



# North Quabbin Health Collaborative



Public Health Newsletter  
COVERING: February 16th – February 22nd, 2026  
PUBLISHED February 27, 2026

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Upcoming Events:

### Next Collaborative Meeting

Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm  
Location: Orange Town Hall

## In this issue:

- Calendar of Events (pg 2)
- Community Food Access Resource List (pg 3)
- Senior Dining Community Resource List (pg 4)
- Stats for Influenza and Respiratory Diseases (pg 5-6)
- Nurse Update (pg 7)
- New Salem and Orange Social Worker drop in hours (pg 8)
- Prom Dress Drive (pg 9)
- Sharps Container Exchange (pg 10)
- Camp Wiyaka Flyer (pg 11)
- Camp Selah Flyer (pg 12)



## UPDATES:

### ORANGE

The Orange Food Pantry is now open in their new location at 81 East River Street. They will be back to normal hours of 10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. on Thursdays starting Thursday, January 8, 2026.

### New Salem Library

#### Art and music event March 14

You're invited! Celebrate the unveiling of a portrait by Ami Fagin honoring acclaimed pipa artist Minqi Wang, followed by a live performance by Minqi. Mary George of Nuneo Entertainment writes, "Minqi's music bridges worlds -- ancient strings, modern beats, and a rare depth of feeling." A light brunch will be served at the event, March 14 at the New Salem Public Library, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Join us for an inspiring hour of art, music, and community.

## Reminders

- **Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> is National Soup It Forward Day** - Go ahead and make the soup
- **Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> is National Marching Music Day** - Are you listening to marching bands?

Visit the North Quabbin Health Collaborative website to download materials and see additional information at: <https://www.northquabbinhc.org/>

Don't forget to send your area news and activities to [cpage@townoforange.org](mailto:cpage@townoforange.org) to be included in the next newsletter.

# Calendar of Events

**WARWICK** Community School - Saturday, February 28th 2026, 1-4PM

Block Printing on Textiles with Kady Woods - Kady Woods is an artist and educator based in Warwick. She found her artistic focus in block printing, as she is drawn to the way it transforms ordinary materials into something new on paper and clothing. This workshop introduces participants to the basic techniques of block printing, including designing, carving, and printing their own original images. Beginner-friendly and everything provided! Participants will take home their carved blocks and everything they printed on. \$15/person supply fee.

**NEW SALEM** Art and music event March 14

You're invited! Celebrate the unveiling of a portrait by Ami Fagin honoring acclaimed pipa artist Minqi Wang, followed by a live performance by Minqi. Mary George of Nuneo Entertainment writes, "Minqi's music bridges worlds -- ancient strings, modern beats, and a rare depth of feeling." A light brunch will be served at the event, March 14 at the New Salem Public Library, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Join us for an inspiring hour of art, music, and community.

**WENDELL** Library Saturday March 28 1-4 p.m. Silk Magic Colors & Flowers: Silk painting Workshop with Lidia of SimpleArtForms: Explore your creative side and experiment with colors without fear of making a mistake. Come join this easy, magical, and relaxing adventure into the world of freedom and creativity, after which you will get a masterpiece created by your own hands. During this master class, you will tap into your creativity and grow your unique flower. Funded by a grant from the Wendell Cultural Council. 12 spots available, please register.

**NEW SALEM** Old Home Day September 12 is looking to be better than ever this year. Music! Food cooked by firefighters! Crafts! A town-wide tag sale on the Common -- declutter your house or find a treasure! Win a cash prize for your excellent cake, or maybe even better, win a cake! March in a parade, play minigolf, volleyball, or kickball, take a tree tour. The focus this year is history -- learn about New Salem at the time of the Declaration of Independence, and learn about the people who lived here a thousand years ago. You can help organize any of these events -- sign up at [Jeanneclayton27@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanneclayton27@gmail.com) -- but whatever you do, open up your calendar now to September and mark Old Home Day September 12.

