



North Quabbin Health Collaborative

Public Health Newsletter
COVERING: August 17th – August 23rd, 2026
PUBLISHED August 28, 2026



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Upcoming Events:

Next Collaborative Meeting

Monday September 28th at 6pm
Location: OIC, 131 West Main St, Orange

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UPDATES:

OLD HOME DAYS

WARWICK August 22nd and 23rd Old Home Days - This event was so much fun! From the food, to the music, to the vendors set up. What a joy! Already looking forward to next year.

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 -- but whatever you do, open up your calendar now to September and mark Old Home Day September 12.



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 to be included in the next newsletter.

Calendar of Events

NEW SALEM Library When Good Feet Meet Bad Shoes Saturday, August 29 (save the date), 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nan Mead, certified footcare nurse, will share information about foot anatomy, foot care, and tips for choosing healthy footwear.

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Saturday, September 19 Hazardous waste collection day

Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2026 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 19, at Greenfield Community College and the Orange Transfer Station. Residents and businesses must register by September 9. Online registration and mail-in registration forms at the transfer station will be available in mid-August and in local newspapers. An appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. This event provides households with a free opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats are not accepted at this collection. However, these items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should not be put in trash or recycling. Bring them to the transfer station and hand them to the attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted free of charge at Lowe's stores. For more information, including a complete list of what items are accepted, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the district at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438.

DPH Issues Public Health Advisory on Recalled Outshine Fruit Bars

August 21, 2026

Division of Food Protection

Read the full advisory on Mass.gov: [DPH Issues Public Health Advisory on Recalled Outshine Fruit Bars](#).

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is advising consumers and retailers about a voluntary recall of select Outshine Fruit Bars because they may contain glass. The recalled products were distributed to retailers nationwide and may have been sold in Massachusetts.

Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Inc. issued the recall after receiving consumer reports of glass in the product. No illnesses or injuries associated with the recalled products have been reported as of August 18, 2026.

Recalled products

Consumers should check their freezers for recalled Outshine Fruit Bars. The recall includes specific batches of the following products:

- Outshine Strawberry Fruit Bars, six-count package of 2.5-ounce bars
- UPC: 041548610047
- Outshine Grape Fruit Bars, six-count package of 2.5-ounce bars
- UPC: 041548244044
- Outshine Watermelon Fruit Bars, six-count package of 2.5-ounce bars
- UPC: 041548413624
- Outshine Black Cherry Fruit Bars, six-count package of 2.5-ounce bars
- UPC: 041548000121
- Outshine Tangerine Fruit Bars, six-count package of 2.5-ounce bars
- UPC: 041548612041
- Outshine Variety Pack Fruit Bars, 24-count package of 2.5-ounce bars
- UPC: 041548816678

The UPC, batch code, and best-before date are printed on the bottom of the package.

Consumers should compare all three pieces of information with the list in [the FDA recall announcement](#). A matching flavor or package size alone does not necessarily mean that the product is recalled.

No other Outshine products or varieties are included in the recall. Recalled products should not be eaten, sold, served, or distributed.

State Public Health Officials Announce Season's Second Human Case of West Nile Virus in Massachusetts

WNV risk levels elevated to high in seven communities

BOSTON (August 24, 2026) – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced the second human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in Massachusetts this year in a man in his 60s who was exposed in Middlesex County.

This follows last week's [announcement](#) of the first confirmed WNV infection in a person this season who was also exposed in Middlesex County. As a result of these cases, the locations of exposure, and cumulative findings of WNV in mosquito samples, the risk for WNV has been elevated to high in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, Newton, Somerville, and Watertown. "We are currently in peak season for WNV in mosquitoes, and the risk for many across Massachusetts is high," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "Those who are older or have compromised immune systems are especially at risk. I want to remind everyone to continue to use repellent, cover up with clothing when the weather permits, consider moving indoors during dusk to dawn hours when mosquitoes are biting, and make sure to empty anything that may be collecting water outside your home."

