

Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative



Bedford, Concord, Carlisle, Lincoln, Sudbury, Weston, Wayland

A Healthier Great Meadows Region, Built Together

Through Public Health Excellence (PHE) funds, the Greater Meadows Public Health Collaborative has strengthened its ability to protect residents across all seven member communities – from understanding how opioid settlement funds should be invested, to keeping recreational beaches safe, and ensuring food trucks are held accountable to safety standards.

Community Voices Shape Opioid Recovery

To ensure opioid settlement funds reach the people and programs that need them most, the Collaborative surveyed all seven member communities, asking residents about their connection to the opioid epidemic and their priorities for how funds should be spent. The results are now being shared with local stakeholders to **inform spending decisions, shape programming priorities, and educate the public on the opioid epidemic across the region.**



Keeping Recreational Beaches Safe to Swim

Harmful Algal Blooms occur when algae grow rapidly in warm water, producing toxins that can make swimmers, pets, and wildlife sick, even when the water looks clear. **Testing is the only way to know whether a beach is safe, and that work falls to local health inspectors.** The Regional Health Inspector presented her Wayland beach testing work at two national and statewide conferences, **sharing testing methods and results to help protect swimmers and advance water safety practices across the region, state, and country.**

"Shared services has been transformative for our communities. It allows us to accomplish more together than we could alone, filling workforce gaps, expanding expertise, strengthening training opportunities, and promoting the sharing of information, resources, and best practices that improve public health outcomes across the region."

Vivian Zeng, Sudbury Director of Health and Community Services