# Community Food Access Resource List

Resource Name	Location	Days/Times	Contact
CommunityAction Center for Self Reliance Food Pantry	156 Main Street, Greenfield	Monday, Thursday, Friday: 11am-4pm (closed between 1-1:30pm each of these days), Tuesday: 11am-6pm (closed between 1-1:30pm), Closed on Wednesdays	413-773-5029
Good Neighbor Food Pantry	Old Town HallWendell, 6 Center St, Wendell	Sundays 11am-noon, Last Name A-K 1st and 3rd Sunday, Last Name L-Z 2nd and 4th Sunday	978-544-3775
The Salvation Army	107 Ridge Ave, Athol	Tuesday9am-noon, Everyother Tuesday delivery	978-249-8111
The Salvation Army	72 Chapman St, Greenfield	Monday9am-11am, Closed on Holidays	413-773-3154
Our LadyImmaculate Church	192 SchoolSt, Athol	Tuesdays 10am-1:30pm	978-249-6790
Greenfield Pop Pantry	2nd Congregation Church, 16 Court Sq, Greenfield	Tuesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm	413-774-4355
CommunityFood Pantryat AtholHigh School	2363 Main St, Athol(Located in the back of AHS)	Wednesdays, Summer hours 11am-1pm, Schoolyear hours 3pm-5pm	978-249-2435 ext 314
AtholSenior Center	82 Freedom St, Athol	Wednesdays 11am-11:45am	978-249-8986
Orange Council on Aging	St Mary's, 20 West Myrtle St, Orange	Wednesdays 10am-11am	978-544-3481
Turners Falls Mobile Food Bank	62 5th St, Turners Falls	3rd Wednesday of Month 1:30pm-2:30pm	413-419-0079
Orange Food Pantry	81 East River St, Orange	Thursdays 10am-3pm (If it's a holiday then it will be open on Wednesday. Deliveries on Fridayfor Athol/Orange)	978-544-2149 (call for deliveries)
St Vincent De Paul/St Mary's Food Pantry	19 Congress St, Orange	Open by appointment only	978-544-6814
Marion's Food Pantry	On the Royalston Common	Open by appointment only	978-895-7887
The Salvation Army	72 Chapman St, Greenfield	Monday-Friday8:30am-9:30am (Breakfast) 11am-12:30pm (Lunch)	413-773-3154
Our Lady of Peace Church	90 7th St, Turners Falls	Mondays 4pm-5:30pm (Distributing hot meals and gorcerybags to go from the sidewalk in front of the church)	413-863-2585
The Salvation Army	107 Ridge Ave, Athol	Tuesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm (Dine in/Delivery)	978-249-8111
Second Congregational Church	16 Court Square, Greenfield	Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4:45pm-5:45pm, hot meals to go Tuesdays and Wednesdays on the side driveway	413-774-4355
AtholSenior Center	82 Freedom St, Athol	Tuesdays and Wednesdays at noon (Must RSVP the daybefore). For individuals 60 and over and/or disabled. Senior Dining at Lynn's Luncheonette. Enjoylunch with others. A \$3.50 donation is welcome	978-249-8986 Reserve your mealby9am the daybefore you dine
St Frances Church Hall	101 Main St, Athol	Wednesdays (September-May) doors open at 5pm	978-249-7304
Orange United Methodist Church	104 S Main St, Orange	Thursdays 4:30pm-5:15pm (Distributing ready-made meals to heat up at home. We offer deliveries for meals and pantrybags by applications)	413-772-1033 <a href="https://www.fc cmp.org/comm unity-meals/orange/">https://www.fc cmp.org/comm unity-meals/orange/</a>
Trinitarian Congregational Church	147 Main St, Northfield	Fourth Thursday4:30pm (Take out meals only. You must RSVP)	413-498-5839
AtholCongregational Church	1225 Chestnut St, Athol	First Fridayof the Month, doors open at 5pm, dinner at 5:30pm (Must RSVP byTuesdayfor a meal on Friday)	978-249-6202
Meals on Wheels	AtholSenior Center & Orange Council on Aging	LifePath Inc of Greenfield provides home delivered (noontime) meals to homebound seniors, age 60 and older and/or disabled, who are not able to prepare nutritious and balanced meals for themselves.	1-800-732-4636 (call to see if eligible)

