

## **Communications Bulletin 12/5/2025**

Visit the [LPHA Info Hub](#) for news and links to resources.

Attachment:

- MO Statewide PHAB Readiness Training Schedule 2024-2025
- PHEP Contract Monitoring Overview

## **UPDATES**

**Congratulations to DHSS** for being awarded PHAB accreditation! This takes an incredible level of time and energy, but shows their commitment to meeting the highest standards for public health.

**DHSS Immunization Data Dashboard** walkthrough was provided during the [Dec 3 LPHA Update call](#). The dashboard is expected to be finalized and launched publicly within the next few days. The DHSS Office of Public Information is creating county-level fact sheets that will be available for LPHAs to download from a map that will be placed on the website below the dashboard. We hope the dashboard and the fact sheets will help equip LPHAs to share stories locally about the importance of vaccinations and the current vaccination rates in the community.

**Pertussis:** County-level fact sheets on pertussis rates and vaccination information are also in development at DHSS and may be ready for LPHA access by next week.

**MO County Level Study Dashboard** has been expanded with new data sets. It has not yet been publicly launched, but LPHAs may access the dashboard at <https://mohealthdata.org/>. More details will be shared in the weeks ahead.

**Pregnancy and Risk Screening Codes Changing:** Changes to CMS codes means MO HealthNet has assigned new codes to reimburse for Prenatal and Postpartum Screenings. The changes go into effect January 1, 2025. Learn more and register to attend an informational webinar on January 6 at 10:00 am: <https://mydss.mo.gov/media/pdf/notification-pregnancy>

**News Release:** DHSS is planning to send out a press release early next week on the news that overdoses are at the lowest rate in a decade, partially attributed to effort to distribute Naloxone. We recognize that many LPHAs have Naloxone available at their Health Department or with partner agencies in the community and thank you for your efforts!

**News release:** New Resource Guide in Support of Missouri Children and Families. A press release was issued earlier this week on this comprehensive resource guide that is designed to support parents and caregivers of children from birth to age 12 by providing descriptions, links and phone numbers of various statewide resources. It is organized by types of supports: discovery and navigation, connecting and networking, and goods and services. To access the guide online, visit <https://health.mo.gov/living/families/shcn/pdf/mch-resource-guide-birth.pdf>. To request hard copies, contact the DHSS Bureau of Special Health Care Needs at (573) 751-6246 or [info@health.mo.gov](mailto:info@health.mo.gov).

**FY25 Incentive Funding:** To receive the FY2025 Incentive Funding for completion of the PHAB Readiness Assessment (RA), the RA must be completed by May 1, 2025. It takes approximately four months from the date of the RA training to complete the assessment, therefore the last two training dates available to complete the RA on time is December 10, 2024 1-2:30PM CT and February 4, 2025 1-2:30PM CT. 2024-2025 PHAB Readiness Assessment (RA) training schedule ([attached](#)); [PHIG Connect phone call recording 11/21/2024](#)

**Social media content:** Winter weather, holiday tips, food safety, and more – check out the free social media resources available on the LPHA Information Hub at [MO-LPHA.com](#). Download, personalize and share often on your own social media channels to keep your posts higher on your follower's feeds. If you need assistance, please email me at [jmcreynolds@missouristate.edu](mailto:jmcreynolds@missouristate.edu).

**Vaccine Ordering:** There will be limited vaccine shipping during the holidays. Vaccine orders must be placed **no later than December 10, 2024** to ensure delivery before the holidays. Reconciliations must be current or no older than 14 days to submit an order.

**CDC Vaccines for Children (VFC) required annual recertification** process will begin on December 2, 2024, and run through January 31, 2025. Annual recertification is completed online within ShowMeVax.

