

# Northeast Public Health Collaborative

Overview for NAIS  
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# Singular moment for public health

- Loss of federal...
  - Funding for state/local public health
  - Staff capacity (expertise, testing, surge capacity)
  - Science-based guidance, recommendations; erosion of public trust
- States/large cities often have actual public health mandate.
  - Must continue to protect the health of our residents, with diminished federal support.
  - Reminiscent of early COVID-19 days
  - Interstate/city collaboration has emerged as one pillar of our responses
- Mass extinction event: threats *and* opportunities
  - *Opportunity*: leverage state/local/federal/academic public health experience to build new solutions to help strengthen our jurisdictions



## Early history (Collaborative 1.0)

- Outgrowth of **Nov. 2024** meeting of several State Epidemiologists across northeast states and NYC
- **Late 2024/Early 2025:**
  - Jurisdictions begin conducting own internal assessments and responses
  - List of threats well-advertised ahead of time, but specific threats, and timing of impacts, remain hard to predict
- **February 2025:** Routine meetings of steering, some workgroups begin.
  - Original framing issue: Loss of federal capacity for routine public health operations and for emergency/pandemic response

# Early history (Collaborative 1.0)

- **Spring - Summer 2025** early successes:
  - Developing trust → open sharing of plans, strategies among leaders, workgroups
  - Two states led development of updated infection control guidance for return to work after respiratory illness, adopted across region
  - Two jurisdictions developed and shared approaches for protecting public health data against improper re-identification
  - One state developed an approach to purchasing vaccines without federal Vaccines for Children program
  - Three foundations provided funding for leadership planning summit in Providence, RI
  - One state working with a foundation partner to provide added support for ongoing regional collaboration work and to accelerate forward planning for key at-risk areas of public health activities

# Collaborative Principles

- The Collaborative's mission is to monitor and navigate the evolving public health landscape, ensure a coordinated approach in adapting to that landscape, and identify and implement best practices, standardized procedures, & new solutions—all in service of safeguarding the health and well-being of the populations we serve.
- Each jurisdiction retains its autonomy, with the right to participate or align, or not participate or align, with a given action or initiative that the Collaborative takes on.
- The Collaborative and its respective initiatives will continue to evolve to best meet the public health needs of the communities we serve.
- Apolitical coalition of state and big city health departments in HHS Regions 1-3.

# Working on 3 time horizons... while we build the plane... with a destination not fully clear

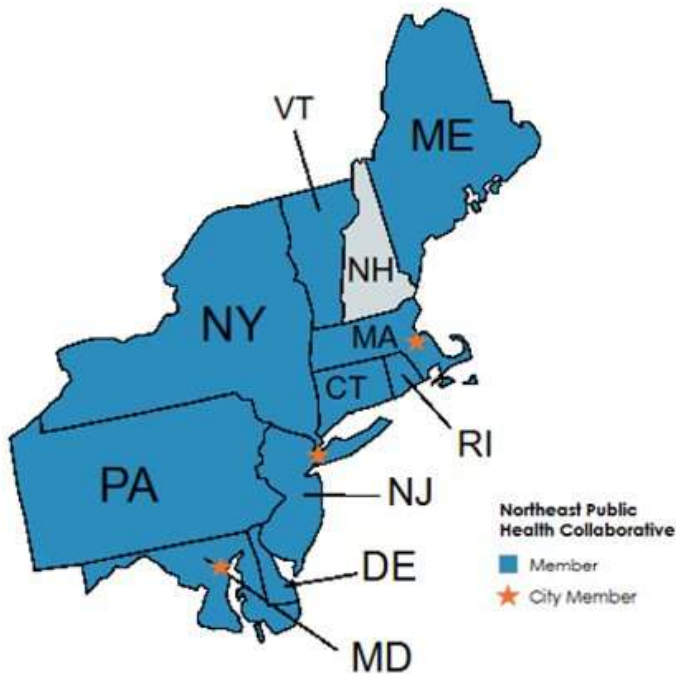
1. Processing and sharing information on the present
2. Developing short- and medium-term work products  
(e.g., vaccine and infection control guidance)
3. Developing longer-term solutions to replace lost capacity  
(e.g., data systems, laboratory sharing, fellowship programs)