# Senior Dining Community Resource List

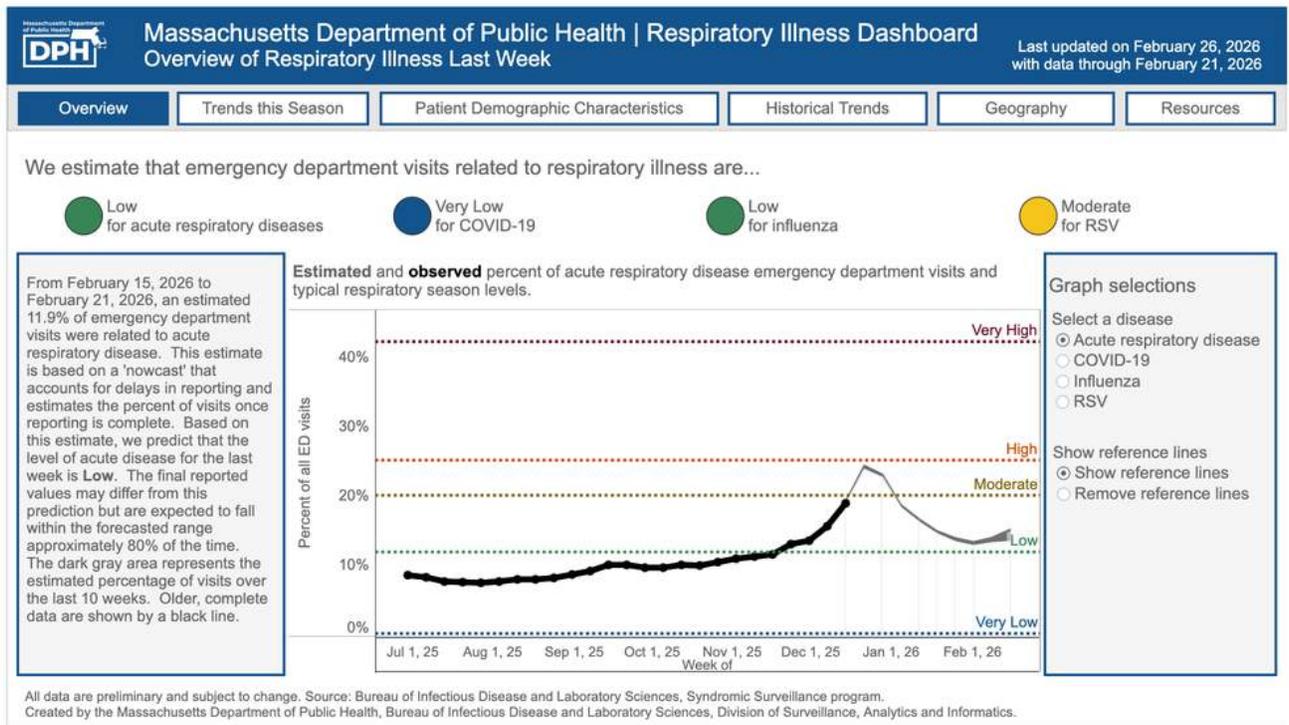
Senior Dining Center or Luncheon Club Location	Serving Days Schedule	Contact/Phone Reservations
<b>Athol Senior Center</b> 82 Freedom Street Athol, MA 01331	Tuesday & Wednesday Congregate	(978) 249-9001
<b>New Salem Luncheon Club</b> Central Congregational Church 22 South Main St. New Salem, MA 01355	2nd & 4th Friday of the month Congregate Dine-in	(978) 575-0116
<b>Petersham Luncheon Club</b> Town Hall Petersham, MA 01366	Wednesday Congregate and Grab and Go	978-821-5549
<b>Phillipston Luncheon Club</b> 1st Congregational Church The Common Phillipston, MA 01331	1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month Congregate Dine-in Closed December to March	(978) 407-9504
<b>Royalston Luncheon Club</b> Town Hall Royalston, MA 01368	Wednesday Congregate Dine-in	978-249-8957