- To complete the recertification, providers log in to ShowMeVax, go to Clinic Tools, Enrollments, click Add New Enrollment, and choose 2025 VFC Annual Recertification from the drop-down.
- All sections of the recertification must be completed before submission.
- The physician accepting the agreement must have access to ShowMeVax to sign the agreement digitally.
- Once all sections have been completed and signed, click the drop-down arrow next to Save Progress and click Submit for processing.
- If you need to leave the enrollment, click the Save Progress button to save your work.
- Providers who have not submitted their recertification by close of business on January 31, 2024, will be suspended from the program.
- If you need help, please contact the Vaccine Support Team at [vfc-smvsupport@health.mo.gov](mailto:vfc-smvsupport@health.mo.gov) or your VFC Consultant and include your VFC PIN in the subject line, for example, "PIN # # # # Recertification."

**PHEP Contract Monitoring** is set to resume. The DHSS team will complete a Risk Assessment for each LPHA to determine monitoring frequency. LPHAs that fall into a low or medium risk category will be selected through a randomization process to determine who will participate in contract monitoring. Those that fall into the high-risk category will be required to be monitored. LPHAs selected to complete contract monitoring will receive an email, the Risk Assessment results, and instructions on what to do next. Monitoring will be done virtually and should take 30 – 60 minutes. Multiple dates/times will be offered to accommodate schedules. ([attachment](#))

**Update from ELC-EDE** (via email 11/22)

- All prior approval requests and invoices submitted through November 15, 2024, have been reviewed and if necessary, requests for additional information to determine allowability have

been communicated through email and direct telephone conversations. In some cases, several telephone messages have been left to connect on the pending requests.

- Responses to requests for additional information to determine allowability will be held open until **December 13, 2024**. If we do not receive the requested information by **December 13, 2024**, it will be assumed that the requested item or payment is no longer needed to satisfy contract deliverables and will be marked as withdrawn.
- Invoices are being processed for payment once all appropriate requested information is received and reviewed.
- Vaccine and immunization related activities are out of scope for ELC fund use. As such, these types of activities are not included in this contract's deliverables. The federal act that authorized this funding supporting the ELC EDE contract does not allow for vaccine / immunization related activities or expenditures.
- Requests for vaccine / immunization support will not be accepted through the ELC LPHA Hub any longer.
- Invoices containing vaccine / immunization related expenditures have been returned and requests to remove unallowable costs have been distributed to LPHAs.
- DHSS is working to identify other federal and state funding to support expenditures incurred by LPHAs during June, July and August 2024 that have been submitted for payment by the ELC EDE contract through September 2024.
- LPHAs with active immunization contracts, administering COVID-19 vaccine, should review the deliverables and funding for alignment prior to contacting the Bureau of Immunizations for authorization to support. Contact Lana Hudanick at [ana.hudanick@health.mo.gov](mailto:ana.hudanick@health.mo.gov) for questions around allowability with the immunization contract.
- The ELC LPHA Hub Training held on October 12, 2024, is a great resource in referencing how to use the tools and has examples of appropriate budget justifications. Access the training at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=be00d15f5b44412b95a8b08eaea4dfe8>.

## RECALLS

**11/27/2024:** SunFed Produce is recalling all sizes of whole fresh American cucumbers sold between October 12, 2024 and November 26, 2024 due to potential *Salmonella* contamination.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dbmr55u>

**11/21/2024:** Grimmway Farms expands its recall of organic whole carrots due to potential *E. coli* contamination. <https://tinyurl.com/4pfhd2t2>

## NEWS

**12/3/2024:** Researchers show hormone therapy benefits heart health, reducing insulin resistance and cardiovascular biomarkers for menopausal women in the US, but less than 5% of women are using it.

