



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

RECREATIONAL WATER SEASON UPDATES

MDPH Division of Environmental Toxicology,
Hazard Assessment & Prevention

MHOA Annual Spring Workshops

4/1/25 and 4/2/25: Virtual

4/15/25: Devens, MA

Beaches: Agenda

1. Program Updates

- New Staff
- 2024 Accomplishments
- 2025 Updates

2. Data Portal Demonstration

3. Pre-Season Reminders

- Overview of WQ Criteria and Posting Requirements
- Sampler Contingency Plan

4. CyanoHABs



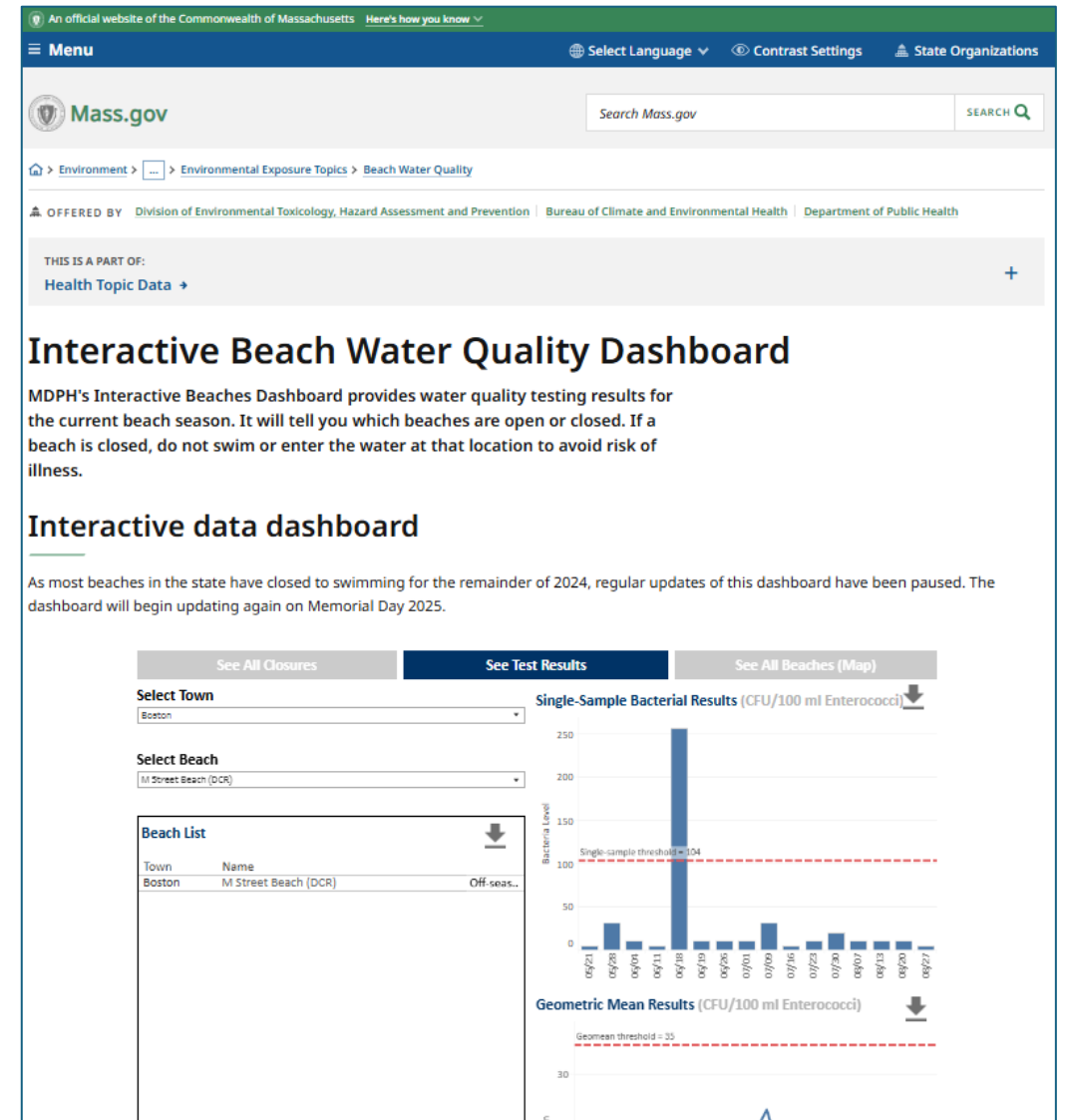
Wellfleet Beach,
Wellfleet

Beaches: New Division, New Staff

- Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment and Prevention (TOX)
