



Quabbin Health District

2025 Annual Report

Proudly serving Belchertown,
Pelham, and Ware



QUABBIN HEALTH DISTRICT

Background:

The Quabbin Health District is a comprehensive regional health department under MGL Chapter 111, Section 27A.

- Communities Served: Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware
- Population: 26,267 residents
- Coverage Area: 120 square miles
- Established: 1980

Our Mission:

The District works to protect and improve the health of its communities through education, prevention, inspectional services, and emergency preparedness. By sharing resources across towns, the District ensures efficient, high-quality public health services for all residents.









2025 Highlights:

- Continued regional public health services for Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware
- Provided no-cost naloxone education and overdose response training
- Expanded health education and wellness outreach across libraries, senior centers, recovery programs, and community events
- Participated in the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition to strengthen emergency response coordination
- Received **\$324,785.36** in FY25 Public Health Excellence Grant funding to support staffing, inspections, technology, and operations
- Continued MAVEN infectious disease surveillance and case investigation for reportable illnesses
- Used electronic inspection tools to improve inspection reporting and compliance tracking



— — — — — *Serving Belchertown, Pelham & Ware Since 1980* — — — — —

District Board of Directors:

<p style="text-align: center;"> — WARE —  BOARD OF HEALTH</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT  LEADERSHIP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jennifer McMartin <i>District Chair</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BOARD  MEMBERS</p> <p>Jennifer McMartin, Chair Michael Juda, Vice-Chair Donna Rucki</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> — PELHAM —  BOARD OF HEALTH</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT  LEADERSHIP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">William Pula <i>District Vice Chair</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BOARD  MEMBERS</p> <p>William Pula, Chair Leonor Rodriguez Richard Hall</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> — BELCHERTOWN —  BOARD OF HEALTH</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT  LEADERSHIP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kenneth Elstein <i>District Clerk</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BOARD  MEMBERS</p> <p>James Potter, Chair David Gottsegen, Vice-Chair Kenneth Elstein Gail Gramarossa Colleen Duroshea</p>

QUABBIN HEALTH DISTRICT STAFF



Andrea Crete, MPH; RS

**Director of
Public Health**

Andrea joined the District in May of 2022. She provides professional, administrative, technical, and inspection work in planning, managing, and promoting the District's public health programs; providing leadership guidance regarding health issues for the District. Having overall responsibility for the ongoing administration of the District, including all financial and legal components of the District.



John Prenosil

**Code Enforcement
Officer**

John joined the District in July of 2023. He promotes and protects the public health of the District residents through the enforcement of state and local public health laws and regulations as well as providing public health education. Performing Inspectional and technical work related to the enforcement and interpretation of public health, sanitation and environmental laws and regulations.



Roger Bacon, PE

**Title 5 Independent
Contractor**

Roger joined the District in April 2023. He oversees soil evaluations and determines groundwater elevations, witnesses percolation tests, reviews proposed system installation plans; performs final inspections on septic system installations prior to backfilling; and provides guidance to the District and Local Boards of Health in their deliberations on variance requests and Local Upgrade Approvals.

QUABBIN HEALTH DISTRICT STAFF



Betty Barlow

Administrative Assistant/Treasurer *Retired June 2025*

Betty joined the District in December 2002. She performs administrative and treasury related work for the District in work areas including payroll, accounts receivables/payables, bank transfers, detailed financial reporting, bookkeeping, computational and customer service work. Also providing skilled clerical support to the Ware Board of Health, including annual permitting and application processing, recordkeeping, fee collection, and preparation of annual reports, meeting minutes, and agendas. Betty retired from the District in June 2025 with 22.5 years of dedicated service to the District. She was a trusted and hard-working employee.



Desiree Vennert

Support Staff

Desiree joined the District in December 2023. She supports the District staff in administrative duties, projects, and inspections to promote and protect the public health of our residents in the Quabbin Health District.



Mary-Jo Grenier

Senior Clerk

Mary joined the District in July 2007. She provides skilled clerical support to the Belchertown Board of Health, including annual permitting and application processing, recordkeeping, fee collection, and preparation of annual reports, meeting minutes, and agendas.