The first WNV-positive mosquitoes in the state this season were announced on June 16. So far, there have been 184 WNV-positive mosquito samples detected this year from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. There have been no human or animal cases of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) infection reported so far this year.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

Avoid mosquito bites

Apply insect repellent when outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N,N-Diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-proof your home

Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the [Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page](#), which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

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 Councilon 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 Wednesdayof Month 1:30pm-2:30pm	413-419-0079
Orange Food Pantry	81 East River St, Orange	Thursdays 10am-3pm (If it's a holidaythen 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 Ladyof 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 https://www.fc cmp.org/comm unity-meals/orange/
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 mealon Friday)	978-249-6202
Meals on Wheels	AtholSenior Center & Orange Councilon 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

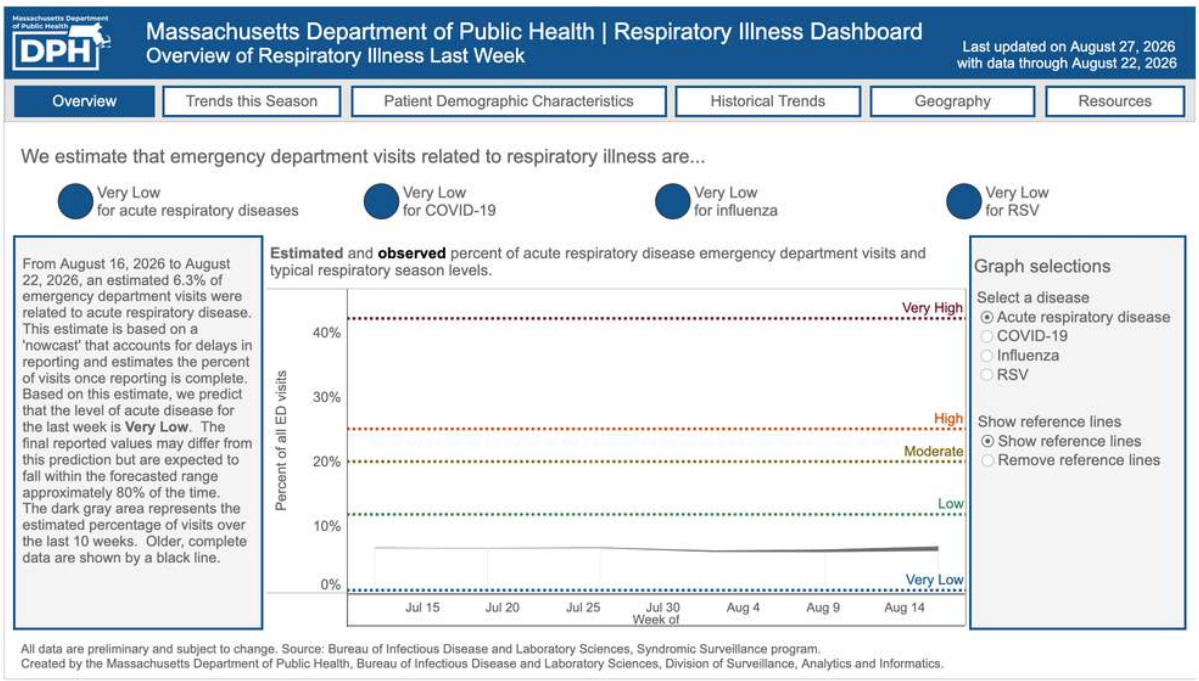
Location	Schedule	Contact
Athol Senior Center 82 Freedom St Athol, MA 01331	Tuesday and Wednesday Congregate	(978) 249-9001
New Salem Luncheon Club Central Congregational Church 22 South Main St New Salem, MA 01355	2 nd & 4 th Friday of the month Congregate Dine-in	(413) 687-8089
Petersham Luncheon Club Town Hall Petersham, MA 01366	Wednesday Congregate <i>and</i> Grab and Go	(978) 821-5549
Phillipston Luncheon Club 1 st Congregational Church The Common Phillipston, MA 01331	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of the month Congregate Dine-in Closed December to March	(978) 407-9504
Royalston Luncheon Club Town Hall Royalston, MA 01368	Wednesday Congregate Dine-in	(978) 249-8957

