



**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

# **RECREATIONAL WATER SEASON UPDATES**

**MDPH Community Sanitation Program / MHOA  
Annual Spring Workshops  
*April 30 & May 2, 2024***

# Staff Introductions

## DPH:

==> Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH):

==> Environmental Toxicology Program (TOX):

==> Recreational Water Team

## STAFF

- Logan Bailey..... Lead Scientist
- Rachel Gladstone.....Cyanobacteria / Harmful Algae Bloom Coordinator
- Kerri Strobeck..... Beaches Project Manager
- Michael Beattie.....Beach Inspector
- Bridget Ducey.....Beach Inspector

# Topics

## Bathing Beaches

1. Online beach data dashboard
2. Overview of data portal
3. Live demo of data portal

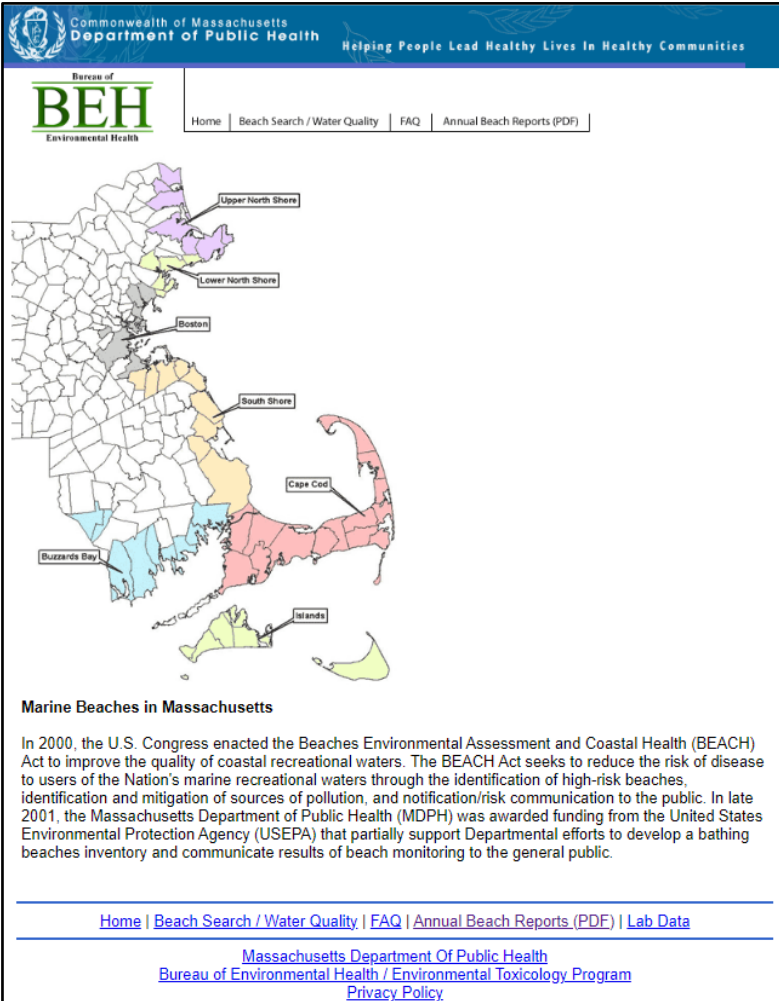
## Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms (CyanoHABs)

1. Background
2. DPH role
3. Visual evaluation of blooms
4. DPH resources

A photograph of a sandy beach with waves crashing onto the shore. The water is a vibrant greenish-blue, and the foam is white. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color. The text "Bathing Beaches" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# Bathing Beaches

# Background: The Old DPH Website



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Public Health  
Helping People Lead Healthy Lives In Healthy Communities

Bureau of Environmental Health  
**BEH**  
Environmental Health

Home | Beach Search / Water Quality | FAQ | Annual Beach Reports (PDF)

Upper North Shore  
Lower North Shore  
Boston  
South Shore  
Cape Cod  
Buzzards Bay  
Islands

### Marine Beaches in Massachusetts

In 2000, the U.S. Congress enacted the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act to improve the quality of coastal recreational waters. The BEACH Act seeks to reduce the risk of disease to users of the Nation's marine recreational waters through the identification of high-risk beaches, identification and mitigation of sources of pollution, and notification/risk communication to the public. In late 2001, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) was awarded funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) that partially support Departmental efforts to develop a bathing beaches inventory and communicate results of beach monitoring to the general public.

