Dear Colleagues,

Welcome 2019! The year launches off with some exciting changes and challenges here in Maine and across the nation. Maine has a new governor and administration in office, and the Maine legislature has had over 2,000 bills submitted, with many focusing on health, education, economic development, and safety of our communities and public health. There's work to do in rural health, oral health, substance use, chronic disease prevention, telehealth and the restructuring of Maine's public health infrastructure. MCD Public Health along with our many partners across the state are ready to tackle these pressing issues with innovation and collaboration!

What we are seeing here in Maine is not unique. There’s a lot happening throughout the nation, and we will continue to work with our national partners to address growing public health concerns here in the US, and with our international partners across the globe. As you’ll see in this edition of the newsletter, we share the World Health Organization’s global health priorities for 2019, many of which align with our current work both here in the States and internationally.

As always, we hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and look forward to connecting with you in February.

Best Regards,

Danielle Louder & Elizabeth Foley
Co-Directors, MCD Public Health

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month; a month dedicated to raising awareness of cervical cancer and other cervical conditions to promote the improved reproductive health of all women.

According to the World Health Organization, there were 570,000 estimated new cases of cervical cancer in 2018, making it the fourth most frequent cancer in women. However, the most vital thing to remember is that cervical cancer can be prevented, and caught early with adequate prevention and screening measures. Ladies - remember to work with your healthcare provider to stay on top of your cervical health, and encourage the women in your life to do the same.
For more information related to cervical health and disease prevention, visit the following sources:

**American Cancer Society**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**National Cervical Cancer Coalition**

Reminder: As part of the Community Health Workers and Chronic Conditions Training Program, MCD Public Health offers a training module on cervical cancer. The training is primarily focused on cervical cancer screening and prevention.

For more information, click here.

Click here to learn more about MCD International and cervical cancer across the globe.

**News From the Nation and Abroad**

**WHO Shares Top Global Health Priorities for 2019**

For some, a new year means setting resolutions, working on self-improvement, or harnessing new skills in the coming year. However, for the World Health Organization, the start of 2019 commences their new 5 year strategic plan, known as the 13th General Programme of Work. This plan is focused on what the WHO calls a triple billion target: ensuring 1 billion more people benefit from access to health coverage, 1 billion more people are protected from health emergencies, and 1 billion more people enjoy better health and well-being.

As part of the WHO’s strategic plan, they’ve outlined the top ten threats to global health in 2019, with things such as air pollution, non-communicable diseases, weak primary care, and various infectious diseases making the list.

For more information on the WHO’s 2019-2023 strategic plan, click here.
Meet Our Team

Hannah Huggins is the new Project Coordinator at MCD Public Health, working on Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antibiotic Resistance at the Maine CDC and Curriculum Development at MCD Public Health.

Hannah received her Bachelor’s degree at Hampshire College with an interdisciplinary major in Public Health, Biological Anthropology, and Chemistry. Upon graduation, she has worked in community health advocacy projects from Alaska to Colorado to Maine. Some of her proudest work has been equipping Native Alaskan communities with immunization resources, increasing rural access to childhood oral, vision, and hearing screenings, and improving access and quality of comprehensive health education in K-8 Schools. During her free time, you can find Hannah in the mountains, snowboarding or hiking, or in her kitchen, experimenting with recipes and fermenting foods. Hannah is so excited to be a part of MCD and to continue working on important public health initiatives!

Please join us in welcoming Hannah. We are thrilled to have her join the MCDPH team!

Kudos to Team Member Tina Love

Please join us in congratulating MCD Public Health Project Manager, Tina Love for passing her Nursing Boards earlier this month to become a licensed nurse practitioner! Tina, a long time employee of MCDPH, obtained her RN from Central Maine Medical School of Nursing and the University of Maine in Lewiston. Tina then went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from St. Joseph's College, and later obtained her Masters degree in nursing from Simmons University, with a focus on the Family Nurse Practitioner Role. Tina plans to look for opportunities with a physician practice to work with patients, most likely in Family Practice or Internal Medicine, and to continue to serve as a clinical advisor to our work here at MCD.

Congratulations, Tina! All of us at MCD Public Health are proud!

Join Our Team

MCD is seeking talented individuals for both domestic and international positions:

**Domestic Public Health**

**International Public Health**
The Northeast Telehealth Resource Center is thrilled to return to Portland, ME for our next Regional Telehealth Conference: June 17-18, 2019! The NETRC team invites you to submit a proposal to present a breakout session on June 17 or 18. Proposal deadline is Friday, March 1.

There are also multiple opportunities to sponsor and exhibit at this year’s event.

Visit the NETRC Conference webpage or click on the buttons below for more information. We hope to see you there!
Upcoming Events

APHA Policy Action Institute - February 6, 2019 - Washington, DC. For more information and to register, click here.


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