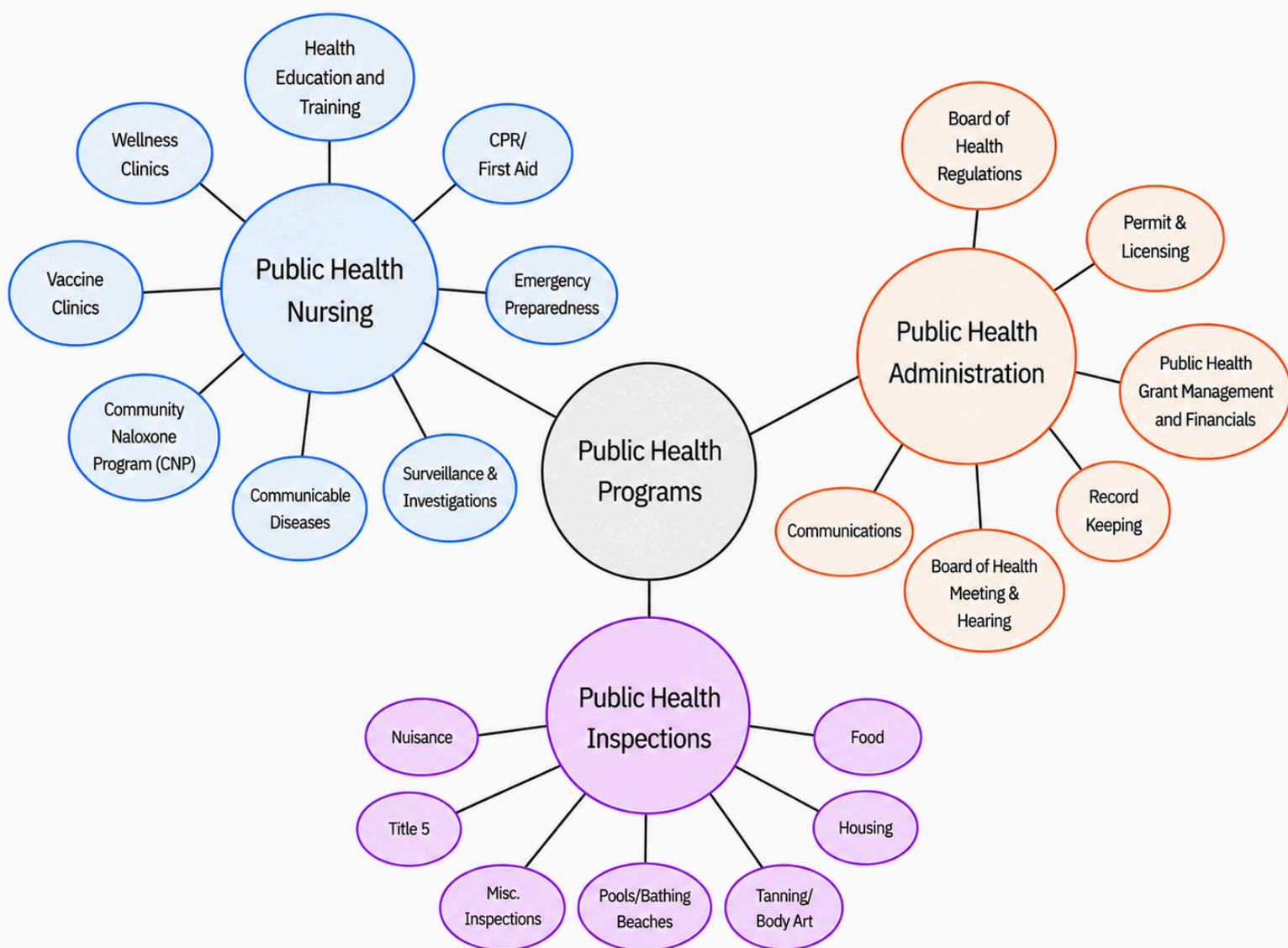
Kirsten Krieger, RN, BSN

Public Health Nurse *Resigned August 2025*

Kirsten joined the District in July 2022. She promotes and protects the health of the District by performing highly responsible professional nursing duties in a variety of public health programs, holding wellness clinics at various locations in the District, conducting investigations of communicable diseases, providing vaccinations, making home visits to residents who are homebound and providing educational workshops and presentations on health-related topics. Kirsten resigned in August of 2025.

Public Health Programs:

The Quabbin Health District provides high quality public health services through professionally trained staff to fulfill statutory and regulatory duties of the local Boards of Health in the member Towns of Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware. While also meeting the public health needs of the communities by offering free harm reduction services such as needle exchange and naloxone training and distribution, wellness clinics and educational presentations/workshops, local resource connections and collaboration with community partners. The District staff are proud to serve the residents and businesses in the District and strive to provide compassionate and professional interactions when working with the general public.



Public Health Excellence Grant:

In response to the key findings in the 2019 Blueprint for Public Health Excellence, MDPH has provided grant funding to enable Health Departments to meet statutory requirements and national public health standards by allowing for cross-jurisdictional sharing of services to improve effectiveness and efficiency. To increase public health workforce and standardize training and credentialing, elevate foundational public health services across the State and improve the use of technology, data collection, and information sharing.