 - Recreational Water Team:
 - Logan Bailey – Lead Scientist, TOX
 - Rachel Gladstone – Cyanobacteria/Harmful Algae Bloom Coordinator
 - Kerri Strobeck – Beaches Project Coordinator
 - Bridget Ducey – Beach Inspector: *Cape & Islands, Buzzards Bay, Western Massachusetts*
 - Michael Beattie – Beach Inspector: *North Shore, Boston, Central Massachusetts*

Beaches: 2024 Season Summary

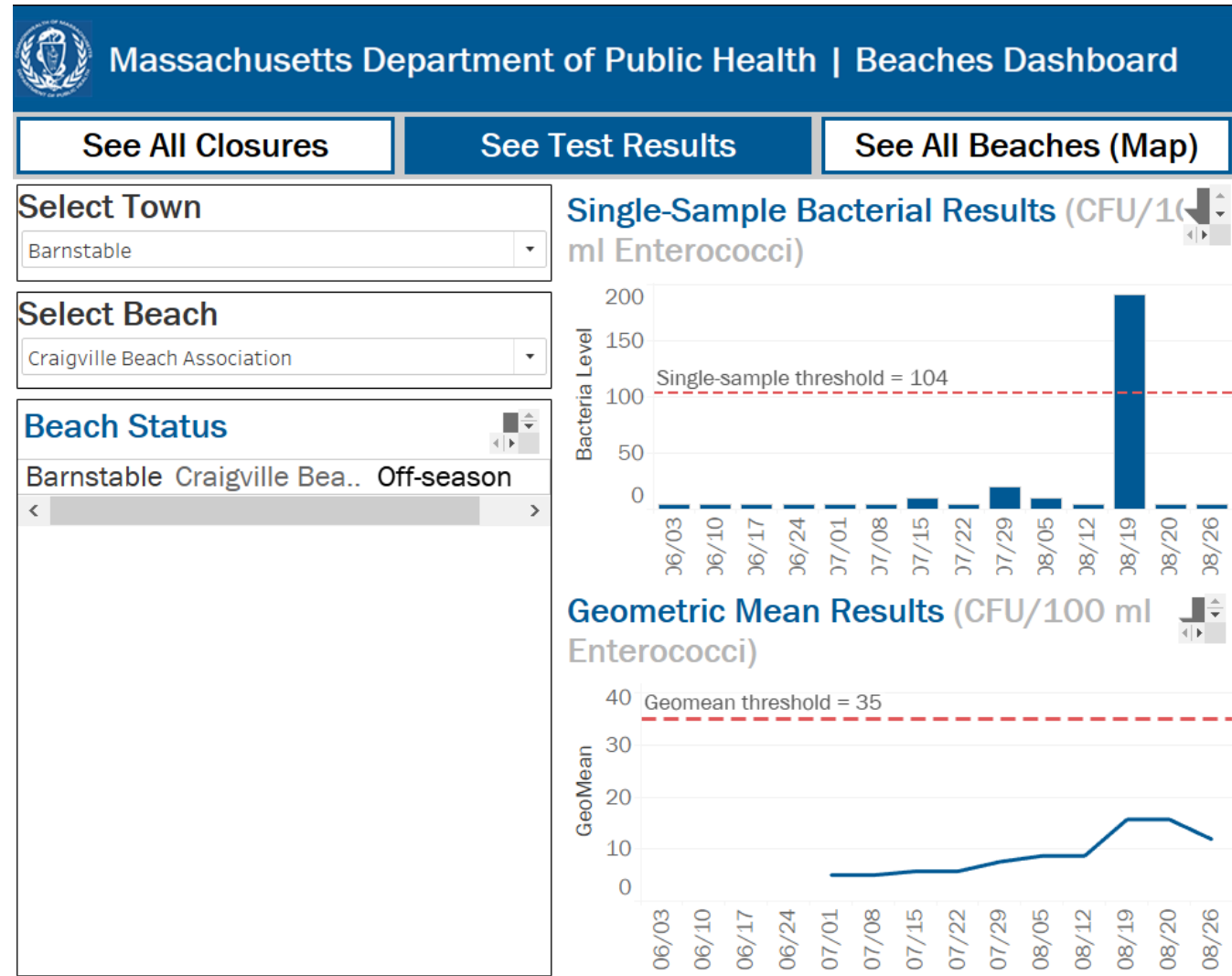
- Thank you to our partners for an incredibly successful first year with our new Data Dashboard!
 - **500,000+** views to our public Beaches Dashboard on *mass.gov*
 - 80% of all data uploaded to the Data Portal **in real time** by Contract Labs, BOH, and DCR