# NQHC COVID-19 and Other Reportable Diseases

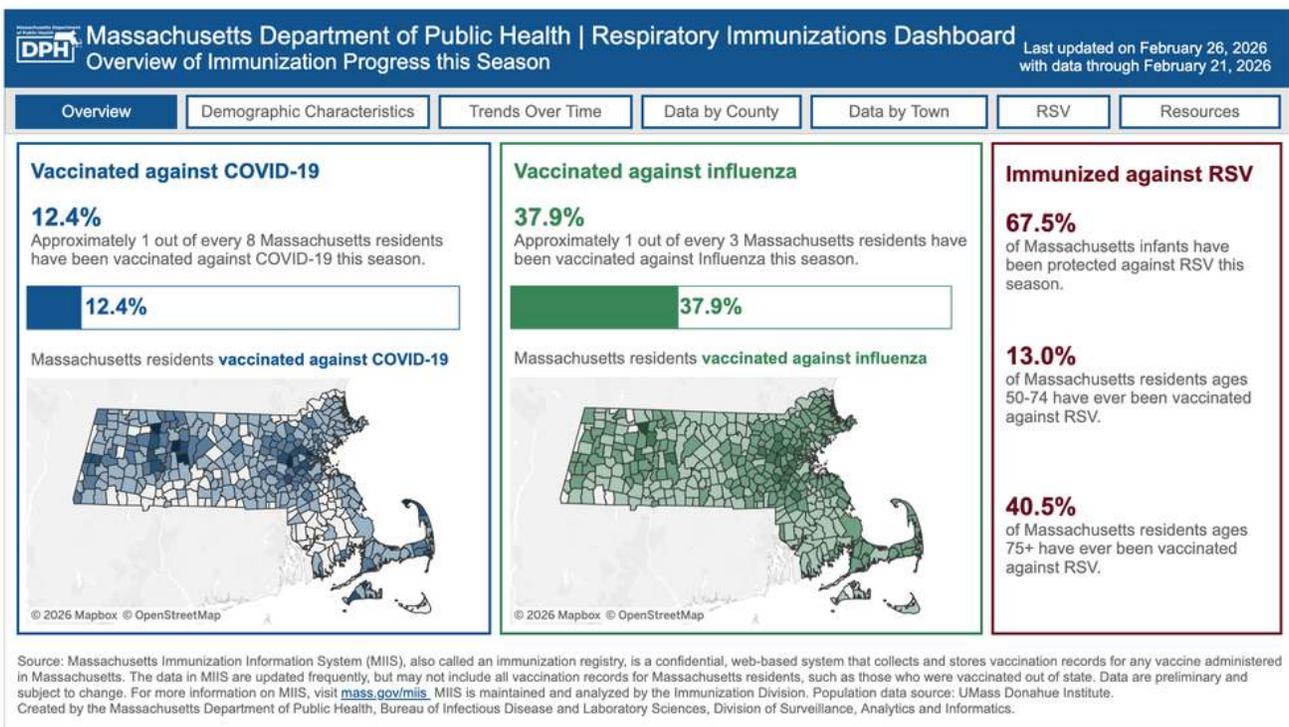
In the the one-week period of February 16th through February 22nd, 2026:

