



The mission of Maine Public Health Association (MPHA) is to advance the health of all people and places in Maine. Our public policy priorities for Maine's next Governor focus on the infrastructure we need to keep Maine's public health and healthcare systems resilient, residents safe, communities healthy, and economies thriving.

Build More Resilient Communities

Ensure Economic Opportunity

- Invest in Maine's downtowns, working with local chambers of commerce to support small businesses, revitalize parks, support libraries and community centers, and bolster economic development.
- Invest in Maine's outdoor recreation economy, increasing access to free and low-cost safe places for everyone to recreate, and supporting jobs without harming the environment.

Promote Healthy Environments

- Invest in better quality, more affordable housing, ensuring homes are well-built, protecting indoor air quality and resilience to storms, and helping older adults age-in-place; this includes investing in trades training and supply chain management.
- Expand programs that reduce exposure to harmful environmental toxins like PFAS, lead, radon, and arsenic, including in water and soil.
- Continue investing in Maine's climate resilience and sustainability through multi-sector partnerships, bipartisan policymaking, community partnerships, and funding.

Support Mental Health and Community Belonging

- Expand access to trauma-informed mental health and substance use prevention and treatment services, including for first responders, veterans, and youth.
- Establish a state office to research, draft, and implement innovative policies and programs to promote community belonging and combat social isolation across age demographics.

Support Wabanaki Sovereignty

- Support full implementation of the 22-consensus recommendations of The Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act (MICSA) to recognize the Wabanaki Nations' inherent sovereignty and improve tribal health.

Healthcare When You Need It, Where You Need It

Increase Access to Health Insurance and Services

- Expand affordable health insurance coverage, including for chronic disease management, mental health, and substance use, keeping costs low for patients and health systems.
- Expand affordable broadband coverage so that telehealth is available statewide (e.g., through Medicare coverage) and invest in libraries and community centers so they can provide local access to telehealth.

- Expand access to mobile health services, care for individuals in state custody, virtual care, and the use of technology for rapid consultation with specialty services.
- Ensure access to reproductive healthcare services, especially in Maine’s rural communities.
- Promote access to primary care through coordinated federal, state, nonprofit, and private partnerships and investments.

Strengthen Healthcare Workforce and Infrastructure

- Invest in healthcare workforce training and retention, including for public health nurses, community health workers, and community paramedics.
- Address the barriers to accessing obstetric care due to closing obstetric units and decreasing ob/gyn workforce, such as requiring health insurance reimbursement for doulas and funding a nurse midwife training program in Maine.
- Strengthen primary care through payment innovations and support for training and recruitment of primary care specialties.

Prevent Chronic & Infectious Diseases

- Stabilize public health funding for state, regional, and local efforts, including for substance use prevention, early intervention and treatment, healthy eating, and active living initiatives.
- Reduce infectious disease by promoting vaccination in community and school settings, and ongoing support for HIV/TB testing, prevention, case management, and treatment.
- Reduce chronic disease by supporting local food systems (e.g., food procurement policies, expanding farmers’ market 2-for-1 incentives to grocery retailers), incorporating food as medicine into Medicaid programs, and investing in oral health care, particularly in school-based settings.
- Reduce the burden of cancer in Maine through investing in prevention, screening, early detection, and ongoing treatment programming.
- Implement contaminant testing, plant tracking, and other safeguards (e.g., potency limit) in Maine’s medical cannabis program.

Make Government Work Better for People in Maine

Streamline Government Services

- Work with the Rural Health Transformation Program and other statewide initiatives to reduce bureaucracy and red tape, and improve efficiency in government programming and service delivery.
- Review contracting practices and identify opportunities for efficiency to ensure state contractors are paid on time, and that accountability metrics are reviewed and shared with legislators.
- Review conflicts of interest policies for elected officials and staff; require abstention votes when conflicts arise and prohibit policymakers from introducing legislation that benefits them financially.

Modernize Maine's Infrastructure

- Invest in a proactive, cohesive, and accountable public health system.
- Invest in upgrades and repairs to roadways, wastewater, drinking water, and energy grids.
- Bolster the state's cybersecurity, protecting taxpayer data, municipal services, and utilities infrastructure.
- Invest in transportation infrastructure, helping ensure people can attend healthcare appointments, access nutritious foods, employment, and other determinants of health.
- Explore responsible use of artificial intelligence so that it helps improve public health and efficiency, without harming human and environmental health.
- Protect Maine's strong voting laws, ensuring voting is accessible and secure for all eligible voters in Maine.