

The Latest News From MCDPH December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We know this has been a particularly challenging year for everyone, and that many continue to struggle with illness, isolation, and economic hardship. We are honored to work alongside our public health and health care colleagues in the nation's COVID-19 response. As we end 2020 and move into a new year, MCD Public Health is steadfast in our mission to improve the health and well-being of people locally, nationally, and globally.

Here's a brief look at some 2020 highlights:

- The **Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC)** is serving as a **Coronavirus Telehealth Resource Center** and has increased capacity for COVID-19 related telehealth technical assistance. Throughout 2020, the NETRC team provided Technical Assistance services to 1,848 individuals across New England, New York and New Jersey, and reached 19,655 individuals through over 250 trainings, webinars and other outreach efforts.
- Our workforce development efforts included the launch of our **CHW COVID-19 eTraining module** in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. The training has reached close to 4000 people across the U.S. and globally. Our team also launched the **New York Chronic Disease Prevention Online Training Portal**, serving health care and public health providers across the state.
- **Healthy Lincoln County** saw a significant expansion in food security work, leading to funding and new models of service in the community. Along with their partners, including the Lincoln County Food initiative, they served over 110,000 meals to children, families, and those isolated due to the coronavirus.

As a Public Health Institute, we continue to support our State and Nation's public health infrastructure. While the work has been extremely challenging in 2020, the team dedication and impact are incredibly rewarding. As we go into 2021, there has never been a better time to join the public health workforce. We'd love to grow our team, so please be sure to check out **career opportunities** in both our domestic and international divisions.

Safe and peaceful holidays to you all, and we look forward to collaborating in the new year.

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

National Handwashing Awareness Week

Success Story Highlight

The celebration of National Handwashing Week in December this year is more relevant than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In celebration, we are pleased to share a success



Handwashing is one of the most effective prevention methods to combat the spread of COVID-19, the flu and other germs or diseases.

For more information, visit the [CDC website](#).

story from MCD's International team:

The **Fonds d'Appui Pour l'Assainissement (FAA) program**, MCD's sanitation and hygiene program in Madagascar supported by the Sanitation & Hygiene Fund (SHF), mobilized its network of local NGOs working across 21 regions to strengthen the country's COVID-19 response and resilience. In the Alasora region, the program's local partners are constructing handwashing facilities (HWFs) to improve communal hygiene. Visit [MCD's International website](#) and [blog](#) to learn more.

Oral Health Event Highlight: Free Dental Screenings for Children

On November 7, 2020, free dental screenings, fluoride varnish applications, and oral health education were offered to all children ages 0-18 residing in Kennebec County. The event was initiated to reach students outside of the school setting this year since some schools declined oral health services due to the pandemic. Dental practitioners were able to serve 8 children who did not previously have a dental provider that day, and each child was enrolled with the [Waterville Community Dental Center](#).

The event not only provided children with high quality dental care, but also connected them with a provider to ensure they continue to receive regular dental services. Although it was a smaller turn-out than hoped for, the impact was enormous for the 8 children served. The Maine CDC School Oral Health Program is hopeful they can sponsor another event this Spring and provide free oral health services to even more children.



The event was sponsored by the Maine CDC School Oral Health Program and hosted by the Waterville Community Dental Center. The dental practitioners providing services during the event were: Dr. Stephen Mills, DDS; Sam St. Pierre, RDH; and MCDPH's Sherry Laliberte, RDH/IPDH (featured in the picture).

Visit the [Maine CDC Oral Health Program website](#) for oral health resources and information.



National Children's Oral Health Resources

For information, related resources and impact stories relevant to your state, visit the [American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry](#), [CDC's Children's Oral Health](#), or [National Children's Oral Health Foundation](#).

Telehealth News & Updates

Making It Work:
Expanding Telehealth

During the Portland Press Herald's November "Making it Work" panel series, our own Danielle Louder joined colleagues from MaineHealth and the University of Kentucky to discuss the massive explosion of telehealth since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what the landscape may look like moving forward.

Patients and providers have seen significantly increased access to care and cost savings from telehealth services given broad telehealth policy expansions under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), however it's unclear how many of these flexibilities will remain after the PHE ends... [Read more](#)

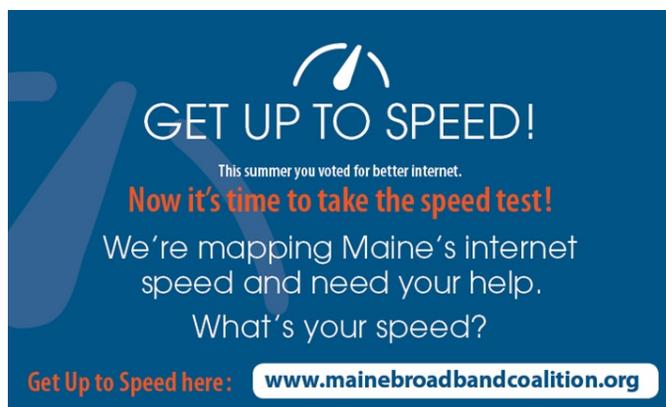


Telehealth Perspectives

Telehealth has created new opportunities for patients and clients to connect with providers in a way they prefer, enabling access to care when and where is it needed most, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This short video developed by the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center and colleagues shows a variety of ways telehealth can continue to be a vital part of our healthcare system as we move forward.



Help Maine 'Get Up to Speed'



The **Maine Broadband Coalition** recently launched a statewide speed test mapping initiative to help improve internet services for rural and underserved areas. The speed test data gathered will be aggregate, and will be documented, and visualized into an **interactive map** that end users and state officials can access. This is an important first step to improving broadband capabilities in Maine.

Similar efforts are underway in other states so be sure to check them out and participate!

Meet Our Team

Madeleine Squibb



Madeleine Squibb is the new Project Coordinator for the Immunization Program at the Maine CDC. She graduated from Bowdoin College in the spring of 2020 with a degree in Economics and experience in maternal health research.

Madeleine joins us from the Maine COVID-19 Contact Tracing Program and is excited to have the opportunity to continue working to promote health in the state.

Please join us in welcoming Madeleine to the team!

Join Our Team

Domestic Public Health



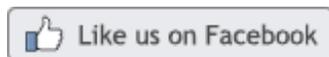
[Click here](#) to see current opportunities.

International Public Health



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