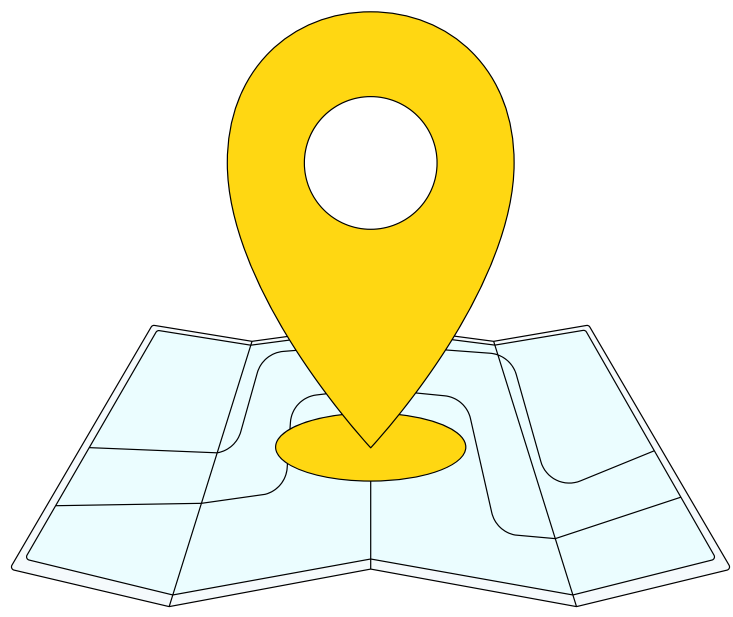


Metro Public Health Collaborative



Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Newton

Bringing Public Health Within Reach

Through Public Health Excellence (PHE) funds, the Metro Public Health Collaborative has helped families access lifesaving vaccines at no cost, strengthened how communities respond to public health threats, and built the kind of collaboration that lets four municipalities act as one when residents need them most.

No-Cost Vaccines, No Delays to School

Every child deserves to start the school year on time and with the vaccines they need. **Through the Vaccines for Children program, families can now receive all school-required vaccines at no cost at any of the four Collaborative cities or directly through their school nurse's office.** This first visit also opens the door to other resources each municipality offers. Close collaboration among the Collaborative's nurse and epidemiologist ensures continuous vaccine coverage, so no child falls through the cracks.

Responding Faster to Algal Blooms

When toxic algal blooms appeared in waters used for fishing, swimming, and wading across three of the four Collaborative communities in summer 2025, families needed answers fast – but in years past, that response could take up to a week. **By sharing resources, pooling knowledge, and establishing one point of contact with the state, the Collaborative cut that response time from days to just a few hours,** leaving every community better prepared to protect residents the next time a bloom appears.



“One of the most rewarding parts of this role is being able to ‘share the wealth’ between the communities I serve. For so long, local health departments have been siloed, with nowhere to go for answers to hard questions that directly impact residents. Now, with the Collaborative, everyone from inspectors to nurses to social workers can come to us to ask these questions. We can either pass on the preexisting knowledge and resources of one community to another, or if it is a regional obstacle, come together and work through a solution that feels much more informed and consistent than it would have been if decided alone.”

Nicole Marvez, Sr. Regional Public Health Specialist