

# Support FY19 Funding for Environmental Public Health Services



**The Bureau of Environmental Public Health Services (BEH) protects all residents in Massachusetts from hazardous exposures and environmentally induced illness.** BEH programs ensure that residents can rely on a safe food and water supply, indoor air quality in public buildings that is free from harmful contaminants, protection from harmful radiation exposure, and prevention and screening for childhood lead poisoning.

The Bureau of Environmental Health is chronically underfunded. Funding BEH at **\$3,755,666** is a modest increase that will enable BEH to increase its capacity to carry out responsibilities that protect every resident of and visitor to Massachusetts by hiring three additional inspectors.

**The Bureau of Environmental Health ensures that all Massachusetts residents can depend on:**

- **A safe food supply and protection from foodborne illness**—BEH investigates foodborne illness outbreaks, inspects food-manufacturing establishments, and enforces regulations to protect the food supply. BEH also works to monitor and prevent contamination in local shellfish beds to protect the health of the public and to minimize adverse impacts on local businesses.
- **Protection from harmful radiation exposure**—BEH regulates radioactive materials by licensing, registering and inspecting sources of radiation in medical settings and conducting environmental monitoring around the three nuclear power plants that could affect Massachusetts residents.
- **Indoor air quality in public buildings such as schools, that is safe and free from harmful contaminants**—BEH evaluates exposures to a wide range of contaminants including mercury spills in schools and “sick buildings”, for example mold exposure in public schools and public buildings.
- **Screening, diagnosis, and treatment for childhood lead poisoning**—BEH conducts prevention, screening, and diagnosis of lead poisoning and connects lead poisoned children to treatment.

The services provided by the Bureau of Environmental support a thriving state economy as well as protect the health of all residents and visitors to the Commonwealth.

In addition to the services listed above, BEH also investigates possible clusters of illness, including suspected cancer clusters; protects against preventable injury and premature death by enforcing the state sanitary code, including inspection of recreational camps for children and public swimming pools; and conducts Health Impact Assessments including evaluating health effects associated with climate change.

For more information, contact Maddie Ribble: [mribble@mapublichealth.org](mailto:mribble@mapublichealth.org), 617-697-2107, or Melanie O’Malley: [momalley@mapublichealth.org](mailto:momalley@mapublichealth.org), 617-949-6688.