

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 - Insights across the spectrum 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	Open-ended Questions Provide More than Answers!	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	MHOA's Mentorship Program: Everything you need to know	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	Identifying a System in Duress vs Failure; Troubleshooting Soil Treatment Areas**
	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 8/03/2026)

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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**	Play for All: Reframing Play as a Public Health Strategy	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**	Webster beach closures**	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)	HACCP & Specialized Food Processes** (to be confirmed)	Every question counts: Strengthening local disease investigations through complete data collection**	Late Breaking: One Big Beautiful Bill	MassDEP (to be confirmed)

(last updated 8/03/2026)

	5:30 - 7:00	Networking Social (TBD)
FRI 10/30 (2)	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

SE/SI TCHs- PENDING

***PHEP funding PENDING approval*

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