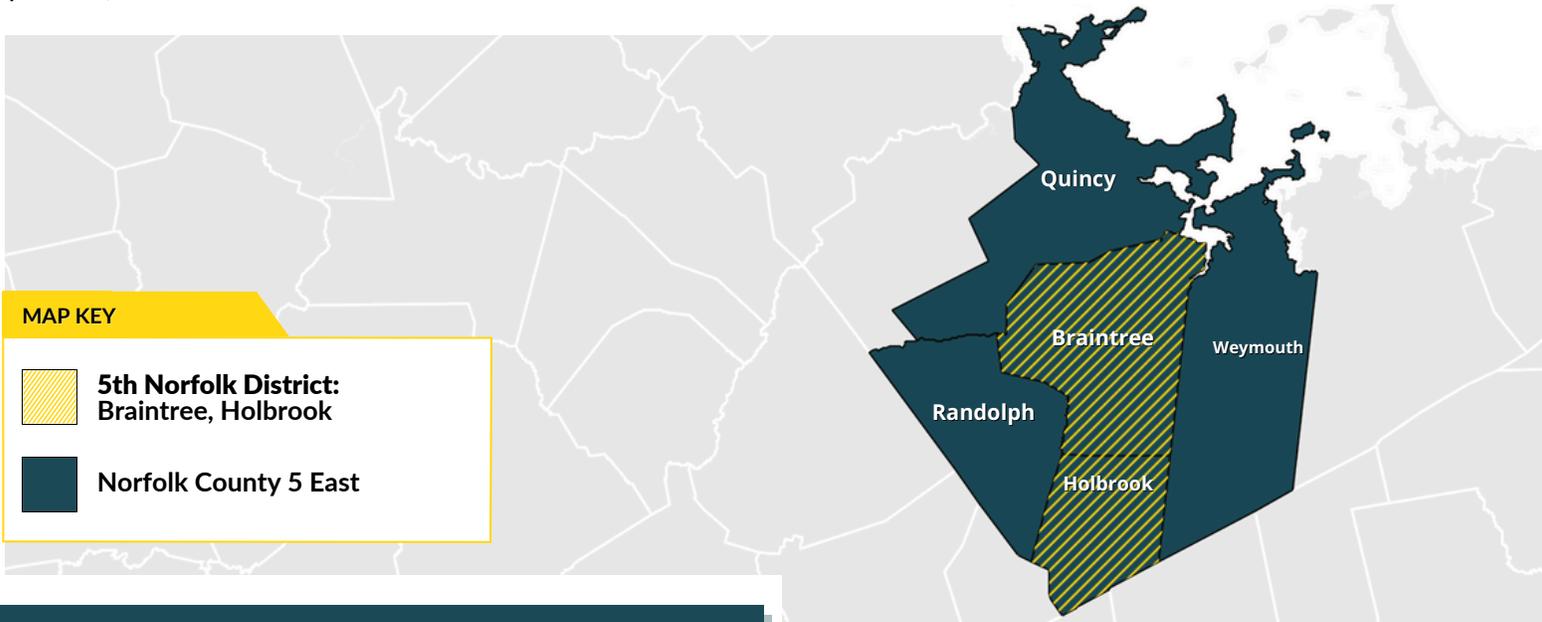


KEEPING MASSACHUSETTS HEALTHY & SAFE

The Public Health Excellence (PHE) grant program, funded through line-item 4512-2022, provides cities and towns with the resources they need to hire staff and procure goods and services to serve not a single community but a whole region. This gives communities access to specialized staffing and resources that they likely could not support on their own, lightening the loads of locally focused staff. Additionally, this collaborative approach allows for more equitable and effective responses to public health crises like devastating weather events fueled by climate change, the emergency shelter crisis, the opioid epidemic, and infectious disease outbreaks.



NORFOLK COUNTY 5 EAST (NC5 EAST)

With PHE grant funding, NC5 East was able to:



Expand staffing to include a Shared Services Coordinator and multiple Health Inspectors to conduct State Sanitary Code inspections for housing complaints, seasonal swimming pool inspections, food service inspections, and nuisance complaints.



Convene municipalities from Emergency Preparedness Region 4AB and 5C through the NC5East planning process, which prompted Public Health managers from these neighboring municipalities to meet regularly, collaborate, and share information across regions for the first time.



Regularly meet with Health Officers and Town staff to facilitate troubleshooting, information sharing, and the development and exchange of best practices.



Support the continuing education and credentialing of NC5 East staff. Currently, five Health Officers are Serve Safe Certified and have obtained the Certified Pool Operator (CPO) Certificate. One has also obtained the Lead Paint Evaluator Certification and attended the Soil Evaluator class.

Founded in

2023

Participating Municipalities

5

Population Served

244.6 K

*2020 population, census data

IT'S TIME FOR MASSACHUSETTS TO CREATE A 21ST-CENTURY LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM THAT CAN MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY – AND TOMORROW.

SAPHE 2.0 builds on a body of work undertaken by the executive branch, the legislature, municipal leaders, public health officials, and fiscal policy experts. This bill implements the unanimous recommendations of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health, as well as a key recommendation of the Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management's report. SAPHE 2.0 also serves as the roadmap for the legislature's \$200M ARPA investment in local and regional public health and provides the framework to realize an equitable and efficient local public health system that ensures strong public health protections for all residents, regardless of race, income, or zip code.

MASSACHUSETTS IS IN THE MIDST OF TRANSFORMING OUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM. PASSING SAPHE 2.0 IS THE NEXT STEP!

- ✓ 2019: Report and Recommendations of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health: Blueprint for Public Health Excellence
- ✓ 2020: State Action for Public Health Excellence Act (SAPHE 1.0) enacted
- ✓ 2020: Legislature creates the first ever local public health line-item in the state budget
- ✓ 2021: State invests \$200M in ARPA dollars to support local public health infrastructure
- Next up: Pass SAPHE 2.0!

“ While some cities and towns have well-funded, professionally-staffed local public health departments, some local boards of health are staffed solely by volunteers, and others have only a single part time staff member. **This is always dangerous for public health, and during the pandemic the consequences were severe.**
-Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management ”