In FY25 the Quabbin Health District was awarded **\$324,785.36** in the grant.

Grant funding supports:

- Full-time Public Health Nurse services
- Title 5 Independent Contractor for:
 - Soil testing
 - Septic plan reviews
 - Septic inspections
- Part-time Administrative Support Staff
- Inspectional supplies and staff training
- Website hosting and maintenance
- Professional development through trainings and seminars

Technology Improvements:

The WinWam electronic inspection system allows food inspection reports to be completed and stored electronically, helping improve compliance tracking, food safety education, and public access to inspection reports, which can be found on the Quabbin Health District website.

Environmental Health Inspections:

Local health departments are required to enforce provisions of MA General Laws and State Sanitary Codes as well as local board of health regulations. The Quabbin Health District provides code enforcement and inspectional work to meet the State requirements but also to ensure that the people who live, work, and visit the District towns remain safe and healthy with access to resources and support.

Below is a chart of total inspections by type in each member Town for 2025.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICES

Protecting Our Communities •



ENVIRONMENTAL & SEPTIC SERVICES

	BELCHERTOWN	WARE	PELHAM
• Perc Test / Deepholes and Soil Evaluations	48	18	6
• Septic Application Reviews (Includes new construction and repairs/upgrades)	53	16	7
• Septic Installation Inspections and Re-Inspections	59	19	8
• Well Application Review	29	N/A	1
• Beaver Permit Applications	3	0	0



HOUSING & PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

	BELCHERTOWN	WARE	PELHAM
• Housing Inspections (Upon Complaint) and Reinspections	25	85	4
• Lead Paint Inspections	0	2	0
• Code Violations (# of units)	0	3	0
• Voucher Housing Inspections	0	7	13
• Nuisance Complaints Received and Investigated and Orders Issued as Warranted	22	11	2



267
Environmental & Septic Services
(Across the District)



174
Housing & Public Health Services
(Across the District)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICES

Promoting Health • Ensuring Safety



FOOD SAFETY & MISCELLANEOUS

	BELCHERTOWN	WARE	PELHAM
• Food Service Inspections (Routine and Complaints including School Cafeterias)	100	97	1
• New or Remodeled Food Plan Review	3	7	0
• Mobile / Temporary Food Inspections	29	3	0
• Tattoo / Body Art Establishments	2	1	N/A
• Tanning Bed Licensure	0	0	N/A



COMMUNITY RECREATION & WATER SAFETY

	BELCHERTOWN	WARE	PELHAM
• Children Recreational Camp Inspections and Licensing	0	0	0
• Public Pool and Sauna Inspections	2	0	N/A
• Public Beaches Inspections	1	0	N/A
• Cyanobacteria Bloom Inspections	2	0	0



243
Food Safety & Misc.
(Across the District)



5
Community Recreation & Water Safety
(Belchertown)



Multiple program areas working together to ensure healthy and safe communities for all residents.

Public Health Nursing:

Public health nursing promotes and protects the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences. Caring for entire populations in the community to educate people about health issues, improving community health and safety, and increasing access to care. The Public Health Nursing program helps answer questions about chronic health conditions to assist residents in understanding their health and increasing their health literacy.

The following programs detail the public health nursing activities for 2025.

- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Blood Sugar Screenings
- Health and Wellness Promotion/Educational Programs
- Connection to Local Health Resources and Access to Care
- Harm Reduction Supplies (i.e. Naloxone Kits with 1:1 Training)
- Hygiene Kits to Unsheltered Persons
- Syringe Exchange Services
- Blood Drives
- Vaccine Clinics

Community Naloxone Program (CNP):

The Community Naloxone Program (CNP) allows eligible organizations to obtain naloxone (Narcan) through the Massachusetts State Office of Pharmacy Services at low or no cost. Since becoming an approved naloxone distribution site in December 2022, the Quabbin Health District has provided education and training on opioid overdose prevention and response throughout the community.

Trainings are offered at no cost to businesses, groups, and individuals and include information on addiction, overdose recognition, stigma reduction, xylazine and other drug adulterants, and naloxone administration. Participants who complete the training receive naloxone free of charge.

Emergency Preparedness:

In 2022, the Quabbin Health District joined the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition to strengthen local and regional readiness for public health emergencies.