Home | Beach Search / Water Quality | FAQ | Annual Beach Reports (PDF) | Lab Data

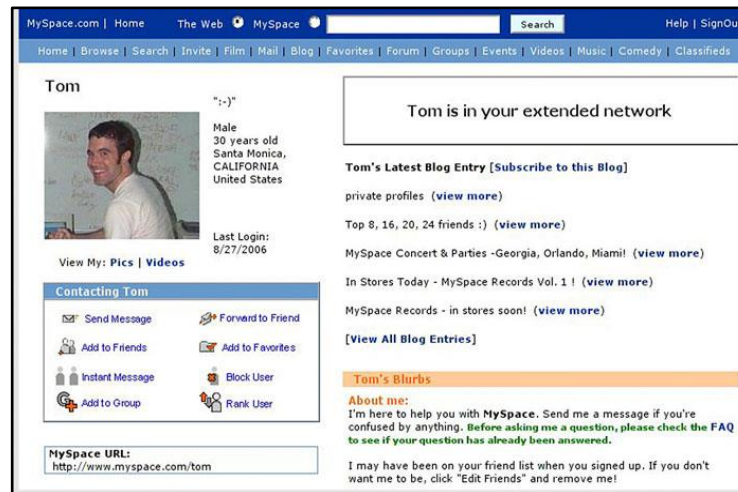
Massachusetts Department Of Public Health  
Bureau of Environmental Health / Environmental Toxicology Program  
Privacy Policy

## Features

- Launched in 2003
- Marine beaches
- Closure info
- Current sample results

## Limitations

- Looked like it launched in 2003
- Only Marine beaches
- No “internal access” for BOHs
- RIP



MySpace.com | Home The Web MySpace Search Help | SignOut

Home | Browse | Search | Invite | Film | Mail | Blog | Favorites | Forum | Groups | Events | Videos | Music | Comedy | Classifieds

### Tom

Male  
30 years old  
Santa Monica, CALIFORNIA  
United States

Last Login:  
8/27/2006

View My: Pics | Videos

#### Contacting Tom

- Send Message
- Forward to Friend
- Add to Friends
- Add to Favorites
- Instant Message
- Block User
- Add to Group
- Rank User

MySpace URL:  
<http://www.myspace.com/tom>

Tom is in your extended network

Tom's Latest Blog Entry [Subscribe to this Blog]  
private profiles (view more)  
Top 8, 16, 20, 24 friends :) (view more)  
MySpace Concert & Parties - Georgia, Orlando, Miami! (view more)  
In Stores Today - MySpace Records Vol. 1! (view more)  
MySpace Records - in stores soon! (view more)

[View All Blog Entries]

#### Tom's Blurbs

About me:  
I'm here to help you with MySpace. Send me a message if you're confused by anything. Before asking me a question, please check the FAQ to see if your question has already been answered.

I may have been on your friend list when you signed up. If you don't want me to be, click "Edit Friends" and remove me!



Personalize Finance Shop **YAHOO!** Email Messenger HotJobs

Y! Games - Play free online games - Pool, Literati, Dominoes, Chess, Spades, Euchre and more...

Search the Web: Search advanced what's new

New! Search Shortcuts - Maps, Weather, Dictionary, more

Shop Auctions, Autos, Classifieds, Real Estate, Shopping, Travel  
Find HotJobs, Maps, People Search, Personals, Yellow Pages  
Connect Chat, GeoCities, Greetings, Groups, Mail, Messenger, Mobile

Organize Addresses, Briefcase, Calendar, My Yahoo!, PayDirect, Photos  
Fun Games, Horoscopes, Kids, Movies, Music, Platinum, TV  
Info Finance, Health, News, Sports, Weather More Yahoo!...

Personal Assistant Get free email with SpamGuard! Yahoo! Mail - Sign up now

Yahoo! Autos Hybrid Gas/Electric, Photos, 360° Virtual Tour, Price Quotes '03 Toyota Prius

In The News 3:11pm, Sat Jun 7

Yahoo! Sports coverage of the **BELMONT STAKES**  
Funny Cide runs for the Triple Crown  
Post time: Saturday, 6:38 p.m. ET

- At a glance
- All-time Triple Crown winners
- Post positions/odds
- Horse capsules
- Photos
- More Horse Racing...

MLB - NHL Finals - NBA Finals - French Open - More Sports

News - Photos - Sports - Stocks - Weather

- Kabul blast kills four German peacekeepers
- Palestinians rip Hamas over quitting talks
- UN envoy fails to secure release of Suu Kyi
- Episcopalians in N.H. elect gay bishop
- 13,000 Arab and Muslim men face deportation
- Water begins filling China's Three Gorges
- Henin-Hardenne wins French Open - NBA

# New Website Launched in 2023

## DPH launches new tool to track beach closures

More than 50 remain closed due to high bacteria levels and other causes.

By Zeina Mohammed Globe Staff, Updated August 2, 2023, 1:38 p.m.