Easy/  
cheap

Harder,  
more  
costly,  
requires  
more  
certainty

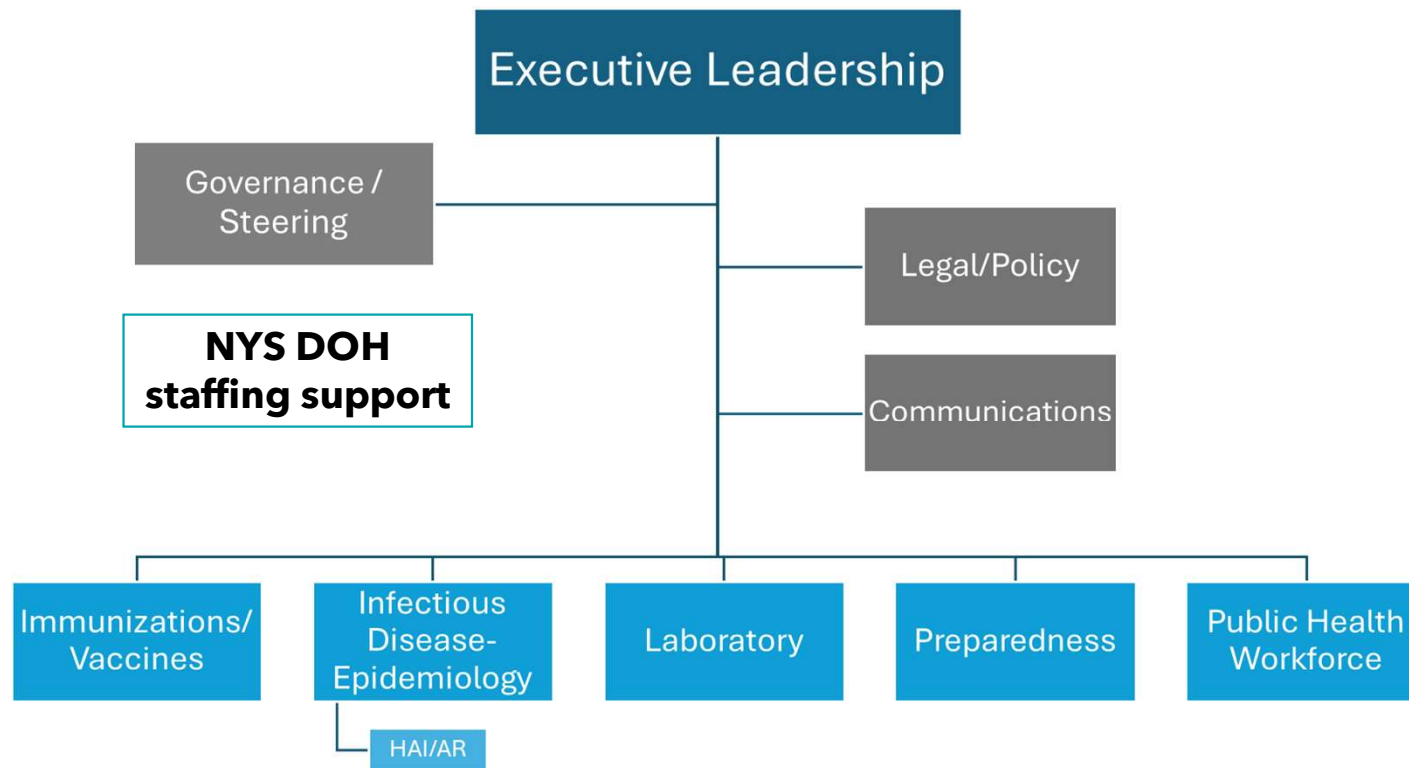


# Participating jurisdictions represent >1 in 5 Americans



- Baltimore, MD
- Boston, MA
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- New York
- New York City, NY
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

# Northeast Public Health Collaborative Structure



# Relationships to other Collaboratives

**West Coast Health Alliance:** In regular communication with WCHA to share notes and identify areas for partnership

**Governors Public Health Alliance:** a coordinating hub for governors and a unified, cross-state liaison with the global health community. Takes place at political/legislative level, while our work takes place at the health department, subject matter expert level.

- Connection to this group will happen through participating jurisdictions' Governors Offices

# Connecting with the broader public health ecosystem is essential to success

## Foundations

*e.g., Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CDC Foundation, de Beaumont Foundation, Kresge Foundation*

- Provide funding & support to:
  - Increase capacity to assist workgroups and jurisdictions
  - Convene in-person meetings
  - Engage academic partners
  - Advance workgroup initiatives
  - Ensure continuity of data systems that support public health

## Associations

**Public Health:** ASTHO, AIM, CSTE, APHL, NACCHO, Trust for America's Health, NPHL

**Medical Societies:** AAP, AAFP, ACOG, AMA, SHEA

- Broaden awareness of the public health landscape and maximize efficiency.
- Increase expertise and lend credibility to shared initiatives.
- Share knowledge of innovation and best practices across sectors.
- Increase influence on policy and system change.