- 1 official cases of COVID-19 within the district
- 3 cases of influenza

## Respiratory Illness Reporting

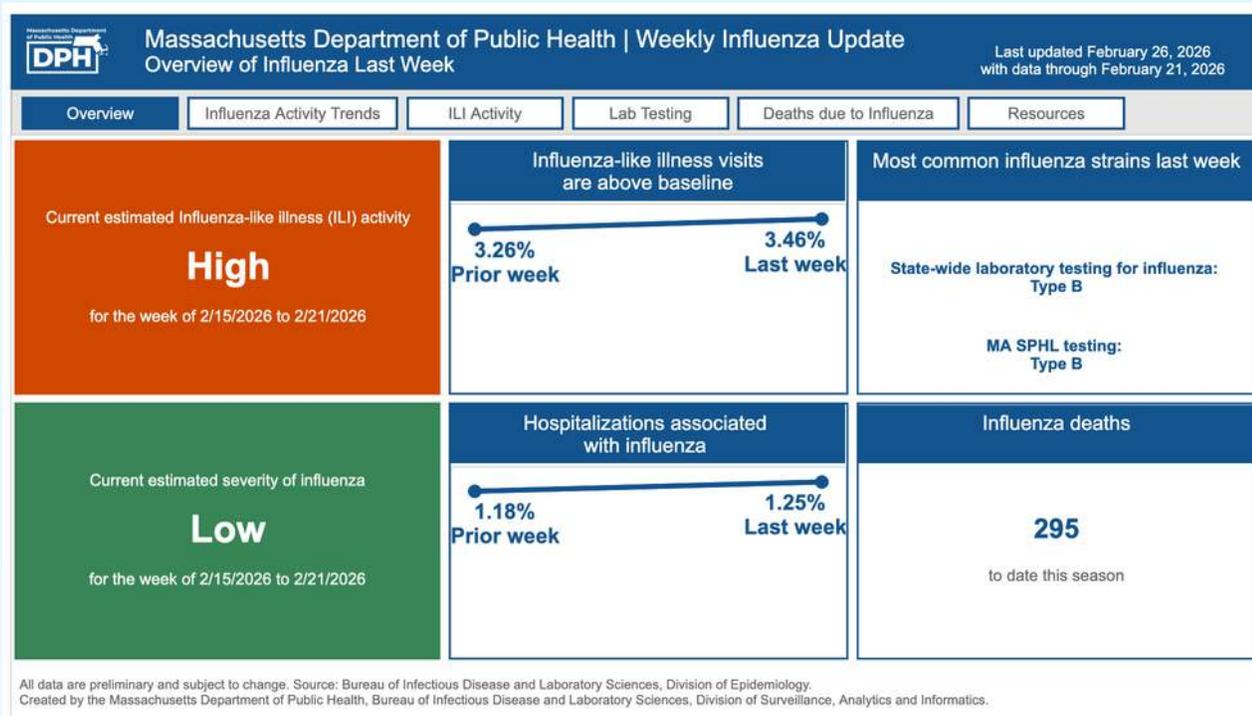


Here is the overall percentages if individuals in Massachusetts immunized against Covid-19 and Influenza

