

ON BOARD

December 10, 2025



News and Views from the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association

Next Meeting:

Saturday, December 13, 2025

NJLBHA Board Meeting

10:00 AM EST

Zoom Meeting Link: **Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting**

Current Articles and Requests for Participation

Action Alert! Please consider signing on to both requests for support.

1. Clean Water Act

The EPA is proposing changes that would narrow the definition of protected waters—reducing federal safeguards for wetlands and streams, which are essential for flood protection and water quality. Comment here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0322-0001/comment>

2. Endangered Species Act

Another proposal would weaken the Endangered Species Act by reducing protections for vulnerable species and their habitats, opening the door to increased logging, drilling, and other extraction activities. Comment here: https://www.regulations.gov/document/FWS-HQ-ES-2025-0044-0001?utm_source=ig&utm_medium=social&utm_content=link_in_bio

Please take a moment to submit your comments and help protect our lands, ecosystems, and water quality. Every voice makes a difference.

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Public Health Advocacy Alert

PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREES

MPH - DrPH - MSPH - MS

Urge the Department of Education to recognize public health degrees as professional degrees and protect access to financial aid.

Sign the Letter Now!

<https://tinyurl.com/yfh3rv6d>

**DEFEND
PUBLIC
HEALTH**



ASPPH
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS &
PROGRAMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL DEGREES

The U.S. Department of Education's proposed definition of "professional degrees" excludes MPH, DrPH, and other public health graduate degrees. This is a decision that would severely restrict access to federal financial aid and weaken the nation's public health workforce.

This is an urgent issue for all of us in public health, healthcare, higher education, and community advocacy.

Why it matters:

- State & local health departments require MPHs/DrPHs for essential roles across epidemiology, emergency preparedness, health education, and planning.
- Workforce shortages will worsen especially in rural and underserved communities.
- Students will lose access to crucial federal loan programs, including Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), forcing many out of public service.
- Public health leadership depends on these degrees, which provide the specialized, applied training needed to protect communities, prevent disease, and respond to emergencies.
- CEPH already classifies MPH and DrPH degrees as professional degrees.

We're asking Congress and the Department of Education to explicitly include MPH, DrPH, and related public health degrees within the "professional degree" category.

SIGN THE LETTER: **Show your support that Public Health is a Profession!** (URL: <https://tinyurl.com/yfh3rv6d>)

Contact your elected officials: copy/paste the message in the letter or call their offices to express your concern.

See current signatories: click through the document to see all signatories or view it here (URL: <https://tinyurl.com/yckf6b8t>)

Public health professionals are on the front lines of community protection.

Financial barriers shouldn't keep the next generation out of the workforce our country depends on!

Dec/Jan



Grandparents *For* Vaccines

A storytelling movement to protect every child's tomorrow.



An Invitation to Join the State Leader Group of Grandparents for Vaccines

Grandparents for Vaccines is mobilizing the voices of the 67 million American grandparents to change the national conversation towards concern for our grandkids. We collect our stories of what life was like before vaccines saved our lives, and call on the nation to once again save the lives of our grandchildren.

We invite people interested in making this happen to join a wonderful group of grandparents who have volunteered to bring GFV events to their local media markets. The group is called the State Leaders of GFV because each person is a leader in their state, and not the only leader in their state.

State Leaders help GFV achieve its key communication goals:

- Appear on your local TV stations to tell the GFV story and call on the nation to protect our grandchildren from needless harm
- Help organize local events where GFV appears in settings that are comfortable for you. Options include a range of settings where GFV stories and messages can be shared: PTA meetings, web meetings, and church/synagogue/mosque meetings.
- Help with various GFV activities such as our newsletter and Speaker's Bureau.

As a member of the State Leaders group, you get to choose which working group you'd like to be involved with. The expectation is that everyone gets involved with at least one working group, and not more than two.

The State Leaders of the GFV group receive much support. We have resources to help with media training, securing that spot on local TV stations, setting up events, and/or appearing in them.

The Group meets twice a month, and those meetings are essential because they feature updates on the Group's activities, as well as skill-building sessions, such as how to get on your local TV station.

We have volunteers already set to help in 15 states. Please consider joining this inspiring, urgently compelling movement. It is good work, you get plenty of support, and you can make a huge difference. Already, our media appearances and events have garnered national attention, including on The Rachel Maddow Show, Forbes Magazine, and Op-Eds published in dozens of papers around the country.

It's easy to learn more. Email us at grandparentsforvaccines@gmail.com with "State Leader" in the subject line.

Many, many thanks,
Arthur, Donna & Teri

For Media or event requests

 grandparentsforvaccines@gmail.com  www.Grandparentsforvaccines.com

Tracking Emerging Public Health Challenges Project

from Jonathan M. Metsch, Dr.P.H.

This “data” set can be used for case studies, desktop exercises, Rapid Response drills, Lessons Learned, CE +++. And as a way for health leaders to keep up-to-date and be informed and ready for the next “event.”



Web Site

Dec/Jan

NJIN General Membership Meeting:
Wednesday, January 21 from 12-1 PM EST.
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njaap.zoom.us/j/89987751207?pwd=9TP50ezEaO9OkHz5YCKIMk1xSpaTxq.1>

Meeting ID: 899 8775 1207
Passcode: 482583

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One tap mobile
+16465588656,,89987751207# US (New York)

Dec/Jan

NJLBHA LinkedIn Account Reactivated



The New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association is excited to announce the re-activation of their official LinkedIn account! This platform will now serve as a hub for updates, resources, and collaboration opportunities to strengthen public health across the State. Follow along to stay connected with local initiatives, upcoming events, and important health news.

[NJLBHA LinkedIn Page](#)

Dec/Jan/Feb

New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association, PO Box 5069, Kendall Park, NJ 08824



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