## Allied Organizations

*West Coast Health Alliance, Vaccine Integrity Project, Common Health Coalition, GovAct/Governors Public Health Alliance*

- Advance common goals and shared strategies.
- Cross-promotion of initiatives to wider audiences.
- Strengthen partnerships and build trust.
- Increased collaboration and exchange of skills, research and technical expertise.

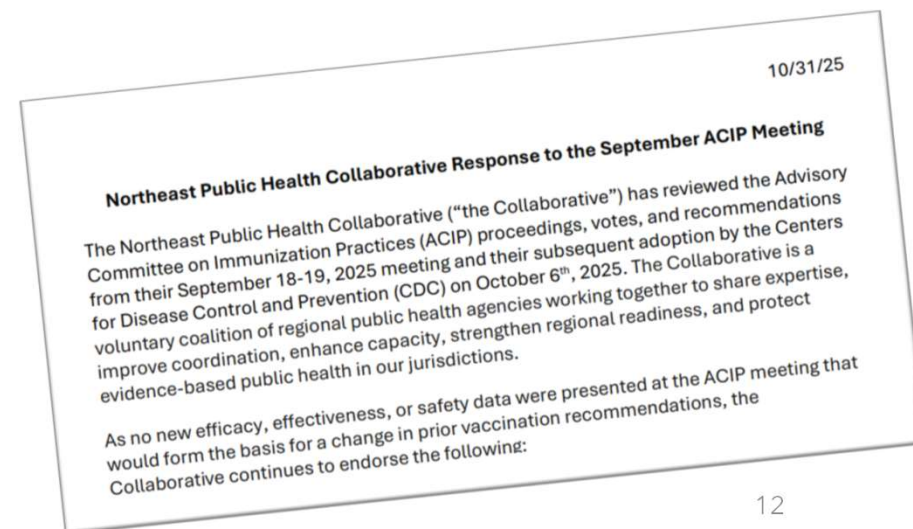
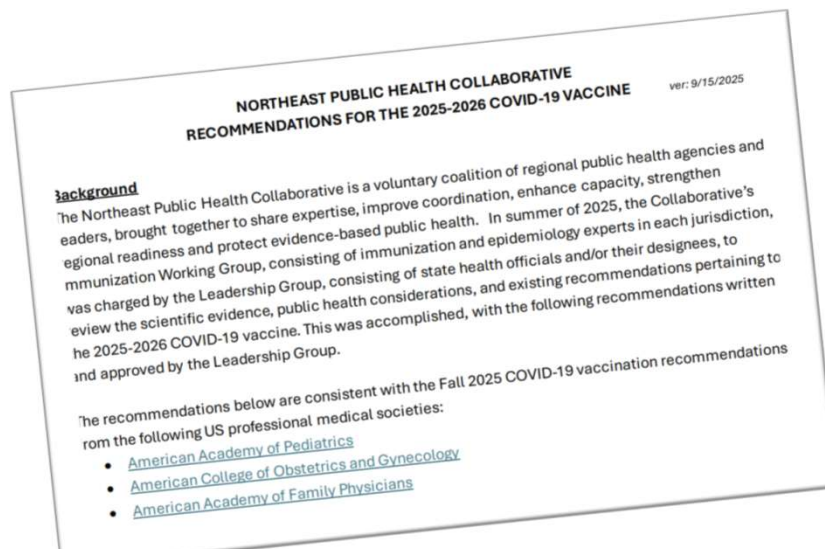
## Consultants & Strategic Advisors

*e.g., O'Neill Institute, Boston Consulting Group, ICF*

- Supply recommendations to build the NEPHC infrastructure and implement processes.
- Provide legal support and recommendations for workgroup outputs.

# Immunizations are a Fall 2025 priority

- COVID-19 vaccine guidance
- Post- September ACIP meeting assessments on COVID-19, MMR-V votes
- Joint planning around procurement/distribution alternatives
- Hepatitis B vaccine assessment



# Building structure/operations for 2026

- Continue to formalize structure/procedures/internal ops
- Each workgroup identified priority issues for coming months. Mixture of:
  - Finalizing MOUs for steady state/emergency support
  - Proactive guidance publication
  - New initiatives



**Thank you!**