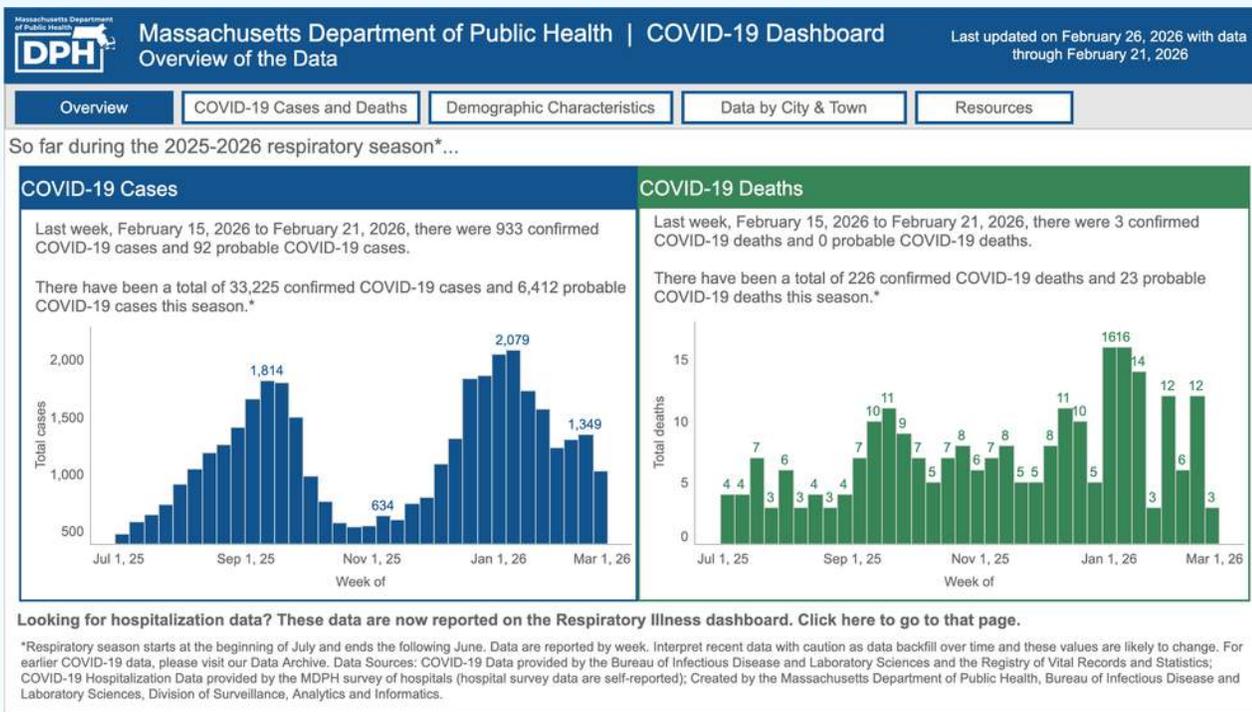


# The Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Influenza Reporting – Influenza rate is at High and Severity is at Low



COVID-19 Reporting – Number of cases are decreasing



At this point in time there have been no additional updates to the Massachusetts Covid guidelines. The latest version can be seen at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/staying-home-to-prevent-the-spread-of-respiratory-viruses>

Report created by Christy Page: [cpage@townoforange.org](mailto:cpage@townoforange.org)  
Next newsletter will be Friday March 6th, 2026



# NQHC Nurse Update



## Post Partum Support

Our **FREE** Postpartum Visiting Program provides personalized care, whether you are adjusting to a new baby, coping with infant loss, or in recovery from substance use. **We connect you with local resources for ongoing support.**

### What We Provide

- Prenatal and postpartum support and visits
- Education on health, safety, and wellness for you and your baby.
- Demonstrations and guidance from professionals.
- A free gift bag with essentials, educational resources, and helpful freebies.

## Harm Reduction

### Services/Program Includes:

- Naloxone and Overdose Response Trainings
- Free Naloxone and Fentanyl Test strip kits
- Syringe Exchange
- Connection to resources for treatment options and recovery

## Upcoming events:

- 3/11/26** - Tea and Topics at New Salem Library- Focusing on Fall Safety and Recovery
- 3/17/26** - Blood Pressure Clinic Warwick Town Hall at Senior Lunch
- 4/1/26** - Tea and Topics at New Salem Library

## Coming Soon:

We are going to be offering the following AHA CPR trainings. Dates will be scheduled with interest.

