

NEHA News for Affiliates, August 2019



WELCOME NEW YORK WELCOME BACK LOUISIANA

We are pleased to welcome the New York State Conference of Environmental Directors (NYS CEHD) and welcome back the Louisiana Environmental Health Association (LEHA) as an Affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association. Their applications for affiliation were accepted by the NEHA Board of Directors at the Annual Educational Conference in Nashville, TN. The key benefits of NEHA Affiliation include:

- ◇ Representation on the Affiliate Council, allowing the opportunity to provide feedback and guidance to the NEHA Board of Directors.
- ◇ National recognition on the NEHA website and *Journal of Environmental Health*.
- ◇ Eligibility to nominate candidates for Affiliate Certificates of Merit and the NEHA premier honor, The Walter S. Mangold Award.
- ◇ An invitation to participate in the Affiliate Leadership Workshop during the NEHA Annual Educational Conference to collaborate with your community of Affiliate leaders.
- ◇ The opportunity to have a NEHA representative participate in your annual conference.
- ◇ A direct line of communication to NEHA leadership and staff.

NYS CEHD joins Region 9 and LEHA rejoins Region 5. We are happy to have them as part of the NEHA Affiliate community!

Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act Signed Into Law

The [Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019](#) (PAHPA) has been signed into law on June 24, 2019 by President Donald Trump. PAHPA was originally created in 2005 to improve the nation's public health and medical preparedness and response capabilities for emergencies, whether deliberate, accidental, or natural. The original law sunset in 2018 and needed to be reauthorized. For the first time, the law now specifically identifies environmental health as an essential contributor to the nation's health and well-being.

"PAHPA puts environmental health professionals at the table to ensure that every community is prepared for environmental hazards in the event of a natural or man-made disaster," said NEHA's Director of Government Affairs Joanne Zurcher.

Please read [the full press release on the NEHA website](#) to learn more.

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NEHA Website Resources and Updating

Did you know that there is a section of the NEHA website for affiliates?

[Affiliate Leadership Contact Information](#) should be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

The [Affiliate Resources](#) section includes:

- Affiliate Newsletters from the past 2-years.
- Affiliate Workshop presentations from the past 3-years.
- Outside legal resources
- Information on hosting webinars and virtual conferences from Zoom.

Contact information for each of the [NEHA Regional Vice Presidents](#) is also listed on the website, along with the states that they represent. The RVPs are your representatives and primary contacts at NEHA.



INFORM 2020 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW OPEN!

The Integrated Foodborne Outbreak Response and Management (InFORM) conference will be held at the Westin Atlanta Peachtree Plaza Hotel March 9–12, 2020. Held every two years, InFORM brings together the network of public health officials involved with foodborne and enteric disease outbreak response. This includes federal, state and local public health scientists, epidemiologists, laboratorians, EH specialists, and health communicators.

[The Call for Abstracts is now open!](#) Please consider submitting an abstract and/or help by spreading the word within your networks. **The deadline is September 15th.** See the attached flyer or click [HERE](#) for additional details. Information on travel stipends will be available soon.

SEPTIC SYSTEM PREPAREDNESS MATERIALS

After a disaster, such as a hurricane, wildfire, or earthquake, septic systems may be damaged and fail to operate correctly. Ensuring that these systems function properly is essential to providing safe waste disposal for millions of Americans, yet there may be no standard safety protocol in place for using septic systems after a disaster occurs. NEHA worked with subject matter experts and national partners to develop an accessible toolkit with guidance documents for different types of disasters. A document containing general educational and safety resources for septic systems is also included.

These materials can be used directly by septic system users or adapted by local and state agencies. [The resources are free and available online.](#)

POLICY STATEMENT ON ADOPTION & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRENT FDA FOOD CODE

In July 2019 the NEHA Board of Directors approved a new policy statement recommending the complete adoption and implementation of the current *Food Code* by all federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governmental agencies to promote the most current knowledge on food safety. The complete library of NEHA Position Papers, including this latest one, is available [HERE](#).

JOIN THE NEHA VECTOR CONTROL COMMITTEE

NEHA is looking for environmental health professionals with a strong background in vector control to serve as volunteers on the newly established [NEHA Vector Control Committee](#). Committee members will help by assisting NEHA program staff in better understanding what is happening in the field and on the ground in vector-borne disease control.

Committee members must be a NEHA member in good standing and able to commit to one conference call per month.

[The deadline to submit an application is September 30, 2019.](#)

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Affiliates at the 2019 NEHA

