



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

Creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Friday, April 4, 2025



NATIONAL
PUBLIC
HEALTH
WEEK

Join MDH in Celebrating National Public Health Week 2025

We are excited to invite you to celebrate **National Public Health Week (NPHW)** from **April 7-13, 2025**, with the **Public Health Services Administration (PHS)**. This week-long observance, led by the **American Public Health Association (APHA)**,

highlights the importance of public health and collective efforts to build healthier communities. MDH has planned a variety of engaging events throughout the week—be sure to mark your calendars and join us!

MDH National Public Health Week Events



Monday, April 7



12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Operationalizing One Health in Government and Policy: The Case of H5N1 Avian Influenza (Virtual)

Kick off National Public Health Week with a virtual “lunch and learn” featuring Dr. Meghan Davis from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Dr. David A. Crum, Maryland’s State Public Health Veterinarian.



[Add to Calendar](#)



Tuesday, April 8



9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Office of Minority Health Resource Fair (201 W. Preston St, Lobby)

Join the MDH **Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities** for a **Minority Health Resource Fair** in recognition of National Minority Health Month.



In person

Wednesday, April 9

11:00 a.m. | PHS Community Walk at State Center (300 W. Preston St)

Step outside for an energizing community walk! The event begins with a brief presentation, followed by a walk around the **State Center**.

[Add to Calendar](#)

Thursday, April 10

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | PHS Town Hall (301 W. Preston Cafeteria & Virtual Streaming)

Join **Deputy Secretary Dr. Niles Kalyanaraman** and PHS program leaders for a discussion on **health equity** in Maryland.

[Add to Calendar](#)

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | PHS Showcase and Celebration (301 W. Preston Cafeteria)

Discover the work of PHS programs, visit information tables, and network with colleagues during this engaging **Public Health Showcase**.

For more details, email **Pam Tenemaza** at pamela.tenemaza@maryland.gov.

[Add to Calendar](#)

Friday, April 11

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. | MMWR Journal Club (Virtual)

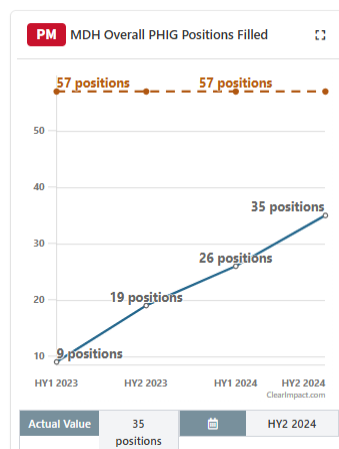
Celebrate NPHW with a special **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Journal Club** session—an excellent way to explore **public health research**.

For more details, email **Dr. Katherine Feldman** at katherine.feldman@maryland.gov.

[Add to Calendar](#)

For more details on NPHW, visit [National Public Health Week](#)

Building a Stronger Public Health System Through Performance Management



The **Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) Program** at MDH is working to strengthen Maryland's public health system by enhancing workforce capacity, foundational capabilities, and data modernization efforts.

This initiative aligns with Priority #1 of the [Public Health Services Strategic Plan](#)—Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure—and the [Workforce Development Plan](#) by focusing on three key areas:

- **Workforce Development:** Recruiting, retaining, supporting, and training Maryland's public health workforce.
- **Foundational Capabilities:** Strengthening public health systems, processes, and policies for improved service delivery.
- **Data Modernization:** Deploying scalable, flexible, and sustainable technologies to enhance public health data systems.

By supporting LHDs, MDH staff, and public health programs, PHIG is ensuring Maryland is better equipped to respond to both current and future public health challenges.