NQHC COVID-19 and Other Reportable Diseases

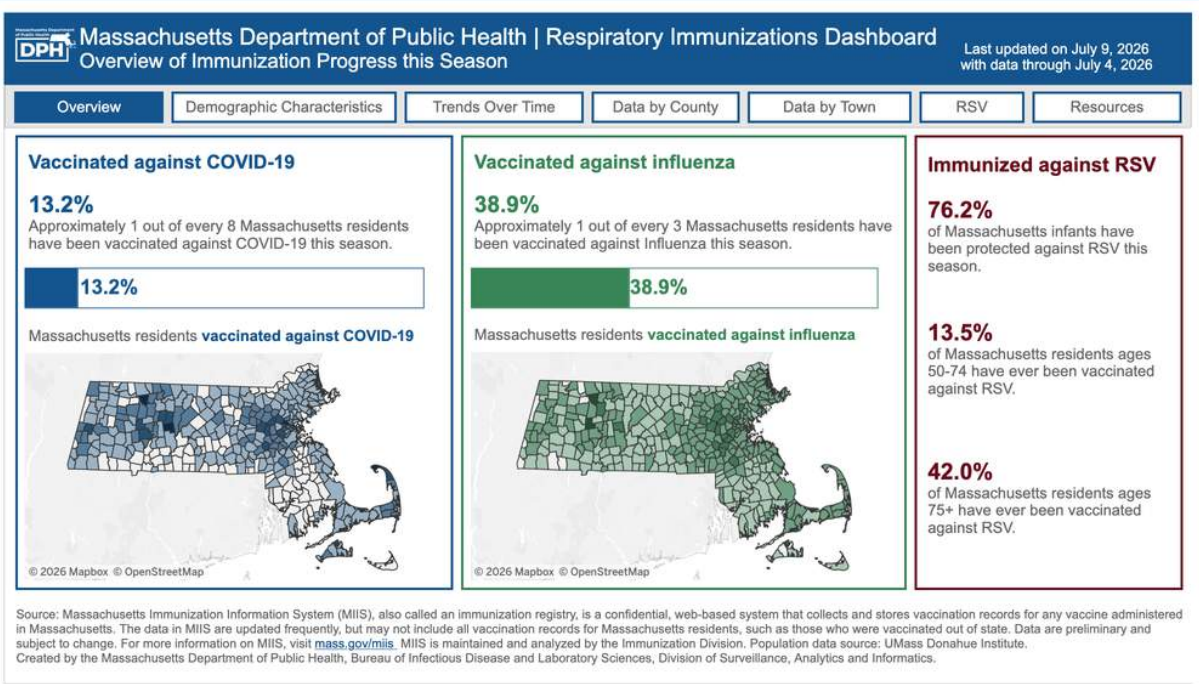
In the the one-week period of August 17th through August 23rd, 2026:

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

Respiratory Illness Reporting

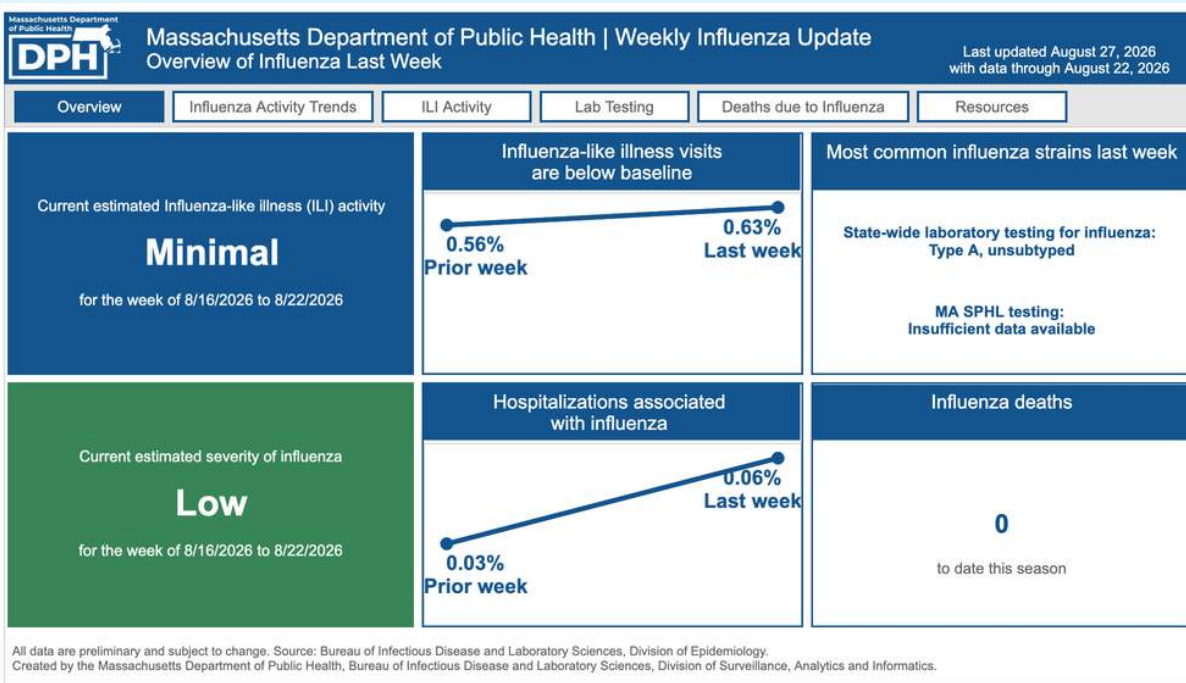


Here is the overall percentages if individuals in Massachusetts immunized against Covid-19 and Influenza

