policies implemented this quarter.

District Name: Western

2

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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

3

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Public Health
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

Template updated 03/2023

District: York Public Health District	Date: 06/18/2026
** 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 held a meeting based on climate change and public health. It featured speakers from Wells Reserve Climate Work: Nik Charov, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Climate Work: Rebecca Lincoln ScD, and Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills UTFORSK Climate and Health: Interprofessional Learning, Innovation and Collaboration: Jennifer Audette, PT PhD from the University of New England	
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 Coordinatizing 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.	
Public Health Educator Emilee Caradonna has left her position and moved to Vancouver British Columbia with her family, we all wish her well on her new chapter.	
Rural Health and Primary Care	
Stay Updated on the Latest Developments	

strict Name: Aroostook

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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.

<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**

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2

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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.](#)
-
- **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

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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Project Update

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.
- Women's Health
- Adolescents and School Health
- Public Health Nursing

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:

- (1) Participate as appropriate in district-level activities to help ensure the state public health system in each district is ready and maintained for accreditation; and
- (4) Ensure that the essential public health services and resources are provided for in each district in the most efficient, effective, and evidence-based manner possible.

A-1. The tribal district coordinating council shall:

- (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



Public Health
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- 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR:

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- 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>

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