Beaches: System Improvements

1. Updated Public Dashboard

- New user interface
- Will now refresh hourly from 8am - 5pm
- Excellent resource for current information



<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/interactive-beach-water-quality-dashboard>

Beaches: System Improvements

2. Automated WQ Upload Notifications

Summary of Uploaded Beach Samples

NE

notifications@dev.mdpb-envdata.casetivity.com

To Strobeck, Kerri (DPH)

☺

↩ Reply

↩ Reply All

➡ Forward

⋮

Mon 3/31/2025 4:34 PM

Hi Kerri,

The samples below have been successfully added to the Beaches Portal. To view this batch in the Portal, go to the 'Search For...' pull-down menu, choose 'Beach Samples,' then paste in the following Upload ID: ede9023c1d0820250331.

Lab Sample ID	Beach	Location	Post-After-1?	Sample Date and Time	Indicator	Result	Adjusted Result	Geomean	Action Required	Exceedance Type
1	Ashland Reservoir-Main Beach (DCR)		No	2025-03-31 16:32 PM	Enterococci	300	300	59.98	Post beach.	Single and Geomean

To post a beach closed to swimming or re-open a beach following a closure, please go to the [MDPH Beaches Portal](#).

Beaches: Live Data Portal Demonstration

- Bookmark our Beaches Portal to your browser:
<https://mdph-envdata.casetivity.com/>



Beaches: WQ Criteria

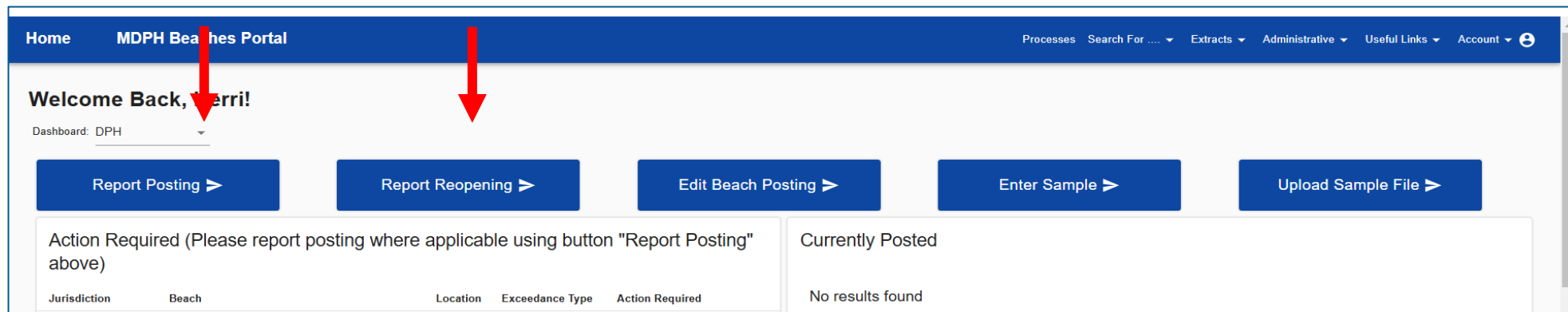
- Beach must be posted if:
 - Geomean exceeds threshold
 - Single sample exceedance
 - 2 **consecutive** single sample exceedances
 - on MDPH's Post-After-1 List
- Beaches can only be re-opened once the single sample **and** the geomean are below threshold