Through this partnership, the District works to:

- Improve emergency response coordination
- Share regional resources
- Provide no-cost training opportunities
- Prepare for infectious disease outbreaks and other community threats
- Meet preparedness goals established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Member Communities in the HPHPC include Amherst, Belchertown, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Goshen, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Northampton, Pelham, Plainfield, South Hadley, Southampton, Ware, Westhampton, and Worthington.

Health Education and Wellness Promotion Activities:

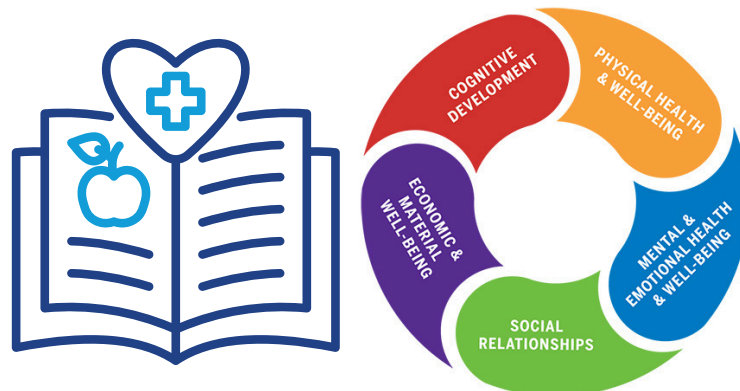
The Public Health Nurse has presented educational programs at libraries, senior centers, recovery programs, businesses, and community organizations throughout Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware.

Educational topics included: Nutrition and healthy lifestyles

- Health literacy and respiratory health
- Emergency preparedness and seasonal safety
- Tick and mosquito awareness
- Diabetes and dementia education
- Outreach concerns for older adults

Hosted health promotion tables at:

- Umbrella of Wellness Fair
- Food Truck Fridays
- National Night Out
- Senior Center resource fairs and summer concerts
- Recovery Resource Fair
- Overdose Awareness Vigil at Veteran's Park



Quabbin Health District 2025 Communicable Disease Report:










The Public Health Nurse is responsible for and has been conducting MAVEN infectious disease surveillance. This requires checking in daily for notifications of infectious diseases occurring in the District. It also requires

doing case investigations for diseases other than Influenza or COVID-19 by contacting hospital infection preventionists if a person is hospitalized, contacting case and/or PCP office to determine potential means of exposure, contact tracing if applicable.

The types and numbers of communicable diseases reported in the District for 2025 are listed below. They are listed by the disease/illness and the number of cases (residents suspected (S), probable (P), and confirmed (C) to have an infectious illness/disease.

TOTAL EVENT COUNT BY DISEASE














Diseases Year 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

Disease	Belchertown	Pelham	Ware
 Babesiosis	3S	2S	1C; 1S
 Borrelia Miyamotoi Infections	1S	–	–
 Calicivirus/Norovirus	11C	–	11C
 Campylobacteriosis	2C; 1P	–	1C; 1P
 Cryptosporidiosis	1C	–	–
 Cyclosporiasis	1C	–	–
 Ehrlichiosis	1S	–	–
 Group B Streptococcus	–	–	1C
 Haemophilus Influenza	1C	–	–

C = Confirmed | S = Suspected | P = Probable | – = None Reported

TOTAL EVENT COUNT BY DISEASE CONT.

Diseases Year 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

Disease	Belchertown	Pelham	Ware
 Hepatitis B	2C; 8S	1S	4S
 Hepatitis C	1P	–	2C; 1P
 Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	3C; 6S	1C; 2S	2C; 4S
 Influenza	220C	7C	255C
 Legionellosis	1C	–	1C
 Lyme Disease	27P; 28S	1P; S	20P; 13S
 Novel Coronavirus	50C; 13P	4C	65C; 19P
 Pertussis	3C	–	–
 Psittacosis	–	–	1S
 Salmonellosis	1C; 1P	–	1P
 Sign Toxin Producing Organism	–	–	–
 Streptococcus Pneumoniae	–	–	1C; 4P
 Varicella	1S	–	4S

C = Confirmed | S = Suspected | P = Probable | – = None Reported

Conclusion

I would like to thank the members of the District Board of Directors for their continued support in all the great work that the District staff do. I look forward to continuing to be a part of such a great organization and expanding its services to improve the health needs of the member Towns.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Crete, MPH, RS; Director of Public Health - Quabbin Health District

This report details the services the Quabbin Health District provided to the member Towns for the 2025 calendar year. Please contact the District office by phone at (413) 967 - 9615 or email acrete@townofware.com with any questions, comments, requests for additional information, and to relay any specific public health concerns.

**This report was put together in Canva by Administrative Assistant, Julia Walsh.*