**BLS** \$80 cost

**BLS Renewal** \$70 cost

**Heartcode:** combines online eLearning with a required in-person, hands-on skills session (so we do the skills review and practice in person for certification)

**Heartsaver with Narcan Training** \$90 cost

**CALL US:** 413-500-6414

**EMAIL:** SPIRAGIS@TOWNOFORANGE.ORG

**VISIT US AT:** [HTTPS://WWW.NORTHQUABBINHC.ORG/NQHCPVP](https://www.northquabbinhc.org/nqhcpvp)



SERVING ORANGE, NEW SALEM, WENDELL, WARWICK, & PETERSHAM

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



# MEET YOUR COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORKER

**DURING DROP-IN HOURS AT:**

**WHEELER MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY, ORANGE**

**NEW SALEM PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

**EVERY SECOND TUESDAY  
OF THE MONTH FROM  
2:30-4:30PM**

**EVERY FOURTH TUESDAY  
OF THE MONTH FROM  
3:00-5:00PM**

## **DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AROUND ACCESSING HELP?**

NORTH QUABBIN HEALTH COLLABORATIVE'S SOCIAL WORKER CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS AND CONNECT YOU TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES & BENEFITS TO MEET YOUR NEEDS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- FOOD
- HOUSING & HOME REPAIR
- TRANSPORTATION
- HEALTHCARE & MENTAL HEALTH
- SUPPORT FOR ELDERS OR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
- SUPPORT GROUPS
- & MUCH MORE

FREE &  
CONFIDENTIAL  
SUPPORT

**RACHEL PURINTON, MSW**

413-500-6414

[RPURINTON@TOWNOFORANGE.ORG](mailto:RPURINTON@TOWNOFORANGE.ORG)

Hearts & Threads –  
Prom Dress Drive

We're excited to launch Hearts & Threads, a community initiative supporting students in Orange, New Salem, Petersham, Wendell and Warwick by providing prom dresses and accessories to those who may not otherwise be able to afford them.

**Let's come together as a community to make prom night magical for every student**

**Questions? Contact: Tracy @786-269-4801**

Hearts & Threads is proudly collaborating with the Town of Orange and the North Quabbin Health Collaborative to help make this initiative possible



# Sharps Container Exchange Program



The North Quabbin Health Collaborative accepts sealed sharps containers for exchange at 131 W Main St Suite 211, Orange, MA 01364 (the OIC building)

You may receive a new sharps container, free of charge



**Please call 413-500-6414  
to make an appointment**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



# CAMP WIYAKA

## DAY CAMP

Entering Grade 1 through age 14

100 Sandy Pond Rd, Richmond, NH

Sports, Swimming, Boating, Arts & Crafts

Register before  
March 1st and  
receive a FREE  
Camp T-shirt!

Free transportation  
available to and from  
Athol  
7:30a-4:30pm

Early Bird Discount: Register before  
March 1<sup>st</sup> and receive \$20 off/week

**Call the Athol YMCA at  
978-249-3305 to register!**

June 29<sup>th</sup> - July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
July 6<sup>th</sup> - July 10<sup>th</sup>  
July 13<sup>th</sup> - July 17<sup>th</sup>  
July 20<sup>th</sup> - July 24<sup>th</sup>  
July 27<sup>th</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup>

Free meals and  
snacks provided

Y Members \$280  
Community Members \$310  
per week

Questions?  
[ekimball@ymcaathol.org](mailto:ekimball@ymcaathol.org)





# ATHOL YMCA CAMP SELAH

IN ORANGE, MA

FUN & CREATIVE OUTDOOR  
ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS &  
GIRLS

AGE: ENTERING GRADES 1-6



Weekly:  
\$250  
Y Member

Weekly:  
\$290  
Community  
Member

## Activities

- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Sports & games
- ✓ Drawing & painting
- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Nature hikes

Camp Selah runs for 8 weeks  
Monday-Friday  
starting June 29<sup>th</sup> through  
August 21st  
Camp Hours: 7:30am-5pm



More Information 978-249-3305 [though@ymcaathol.org](mailto:though@ymcaathol.org)

