

NEHA NEWS

NEHA Releases Updated Body Art Model Code

Body art is defined as body piercing, tattooing, branding, scarification, subdermal implants, tongue splitting, transdermal implants, or the application of permanent cosmetics. Environmental health professionals play an important role in inspecting and regulating body art establishments where the practices of body art are performed.

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) advocates for national standards, best practices, and resources that enhance the abilities of environmental health professionals to ensure safe body art practices and protect public health. In 1999, NEHA, along with environmental health professionals and industry experts, developed the Body Art Model Code to identify best practices and body art inspection standards. In the time since the original code was released, body art has become much more accepted, diverse, and popular.

As such, NEHA began working in Spring 2016 with subject matter experts and national partners to update the code. The updated code was released on October 22, 2019. It was created with input from environmental health and industry professionals and addresses the ways body art impacts public health. The code is available for local and state agencies and other organizations to use as a resource to update their own body art codes.

The updated Body Art Model Code is divided into 22 sections:

1. Definitions
2. Body Art Operator Requirements and Professional Standards
3. Specific Considerations for Piercing
4. Jewelry Standards
5. Public Notification Requirements
6. Facility Recordkeeping Requirements
7. Informed Consent and Release Form
8. Records Retention
9. Disinfection and Sterilization Procedures
10. Preparation and Care of the Procedure Site
11. Requirements for Single-Use Items
12. Biomedical Waste
13. Requirements for Premises
14. License Requirements
15. Prohibitions
16. Enforcement
17. Inspection
18. Suspension
19. Revocation
20. Citations
21. Department Personnel Competency Requirements
22. Interpretation and Severability

The updated code also includes a section dedicated to specific considerations for tattooing, cosmetic tattooing, branding, and scarification. To view the updated Body Art Model Code, please visit www.neha.org/bamc. We thank the NEHA Body Art Model Code Committee Members for lending their time, expertise, and knowledge.

Application Period Open for the National Environmental Public Health Internship Program

NEHA is pleased to announce that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is funding the National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEPHIP) to support 20 environmental health student internships during summer 2020. NEPHIP is supported through a cooperative agreement with CDC (CDC-RFA-OT18-1802). The purpose of NEPHIP is to encourage environmental health students to consider careers at local, state, or tribal environmental public health departments following graduation. Through this internship program, students will be exposed to the exciting career opportunities, benefits, and challenges of working with environmental public health agencies throughout the U.S.

NEHA's roll in NEPHIP is to:

- solicit applications from eligible environmental health departments and select locations based on established application criteria;
- solicit application from eligible environmental health students and select interns based on established application criteria; and
- match the selected interns with the environmental health departments based on geolocation preferences, interests, and professional goals that align with opportunities at the health department.

The application period for health departments and students is now open and will close on **January 15, 2020**.

Students who apply must be from National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)-accredited environmental health academic programs. Selected students will receive a base stipend of \$6,000 (\$600/week) for undergraduate and \$8,000 (\$800/week) for graduate students to complete a 10-week internship. Information regarding student eligibility and additional considerations, as well as the application and application checklist, can be found at www.neha.org/professional-development/students/internships/student-eligibility.

Local, state, and tribal health departments interested in hosting an environmental health student intern can find information about eligibility and other considerations, as well as the application, at www.neha.org/professional-development/students/internships/health-department-eligibility.

Please visit NEHA's Internship web page (www.neha.org/professional-development/students/internships) for the following NEPHIP information:

- 2020 program guidelines,
- health department application,
- student internship application,
- past intern success stories, and
- 2019 NEPHIP program map.

NEHA Staff Profile

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know the NEHA staff better and to learn more about the great programs and activities going on in your association. This month we are pleased to introduce you to one NEHA staff member. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 44.



Ayana Jones

I joined NEHA's Program and Partnership Development department as a project coordinator in December 2018. My primary role at NEHA is to develop and execute project deliverables on a variety of environmental health content areas such as the Model Aquatic Health Code, open data, vector control, and water. I am one of five employees here in the

Washington, DC, office, where we engage strategically with our public health and environmental health partners. Over the past year, I helped contribute to, facilitate, and monitor the work of several federally-funded environmental health projects.

I was born and raised in Maple Heights, a small suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. I attended Slippery Rock University for my bachelor of science in public health and more recently graduated from the University of Maryland in 2018. Before my transition to graduate school at the University of Maryland, where I studied health equity, I worked as an environmental health fellow and at the American Public Health Association. The foundation of my environmental health work began as a sanitarian at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

My personal and professional passions lie with the betterment of environmental health, specifically for the most vulnerable groups of people. One of my goals here at NEHA is to continue to promote environmental justice and health equity within my project areas and incorporate the roles of environmental justice and health equity in the environmental health workforce. My first year here at NEHA has been both challenging and exciting. I look forward to doing greater things at NEHA in the years to come. When I am not working, I enjoy doing hot yoga, working on audio editing projects, or going to jazz and soul concerts in the DMV (Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia) area. 🐼

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it must be cultivated. The Aroles recognized that certain influencers within their catchment played an outsized role in regional development decisions. Investing in those relationships and ensuring buy-in and support from these individuals would lead to better health outcomes for everyone. The farmers clubs were an excellent example of Arole ingenuity. They created clubs where farmers with wealth had something in common with subsistence farmers—everyone farmed—and these clubs were essential in creating cooperatives where everything from financing, infrastructure, pricing, and health centers could be discussed and worked on together. A common purpose bonded all the players, regardless of what caste they were born into.

The farmers clubs also played another more interesting and productive purpose. The Aroles understood that while the women were the change agents they needed to work with, the men were easily threatened and would likely prohibit their spouses from interacting with the Aroles, even if it benefited their family's health. Hence, the farmers



Dr. David Dyjack addresses a gathering of Delhi community leaders in 1997. Photo courtesy of David Dyjack.

clubs. The village men's status was collectively improved by associating with the clubs. They came to trust the Aroles over time and eventually ceded permission for the women to become involved in many community health improvement initiatives. Brilliant.

I'm struck by the notion that the greatest contribution we will likely make during our careers will not fall within the four walls of the

environmental health profession. Alternatively, it will be what we achieve in collaboration with other disciplines: engineering, medicine, nursing, health education, architecture. To effectively gain access to these professions, we will, like the Aroles, need to cultivate trust with the gate keepers. In our case, these gate keepers include university deans, medical center directors, company presidents, governmental health officials, and nursing supervisors, among others. Let's meet them on their turf, create and deliver value as defined by them, and when they claim credit for our ideas, let our satisfaction lie with the fact that we achieved our aim.

The great rupee exchange of 1997 was the opening scene on a 5-week adventure that brought me to Delhi, Mumbai, Manipal, Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad. I learned the importance of community participation and was introduced to the outsized role of women in the health of their and our communities. It's time to dust off the lessons from India and bring them on home. 🐼

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