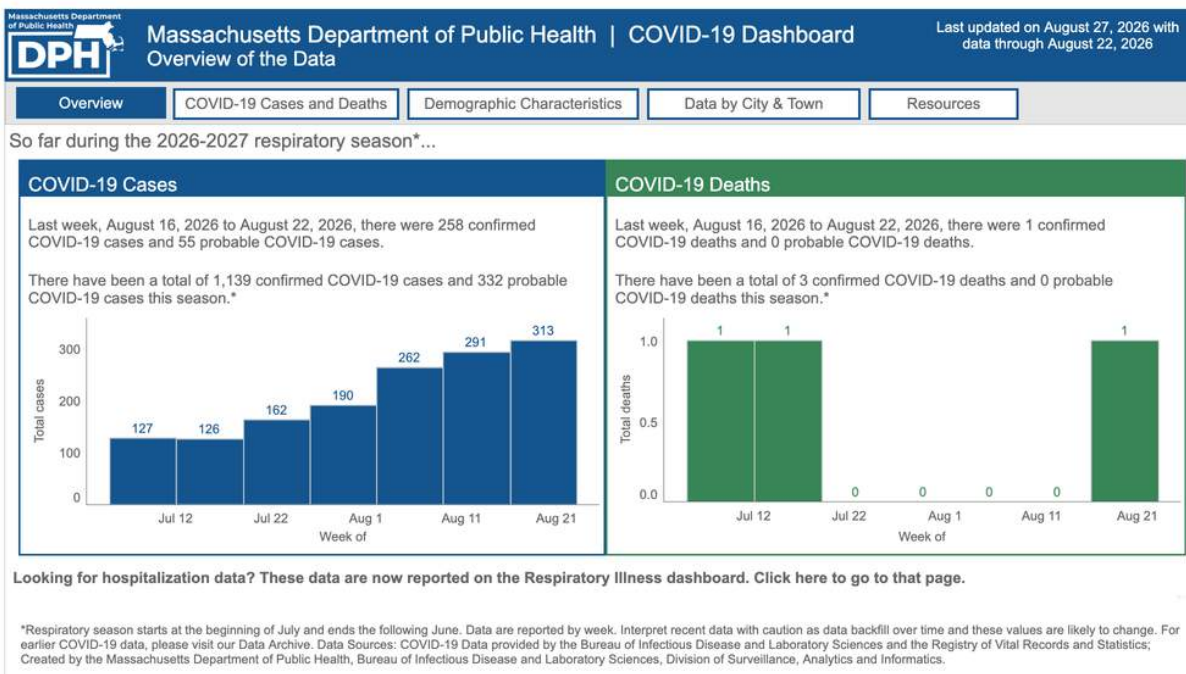


The Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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



COVID-19 Reporting – Number of cases is very low



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
Next newsletter will be Friday September 5, 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

Public Health Nurse DropIn:

September 9th 2:30-4:30
September 23rd 2:30-4:30
October 7th 2:30-4:30
October 21 2:30-4:30
November 4 2:30-4:30
November 18 2:30-4:30
Dec 2 2:30-4:30
Dec 16th 2:30-4:30

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)



North Quabbin Health Collaborative



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Services:

- Preventative health screenings and blood pressure checks
- Individualized help managing chronic health conditions & tools for medication self-management
- Sharps disposal and container exchange
- Social worker can answer questions and connect you to available community resources including but not limited to: food security, housing/home repair, transportation, employment, healthcare/mental healthcare, substance use/harm reduction, support for families caring for children or elders, & more

Public Health Nurse & Social Worker Drop In Hours

Warwick Town Hall Dates:

September 15th 11:30 am - 1pm
October 13th 11:30 am - 1pm
November 10th 11:30 am - 1pm
December 8th 11:30am - 1pm

Petersham Town Hall Dates:

September 14th 3 pm - 5pm
October 26th 3pm - 5pm
November 23rd 3pm- 5pm
December 21st 3pm - 5pm

Orange Food Pantry Dates:

September 24th 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
October 22nd 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
November 19th 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Public Health Nurse Only Drop In Hours

New Salem Public Library Dates:

September 18th 1pm - 2pm
October 16th 1pm - 2pm
November 20th 1pm - 2pm
December 18th 1pm - 2pm

Wendell Town Hall Dates:

September 1st 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
October 13th 2:00pm - 3:00 pm
November 10th 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
December 8th 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Contacts:

Samantha Piragis, RN

Call or Text : 978-985-9709

spiragis@townoforange.org

Rachel Purinton, MSW

978-804-3345

rpurinton@townoforange.org





Motherhood & More

Supporting women through pregnancy, postpartum, and the first two years of motherhood. Find comfort. Find community. Light snacks provided. Children under 2 welcome to attend.

5:30 - 6:30 pm
Sept. 15th
Oct. 13th
Nov. 10th
Dec. 8th

All groups held at the
Orange Innovation
Center in suite 211
Except Nov. 10th at
Swift River School

_____ Call or text to register: _____

978-985-9709



SENIOR DINING CLUB

Good Food • Good Friends • Good Conversation

**Join us for lunch and fellowship at
Mahar Regional School Cafeteria!**

Whether you're looking to enjoy a delicious meal, reconnect with friends,
or meet someone new, the Senior Dining Club offers a warm
and welcoming place to gather.



When

**Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Thursdays
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**



Where

**Mahar Regional School Cafeteria
507 South Main Street
Grange, MA**

WHAT TO EXPECT



Fresh, nutritious main meals
prepared just for you with care
and great taste!

Good food to enjoy and nourish.



Prefer something different?
Alternative meals are available
for purchase. *You have options!*



Friendly conversation
in a welcoming
environment



A comfortable space to relax,
socialize, and enjoy lunch together

Starting

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026!

We can't wait to see you there!



QUESTIONS?

Please contact:

**Orange Council on Aging
☎ 978-544-3481**



Everyone is Welcome!

Come for the meal... Stay for the friendships!