<https://tinyurl.com/37s3e3wn>

**12/3/2024:** Enter your address to check the formaldehyde cancer risk in your neighborhood, in this new tool from investigative journalism company ProPublica. <https://tinyurl.com/bdd4a5ur>

**12/2/2024:** Cervical cancers are increasing, especially among women age 30 – 40, due to low HPV vaccination rates and fewer screenings. <https://tinyurl.com/yyw3jazp>

**12/2/2024:** Visceral belly fat linked to signs of Alzheimer’s decades before symptoms start. <https://tinyurl.com/dcfs6av5>

**12/2/2024:** Parvovirus B19 cases up in US, especially among pregnant women and people with sickle cell disease. <https://tinyurl.com/yx62v9yw>

**11/22/2024:** A lack of testing and standardization and adverse events associated with unclear or misleading packaging on hemp-derived products moves nine states to put regulations in place. <https://tinyurl.com/mabmawew>

**11/17/2024:** Missourians who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid coverage may be able to get what's known as a Dual Special Needs Plan. It includes extra benefits to buy healthy foods, over-the-counter items like pain relievers and toothpaste and even pay utility bills. Open enrollment ends Dec 7. <https://tinyurl.com/rkujxa2k>

**11/14/2024:** President Biden approved a \$14.2 million grant for “digital equity,” which Missouri plans to use to create a local program to support affordability, digital skills and access to low-cost, large screen devices and create a Virtual Health Program to increase the telehealth service capacity of the state's medical facilities. <https://tinyurl.com/3amk7etb>

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Over-the-Counter (OTC) Contraception Policy Academy:** ASTHO is accepting applications for this opportunity for state and territorial public health officials and partners to develop skills and competencies required to advance and support state-level policies. Participants will learn how to recognize, assess, and apply policy levers to increase access, affordability, and awareness of OTC contraception options. The deadline for application is January 10, 2025. [Application](#)

## RESOURCES

[State Funding Requirements for Core Public Health Services in LPHAs: A Legal Overview](#) (Nov 22, 2024). This resource outlines requirements for states to fund local health agencies providing core public health services in state law. It can provide public health practitioners with information on how states have structured funding for providing core public health services.

[Social Vulnerability Index](#), CDC, ATSDR

**Minority Social Vulnerability Index:** [fact sheet](#), [overview video](#), [Index](#)

**Adversity in Action**, asynchronous online training course from Univ. of Missouri Extension is available at no cost to professionals living or working in Crawford, Dent, Phelps, St. Francois, or Washington Counties, due to their high rates of overdose and a shortage of mental health providers. The training

provides information on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and their impact on health, substance use disorder and opioid relapse. Learn what can be done to address ACES and receive resources to support local providers and families. The course is open until June 30, 2025. CE and CEUs are available. Email Ashley Douglas at [aedouglas@health.missouri.edu](mailto:aedouglas@health.missouri.edu) to enroll in the course.

**Show Me Strong Kids resources from MU:** Download and utilize scores of resources from the Show Me Strong Kids program, designed to support local programs and decision-makers with evidence-based practices around child health and well-being. Resources include posters, flyers, stories, and videos on six child health topics. <https://showmestrongkids.org/>

## WEBINARS/TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Dec 9, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm, **Common Health Challenge Kick-off**, hosted by the Common Health Coalition, is an annual call to action for Common Health Coalition members and partners to unite around a health system priority that strengthens collaboration between health care and public health. This kickoff event will feature community health workers' role as trusted messengers who connect different areas of the health system. You do not need to be a current Coalition member to attend this event. [Register](#)

Jan 2025, **Inspector Boot Camp** and **Advanced Inspector Boot Camp**, hosted by Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). The course is free and is only offered once each year. It is virtual, four hours per day, one day per week, for three weeks. [Register](#)

Jan 14 – 16, 2025, **Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training** (live virtual training). [Apply](#) by Dec 1. Fully accredited by The Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs (CTTTP). It provides a comprehensive approach for individuals to learn the core competencies necessary to apply for the National Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Practice (NCTTP). Prerequisites and a deposit of \$100 are required. Deposits are fully refunded after the completion of the entire program. Direct questions to: [quitnow@health.missouri.edu](mailto:quitnow@health.missouri.edu).

January 27 – 31, 2025, **Basic Inspections and Investigations Course for New Manufactured and Retail Regulators**. \$350 fee and class size limited to 18 people. [Register](#)

May 5 - 9, 2025, **Basic Inspections and Investigations Course for New Manufactured and Retail Regulators**. \$350 fee and class size limited to 18 people. [Register](#)