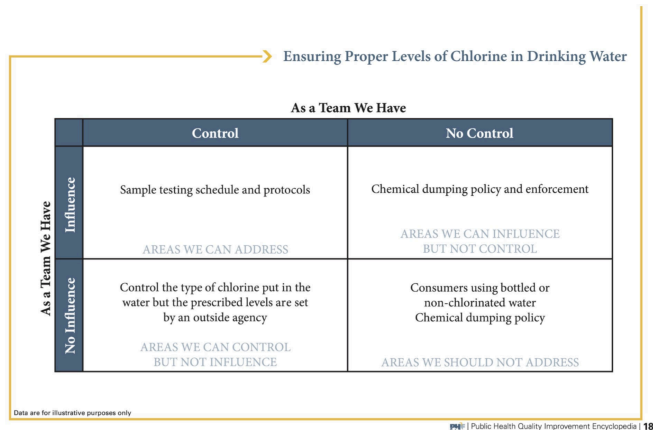


Next Quality Improvement (QI) Introductory Training - June 4, 2025

The Public Health Services QI Program offers **Introduction to Quality Improvement**, a 90-minute virtual session designed to explore the purpose and benefits of quality improvement (QI) in public health. The next session is scheduled for **June 4, 2025 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**. Participants will learn the

foundational QI methodologies and tools needed for planning and executing an effective QI project. This interactive session will also include real-world examples of successful QI projects and opportunities to discuss how to apply these concepts to your own work. The training is designed to equip public health practitioners with the basic understanding and tools to implement QI projects. It will provide a practical introduction to QI principles such as identifying areas for improvement, setting SMART objectives, and using tools like root cause analysis and PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycles. Let us know your interest [here](#). If you can't make this session, no worries! We will be offering quarterly QI introductory training, so feel free to sign up now, and we will reach out with more details for future sessions.

QI Learning Corner



Leveraging the Control and Influence Matrix in Public Health

The **Control and Influence Matrix** is a strategic tool used to help individuals and organizations **prioritize actions** by identifying what they can **control**, what they can **influence**, and what is **outside their scope**. It is commonly used in leadership, project management, and systems thinking

to ensure that time and resources are allocated effectively.

In public health, this matrix is particularly valuable for **problem-solving and decision-making**. Public health professionals often work in complex environments where not all factors are within their direct control. By categorizing challenges into:

- **Things they can control** (e.g., internal policies, data collection methods, program design),
- **Things they can influence** (e.g., legislation, stakeholder engagement, community behavior), and
- **Things outside their control** (e.g., federal regulations, economic conditions),

teams can **focus their efforts strategically** and avoid wasted energy on areas with little impact.

In public health, the **Control and Influence Matrix** can be applied to a variety of initiatives, from **workforce development** and **policy implementation** to **community health programs**. By using this framework, MDH staff can enhance **strategic planning, resource allocation, and collaboration**, ensuring a **more efficient and impactful** public health system for Maryland residents.

Public Health Observances

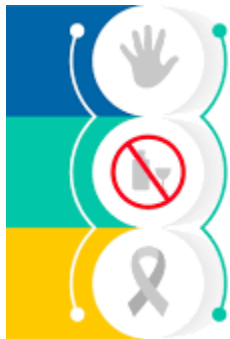


National Minority Health Month

April is National Minority Health Month, an opportunity to highlight the importance of improving

health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities while addressing health disparities. Led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH), this observance emphasizes the role of social determinants of health in achieving health equity. This month also aligns with Healthy People 2030, which prioritizes reducing disparities and promoting culturally appropriate resources. Communities can take action by sharing educational tools such as MyHealthfinder, Move Your Way®, and Dietary Guidelines to support Spanish-speaking populations.

For more information, click [here](#)



ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH APRIL

Alcohol Awareness Month

Alcohol Awareness Month, observed every April, raises awareness about the health risks associated with alcohol use and misuse while encouraging informed and healthier choices. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

provides valuable resources for both professionals and consumers, offering guidance on alcohol's impact on health. This observance also connects to Healthy People 2030, which includes evidence-based strategies for reducing alcohol-related harm. To support public awareness, communities can share MyHealthfinder resources, which offer practical tips on moderating alcohol consumption and discussing substance use with children and adolescents.

For more information, visit: <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>