**MAHAR
REGIONAL SCHOOL**



LifePath
options for independence

Proudly partnering to support our senior community!



Children's Advocacy Center
of Franklin County & North Quabbin
Help, Hope, and Healing
www.cacfranklinnq.org Phone: 413-475-3401

Lunch and Learn Event

"Safe Kids Thrive"

Inviting schools and youth serving organizations to a
lunch and learn event - at no cost.

Join Laura Banks, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
Coordinator, to learn how to create a safer space for
children and teens using a child safety framework.



Friday, September 18th, 2026



11:00 am - 2:00 pm



Greenfield Public Library, 412 Main Street
Community Meeting Room



Complimentary lunch will be provided



For questions, contact Laura Banks

413-772-9069, LBanks@CACFranklinNQ.org





Build safer programs. Strengthen prevention.

Help youth thrive.

At the lunch and learn event
you will:

- * Learn key components of effective child sexual abuse prevention and how to implement them.
- * Take the materials and work through the framework independently, *or*
- * If interested, sign up for free direct support to help your school or organization implement the framework, complete with a comprehensive assessment and follow-on support.



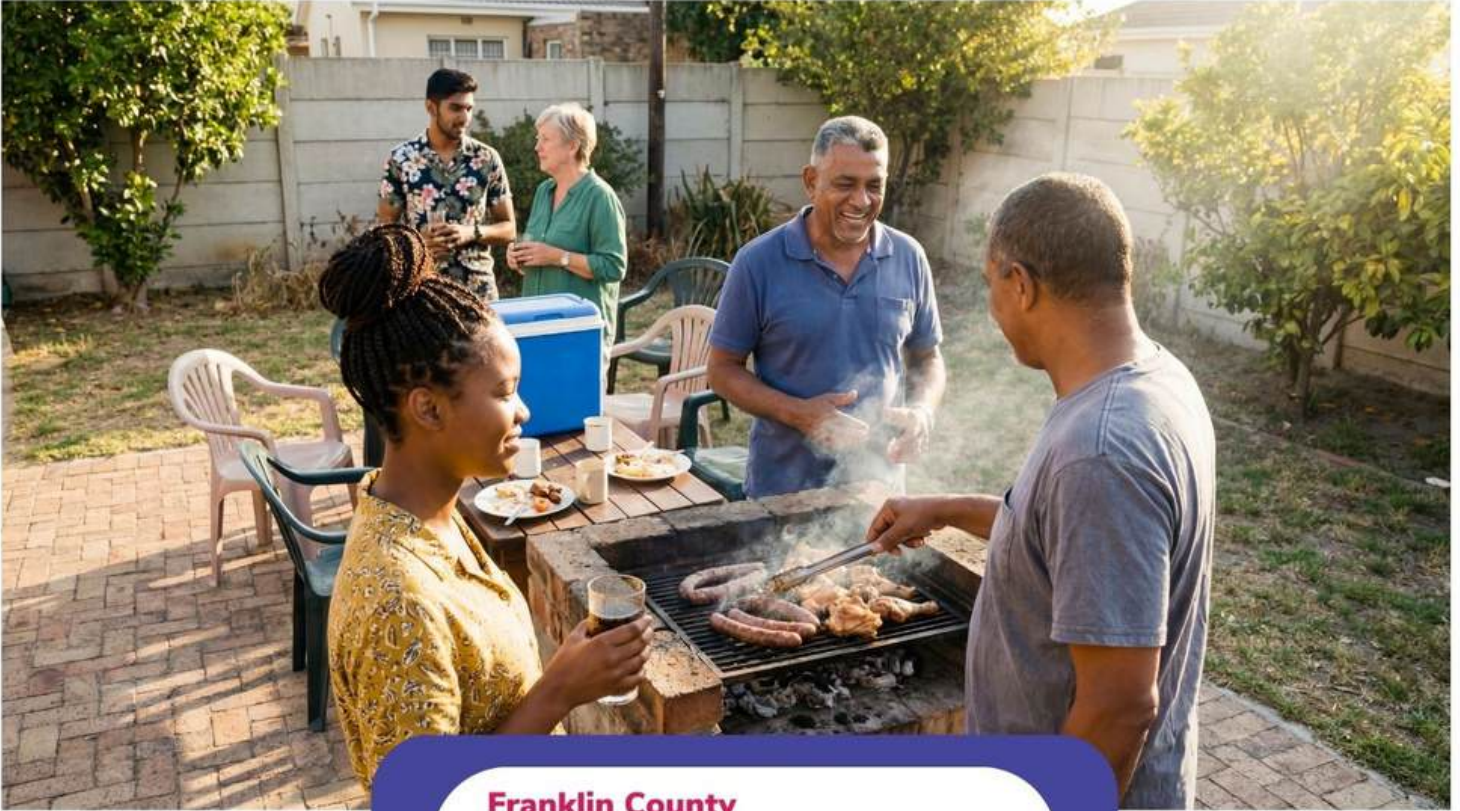
Register with this link by 09/04:

bit.ly/4fbqb4e

or by scanning the QR Code:



It Starts With Hello.



Franklin County
& North Quabbin

good
neighbor
DAY



September 25 - 27, 2026

**Join in to meet new friends, get to know neighbors,
and strengthen the social bonds in our community.**

Interested in making connections between people who live, work,
or play in your community? We can help! Scan the QR code or
visit bit.ly/GND-CHIP for a Good Neighbor Day Toolkit and lots of
other helpful materials for getting to know your neighbors.



**Franklin Regional
Council of Governments**





Let's create the future we want

Share your experience today to help
shape your community's tomorrow.

Take the survey



Take the Community Health Equity Survey
now at mass.gov/HealthSurvey



This survey is part of the Community Health
Equity Initiative of the Massachusetts
Department of Public Health

**Decisions are made every day
across Massachusetts about
community needs, priorities,
and solutions. Help influence
the decisions that make a
difference to your community!**

The Community Health Equity Survey is an
opportunity to share your experience and what
matters to you. Learnings from the survey are
used by community organizations and
government to advocate for the community, get
funding, and offer programs that people want.

The survey is easy to take at
mass.gov/HealthSurvey, or you can have
someone help you take it. It's available in 11
languages and does not ask for your name or
other personal information.

**Take the survey today and help
shape your community's tomorrow.**

Take the survey



Let's Talk
TICKS

Join our local Public Health Nurse for a free presentation about ticks, tickborne illnesses and tick bite prevention.



September 29, 2026

7:00 pm

**Warwick Free Public Library
4 Hotel Rd. Warwick, MA**



**We will be offering free Permethrin spraying to hiking/outdoor boots and shoes at these events
(Please bring a spare pair to wear)**





ATTENTION: If you are between the ages of 19-64, a new federal law may impact your MassHealth

Starting January 1, 2027, the federal government is making changes to MassHealth

TO KEEP MASSHEALTH COVERAGE, YOU MAY NEED TO:

- work, attend school, or volunteer
- renew your coverage every 6 months

YOU MAY BE EXEMPT IF YOU ARE:

- pregnant
- a parent of a child 13 years or younger
- living with a disability or certain health conditions
- other exemptions may apply

Reach out for local support:



Visit: Mass.gov/MassHealthMemberChanges



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)

Every Wednesday from 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment

You may receive a new sharps container, free of charge



Please call 413-500-6414 to make an appointment



What Builds or Breaks Trust?

Your Insights can Strengthen
Public Health Practice.

Adults (18+) across **Western Massachusetts**, **not currently working in the health field**, are invited to join a one-on-one interview about experiences of trust in public health authorities and ways to strengthen it locally.

- Interviews take 60 minutes.
- All responses are confidential.
- Receive \$75 for your time.



Interested? Fill out our quick interest form using the QR Code!

UMassAmherst

School of Public Health
& Health Sciences
Health Promotion and Policy



If you have any questions, please contact: skloft@umass.edu