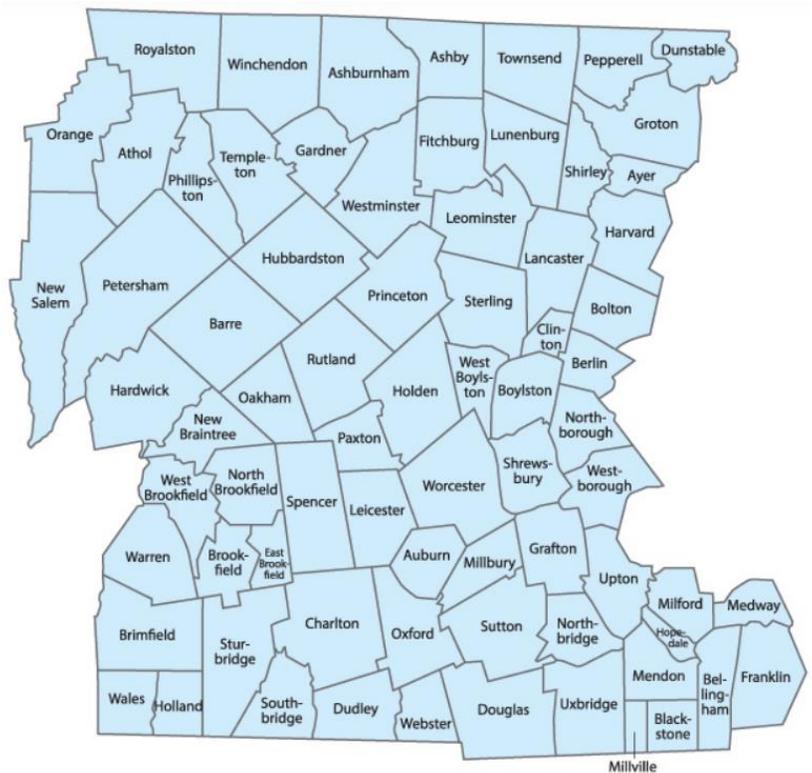


Staff Report

Date: January 20, 2022
To: **Devens Enterprise Commission**
Cc: Peter Lowitt, DEC Director;
From: Neil Angus, Environmental Planner
RE: Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coalition

The Massachusetts Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coalition is comprised of representatives from the seventy-four local public health departments within the region. Established in 2004, the PHEP Coalition works on joint initiatives related to Public Health emergency planning and response.

The coalition is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management. In addition to assisting in emergency preparedness planning, the coalition provides funding for equipment to support public health emergencies in the region (COVID-19, flu clinics, testing, etc.). This funding has helped Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABOH) purchase new equipment that aids them in their day-to-day operations.



The DEC contracts with (NABOH) for inspectional services and other Board of Health responsibilities in Devens. DEC Staff works closely with Health Agents Kalene Gendron, R.S. and Bridgette Braley, R.S. from NABOH and they regularly attend the coalition meetings on behalf of the 17 communities they represent (Devens being one of them).

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the coalition formally recognizes Devens as a separate Board of Health entity in the region and recognizes that NABOH represents Devens. This is important for emergency coordination, communication, as well as funding opportunities to support safety, health, and wellness in Devens and the surrounding region.

Recommended Action: Staff has drafted the attached letter to send to the coalition. If the Commission is in agreement, a motion should be made to appoint Kalene Gordon and Bridgette Braley as voting representatives for Devens on the Region II PHEP Steering Committee and for the Director to send the attached letter to the coalition on behalf of the Commission.