



FY26

Annual Report

Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac,
Newbury, Newburyport, and Rowley

About Us

Mission Statement

The mission of the Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance is to meet member communities' public health needs through collaboration, public education, and increased efficiency.

Vision Statement

We envision a coalition that efficiently and proactively shares and provides resources to protect and enhance the well-being of all member communities.

Guiding Principles

We strive to provide the highest level of public health services. We are motivated by integrity and ensuring that Board of Health powers are used to produce positive outcomes for community members.

Launched in 2020, the Public Health Excellence (PHE) grant program 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, known as a Shared Services Arrangement (SSA). This grant program is administered through the Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH). The PHE grant program provides communities access to funding to address gaps in staffing and/or expertise, build additional capacity, and enhance public health services provided to their residents. The funding also supports municipalities as they work towards meeting the Performance Standards for Local Public Health, the Workforce Standards, and make progress towards the Foundational Public Health Services framework.

The **Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance (MVPHA)** was formed in July of 2023, as part of the Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant for Shared Services. MVPHA currently consists of seven member municipalities: Amesbury (host municipality), Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, and Rowley.

Finances

MVPHA Contract Amount:

\$486,497.32

Total Spent in FY26: \$428,418.32

**MVPHA Spent 88% of the Total
Contract Award**



Meet Our Team



Pamela Palombo, MSN, RN

Regional Public Health Nurse

Pam has been a vital part of the MVPHA family since April 2025! Dedicated to keeping our community safe and informed, she's always ready to step up—whether she's conducting vital health screenings or sharing her knowledge through health education. Behind the scenes, Pam is also our frontline defense, diligently monitoring and tracking infectious diseases to make sure we stay one step ahead.

Ashley Remignanti

Regional Administrative Assistant

Ashley who joined the team in December 2025, keeps our team running smoothly as our Regional Administrative Assistant. From tackling the day-to-day office tasks across all our health departments to supporting the administrative side of our broader regional initiatives, Ashley is the organizational backbone of our operations.

Collin Schaefer, CP-FS

Regional Health Inspector

Since March 2025, Collin has been our go-to guy for keeping our local environments safe and healthy! You'll often find him out in the field conducting routine environmental health inspections, but his impact doesn't stop there. Collin works closely with our team behind the scenes to help shape regional policies and procedures, and he absolutely loves sharing his expertise directly with the public through community health education.

Nursing

Services Offered:

- Bone density screenings
- Provided essential backup MAVEN coverage
- A1C and Lipid Panel Screenings
- Glucose and Blood Pressure Screenings
- Health Education Events:
 - Newburyport Rotary Club Talk
 - Glow Germ Handwashing Program at River Valley Charter School
- Senior Programming
- Enhanced partnerships for upcoming food equity initiatives
- Developed the MVPHA's first-ever Maternal Child and Family Health Program



Environmental Health

Inspection Metrics & Fieldwork

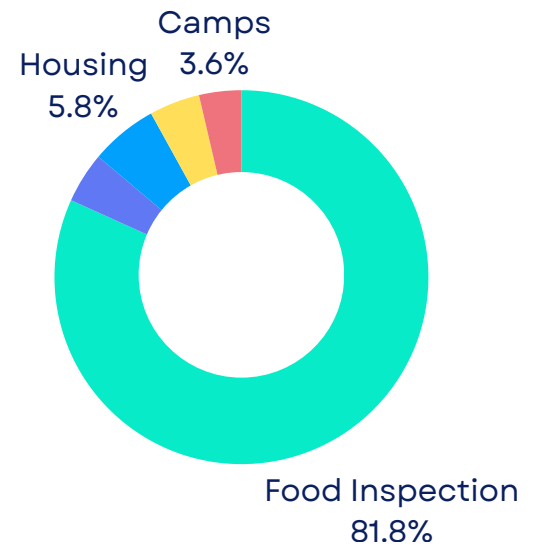
- **Total Inspections:**
 - Completed 137 total inspections across the region since the official start date of March 3, 2025.

Process Improvement

- **Inspection Request Streamlining:**
 - Developed and launched a centralized digital form to efficiently process and track inspection requests. The form is currently live and accessible here: [Inspection Request Form](#).

Technology Implementation

- Led the onboarding and implementation of Relavent inspection services across all regional communities.
- Successfully deployed FoodCode-Pro, a cloud-based, fully digital mobile platform designed to simplify retail food safety inspections.
- This platform ensures all generated checklists and reports are fully compliant with the FDA Food Code and applicable state supplements.
- The software allows for a more comprehensive inspection while minimizing the amount of time it takes to conduct the inspection.



Communications & Opportunity



Interns

In FY26, the SSA hosted two regional interns who shadowed our public health inspector and supported the public health nurse with maternal, child, and family health initiatives

Newburyport

Following a unanimous Board vote on Nov. 13, 2025, and approval from the Department of Public Health, the SSA officially welcomed the City of Newburyport back into the MVPHA. The MVPHA amended the current IMA.

Enhanced Visibility

In FY26, John Guilfoil Public Relations enhanced SSA's communications, leading regional SSAs to discover MVPHA's A1C clinic on Facebook and request next steps.

Equity

Across the region, several standard operating procedures were developed, and staff utilized LanguageLine and Pocketalk to translate materials. Additionally, the regional inspector attended the "Growing a New Heart" topic-based technical support session.

Professional Development

Regional Nurse

- Completion of the Certified Lactation Course
- Completed a Grant Writing Course
- Attended the MAPHN Annual Conference
- Received certification in Mental Health First Aid

Regional Admin

- Began a Grant Writing Course.
- Participated in mental health first aid training
- Streamlined administrative processes across the region
- Received certification in Mental Health First Aid

Regional Inspector

- Completed Tier 3 food training
- Completed Tier 2 housing training
- CP-FS Certified
- Car Seat Technician Certified
- Attended the MHOA Annual Conference
- Attended the MEHA Annual Program
- Received Crisis Prevention Institute Trainer Certificate



“Since joining our Coalition, Collin has significantly strengthened our mission to protect public health.”

Deb Ketchen, Merrimac/Amesbury
Health Agent

Looking Ahead



In FY27, the SSA will be hosting a Community Baby Shower on September 26th at Amesbury High School from 1-3pm

Leading up to the baby shower, there will be MCH Events and Classes



The SSA will enhance its inspectional capacity by working with a food contractor and continuing its partnership with Joe Serwatka for Title 5 Support



Focus on long-term sustainability by exploring different shared models



Develop several regional resource guides for Maternal Child and Family Health, Food Resources, and Hoarding Cases.

A large graphic consisting of a white circle with the text 'FY27' inside, set against a background of a large blue circle with a gradient from light blue to dark blue.

FY27

MVPublic Health Alliance

Merrimack Valley communities, safer and stronger together



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