



Virtual Networking | What to Expect

We're excited to welcome you to the [April 28 virtual networking event](#) for community college students. You'll be meeting local public health professionals to gain insight into Massachusetts local public health careers.

12 noon | Opening & Overview of Local Public Health

Students and local health professionals will initially join in one zoom meeting room. Have your camera on, and your mic muted. Ensure you're in a quiet space without distractions.

12:10 - 12:25 | Breakout 1

Students will be added to a breakout room with a small group of other students (1 to 5 people depending upon registration numbers) and one local health professional. Add your name, school and program of study to the chat.

The professional will talk for about five minutes about their job and career journey. Students will have about 10 minutes to take turns asking questions of the local health professional. Use the zoom raise hand function, introduce yourself and ask your question. *"I'm Morgan, studying environmental health at blank community college. What does a typical day as a health inspector look like for you?"* OR *"I'm Alex, studying computer science but thinking about other options. What suggestions do you have for helping me figure out if a local public health career is a good option for me?"*

12:25 - 12:40 | Breakout 2

Students will remain in the breakout room, local health professionals will rotate to another breakout room. The format will repeat with the professional speaking first for about five minutes, followed by student questions.

12:40 - 12:55 | Breakout 3

Repeat one final time.

12:55 - 1 PM | Closing

Everyone will return to the main room where we'll have a couple of polls, our evaluation link, and we'll raffle a student MHOA membership to one community college student.



Tips for Success

- *Take Space, Make Space* - Breakout rooms will have at least one, but not more than five students in them. Be sure you speak up, but let others have a chance as well. You want to be memorable in a good way to the local health professionals you are networking with.
- *Camera on, minimize distractions* - This isn't the type of event you can participate in while driving home or making lunch. Students are expected to have their camera on during the program, and be able to unmute to participate in the breakout room conversation without disruptive background noise.
- *Prepare* - Take a look at the [MHOA website](#) and learn a bit about local public health so you can ask questions that will be helpful to you in your career journey.

Suggested Questions to Ask Professionals

- What do you do for work?
- Can you describe a typical work day or work week?
- What aspects of your job do you find most challenging and rewarding?
- Do you more often work individually or as part of a team?
- Can you describe the typical work/life balance in this field?
- Can you describe the career path that led you to your current job?
- How did you become interested in this field?
- What do you think is the best preparation for your profession?
- What are the qualifications you look for in a new hire?
- Is there anything you wished you knew before entering this field?
- What else should I know to make an informed decision about choosing a career in this field?
- Do you have any recommendations for other people I should speak with in the field to learn more? May I use your name when reaching out to them?
- How do I search for jobs in your field? Where are these jobs typically posted?
- Is the advice you have passed on to me regarding this sector typical of the industry, or is it specific to your organization?
- Are there any professional associations that you are part of or suggest I join?
- Where do you see this industry going in the next 5-10 years?

Local Public Health Resources

- [Pathway to Local Public Health Program](#) Webpage
 - Check out the "Resource Library" tab to view our past webinars, including:
 - Career Panel with Community College Alums
 - Starting a Career in Local Public Health
 - Getting Hired in Local Public Health



- [Day in the Life of a Health Inspector](#) Video
- Program Flyers
 - [Types of Public Health Careers](#)
 - [Places to Find Public Health Job Postings](#)
 - [TRAIN MA Platform](#)
- Start building your public health skills now! [Create an account on TRAIN Massachusetts](#) to start taking **free** trainings required of currently working local public health professionals. Get ahead to get the job:
 - [Orientation to Local Public Health in Massachusetts](#)
 - [The 10 Essential Public Health Services in Action](#)
 - [Foundations for Local Public Health Practice in Massachusetts](#)
- Explore current local public health job postings on [MHOA Careers](#)