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### **Local Public Health Network Undergoes Name Change and Expands Service Area**

KEENE, N.H. — The local public health network has changed its name and increased its service area. Formerly known as the Cheshire Public Health Network, the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network (GMPHN) now serves all of Cheshire County and the ten western-most towns in Hillsborough County.

The towns that joined the GMPHN effective July 2009 are Dublin, Jaffrey and Rindge in Cheshire County, and Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown, Greenfield, Greenville, Hancock, New Ipswich, Peterborough, Sharon and Temple in Hillsborough County. This move was made as part of the State of New Hampshire's public health regionalization initiative. The GMPHN now serves a total of 33 municipalities with a collective population of approximately 105,000 people. The GMPHN recently launched a new website (<http://co.cheshire.nh.us/PublicHealth/>) in order to increase communications with the public.

The GMPHN is one of 15 public health networks in New Hampshire. The GMPHN is housed by Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene and is financed through Cheshire County via a grant by the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, with funds provided by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

After the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, state and local officials realized the need for a more robust public health system in New Hampshire. The public health networks strive to enhance and improve public health-related services by increasing collaboration and planning across municipal boundaries and the health and safety sectors. The GMPHN consists of representatives from each of the 33 municipalities as well as representatives from regional organizations which provide for the public's health and safety.

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