Beach Type	Indicator	Single Sample	Geomean
Marine	Enterococci	>104	>35
Freshwater	Enterococci	>61	>33
	<i>E. coli</i>	>235	>126

Table 1. DPH recreational water quality criteria (CFU/100 mL)

Beaches: Posting Reporting Requirements

- BOH:
 - Need to post signs immediately
 - 24 hours to report the posting to MDPH via the Portal
 - *Also need to report re-openings via the Portal!*



<https://mdph-envdata.casetivity.com/>

Beaches: Operators Sign

- **Required** at each beach entrance:
 - Beach Name
 - Dates of Operation
 - Operator Name & Number
 - Permit #
 - *“Not monitored for bacteria outside of season”* message
- **Encouraged:**
 - Size: At least 8.5” by 11”
 - Weather-resistant
 - QR code for more information and/or language translation



Beaches: Posting Sign

- **Required** at parking lot entrances and beach entrances:

"Warning! No Swimming. Swimming May Cause Illness."

- Reason for Posting
- Date of Posting
- BOH Contact Information
- Red Hatch Mark Graphic



Beaches: Sampler Contingency Plan

- Beaches **must** be posted in absence of a weekly sample collection
 - Don't let your beach close due to sampler vacation, sickness, etc!
 1. Identify a back-up sampler
 2. Review and document sample location(s)
 3. Provide sample collection training
 4. Provide contract lab details
 5. Review and document sample exceedance procedures

Beaches: METRIK Initiative

- **New DPH-OLRH initiative**
- **Set to include beach permit and inspection forms**
- **Targeted implementation: Summer 2026**



Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms (CyanoHABs)



DPH Statewide CyanoHAB Workshop

- **May 7th** – virtual event
 - Contact
bridget.j.ducey@mass.gov

Featuring:

- Cyanobacteria genus guide for local health
- Trends in MA cyanoHAB data
- Presentations from researchers and other agencies



REDCap Online Reporting Portal

- If you need technical assistance regarding a potential harmful algal bloom, contact us or submit a report via REDCap: <https://redcap.ehs.mass.gov/redcap/>

The screenshot displays the REDCap Online Reporting Portal interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: 'My Projects', 'REDCap Messenger', 'Contact REDCap administrator', 'Project Home and Design' (with sub-links for Project Home, Project Setup, Designer, Dictionary, and Codebook), 'Data Collection' (with sub-links for Survey Distribution Tools, Record Status Dashboard, and Add / Edit Records), 'Record ID 101' (with a link to Select other record), 'Data Collection Instruments' (with a link to Online HAB Reporting Form), and 'Applications' (with sub-links for Project Dashboards, Alerts & Notifications, Multi-Language Management, Calendar, Data Exports, Reports, and Stats, Data Import Tool, Data Comparison Tool, and Logging and Email Logging).

The main content area is titled 'BEH TOX Cyanobacteria Reporting' with a 'PID 87' label. It includes action buttons: 'Download PDF of instrument(s)', 'Share instrument in the Library', and a video link 'Video: Basic data entry'. Below this is the 'Online HAB Reporting Form' section, which states 'Survey response is editable' and provides an 'Edit response' button. A green message box indicates that the response was completed on 07-03-2024 10:10, was initially started on 07-03-2024 10:06, and has a completion time of 3 minutes and 38 seconds. It also mentions that the user has permission to edit the response and provides a link to 'View all contributors to this response'. The record ID is 101.

The form fields are as follows:

Record ID	101
Is this a new report, or a follow-up of a previous report?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> New report <input type="radio"/> Follow-up <small>* must provide value</small>
Contact Information	
Name	<input type="text" value="Michael Avila"/>
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Local Health or other Municipal Department <input type="radio"/> Community Group/Organization <input type="radio"/> Other
Name of your Local Health or other Municipal Department	<input type="text" value="Sandwich Health Department"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="health@sandwichmass.org"/> <small>* must provide value</small>

Upcoming New CyanoHAB Resources



- Sample collection SOP for cyanobacteria testing
- Updated advisory sign template
 - Chinese (simplified)
 - Chinese (traditional)
 - Haitian Creole
 - Spanish
 - Khmer
 - Portuguese
 - Russian
 - Vietnamese

Thank you!

Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment and Prevention (TOX)

Recreational Water Quality Team

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