Savin Hill Beach was closed Wednesday due to high levels of bacteria in the water. JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

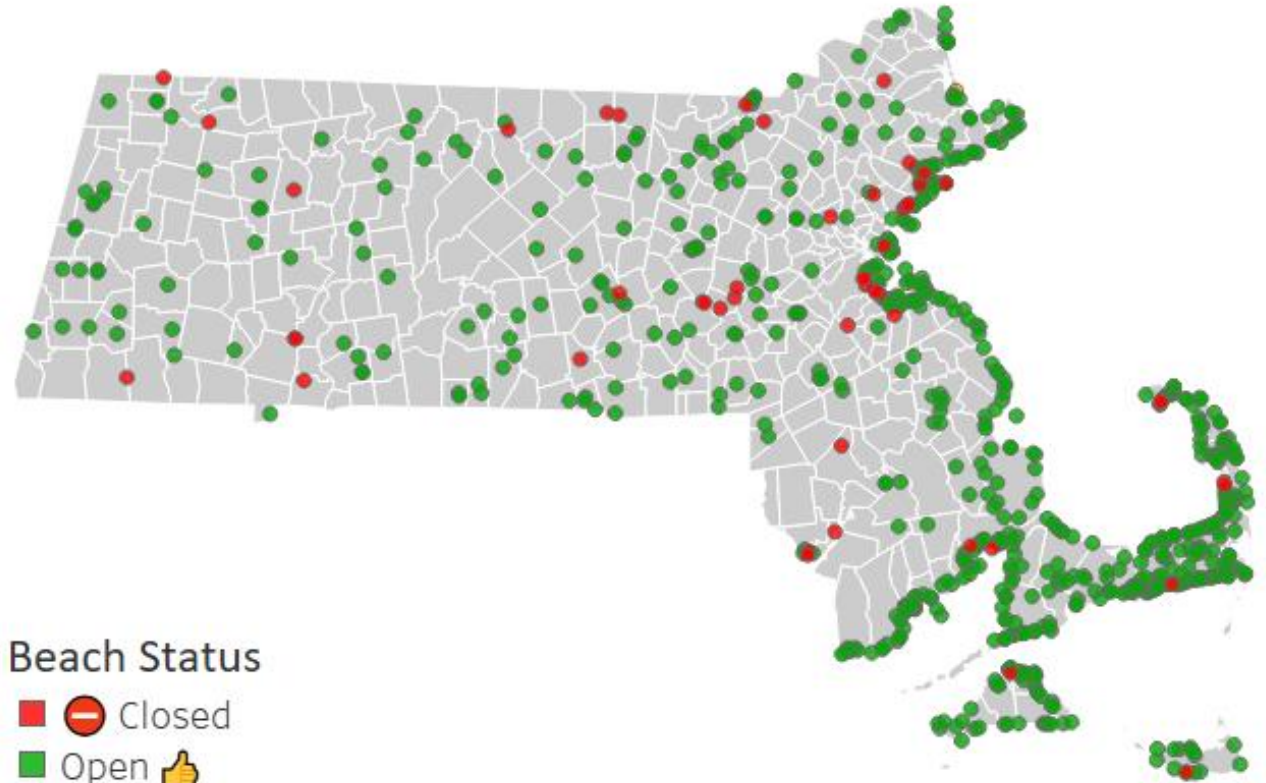
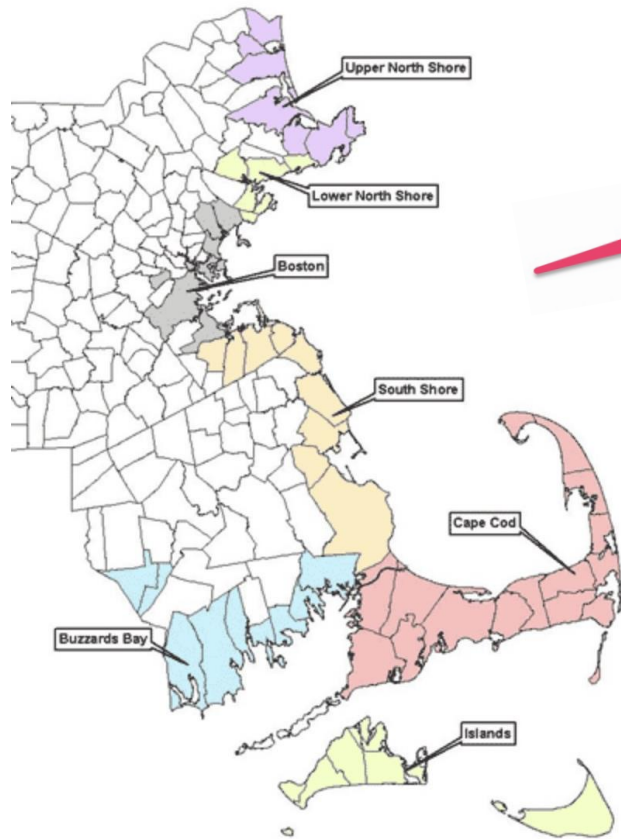
With more than 50 Massachusetts beaches closed due to heavy rain and sewage overflows, the Department of Public Health has launched a new tool to help people check the safety of their favorite swimming spots.

## 2023 Rollout

- Imminent need to build a whole new site - complete redesign
- “Internal” site launched in May (Portal)
- Online data dashboard published on Public site in July
- High demand for current sample/closure info

**Big New Feature: Expanded Coverage**

# Beaches Covered by New Website



- Beach Status**
- Red square with a red circle and slash: Closed
  - Green square with a thumbs up icon: Open
  - Yellow square: Partially Closed

# Dashboard: Access/Navigation

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

**Easier:** [www.mass.gov/beaches](http://www.mass.gov/beaches)

## Interactive Beach Water Quality Dashboard

MDPH's Interactive Beaches Dashboard provides water quality testing results for the current beach season. It will tell you which beaches are open or closed. If a beach is closed, do not swim or enter the water at that location to avoid risk of illness.

### Interactive data dashboard

As most beaches in the state have closed to swimming for the remainder of 2023, this dashboard will begin updating again on May 27, 2024

See All Closures | See Test Results | See All Beaches (Map)

**Select Town**

- Boston
- Bourne
- Boxford
- Braintree
- Brewster
- Brookfield
- Carver
- Charlemont
- Chatham
- Chelmsford
- Chesterfield
- Chicopee
- Chilmark
- Clarksburg

**Select Beach**

Glen Devin Condominiums	Off-season
Lake Attitash - A.L.S.I.A.	Off-season
Lake Gardner	Off-season

**2023 Single-Sample Bacterial Results (CFU/100 ml E.)**

Date	Bacteria Level (CFU/100 ml E.)
30	~10
06	~20
13	~5
21	~10
26	~30
05	~5
12	~15
19	~380

### Beach Closures

Town	Name	Closure Reason
Agawam	Robinson Pond Beach (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
Ashby	Damon Pond Beach (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
Ashland	Ashland Reservoir-Main Beach (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
	Hopkinton Reservoir-Main Beach (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
	Hopkinton Reservoir-Upper Beach (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
Boston	Malibu (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
	Savin Hill (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
	Tenean (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
Braintree	Smith Beach	Bacterial Exceedance
Charlemont	Cold River Pool (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
Clarksburg	Mauserts Pond (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
Conway	Conway Swimming Pool	Other
Danvers	Sandy Beach @West	Bacterial Exceedance
Dennis	South Village	Bacterial Exceedance
Eastham	Cook's Brook	Bacterial Exceedance
	S. Sunken Meadow	Bacterial Exceedance
Framingham	Learned Pond Beach	Bacterial Exceedance
	Wauhakum Beach	Bacterial Exceedance
Georgetown	American Legion Park	Harmful Cyanobacteria Bloom
Ipswich	Sandy Point - Plum Island (DCR) @North	Other
Lowell	Merrimac River - Bath House	Bacterial Exceedance
Lynn	Kings (DCR) @Eastern Ave.	Bacterial Exceedance
	Kings (DCR) @Kimball Rd.	Bacterial Exceedance
	Kings (DCR) @Pierce Rd.	Bacterial Exceedance
	Lynn Shore Beach (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance
	Stacey Brook Outfall (No Swimming)	Bacterial Exceedance
Milton	Houghton's Pond @ Bathhouse (DCR)	Bacterial Exceedance



# Dashboard: Test Results Tab



See All Closures
**See Test Results**
See All Beaches (Map)

**Select Town**

- Abington
- Acton
- Agawam
- Amesbury
- Amherst
- Andover
- Aquinnah
- Arlington
- Ashby
- Ashfield
- Ashland
- Athol
- Ayer
- Barnstable
- Becket
- Bedford
- Belchertown
- Bellingham
- Beverly
- Billerica
- Bolton
- Boston**
- Bourne
- Boxford
- Braintree
- Brewster
- Brookfield
- Carver
- Charlemont
- Chatham

**Select Beach**

Carson Beach (DCR) @Bathhouse	Off-season
Carson Beach (DCR) @I Street	Off-season
Castle Island Beach (DCR)	Off-season
City Point Beach (DCR)	Off-season
Constitution (DCR) @Middle	Off-season
Constitution (DCR) @North	Off-season
Constitution (DCR) @Rec Center	Off-season
Lovell's Island (DCR)	Off-season
M Street Beach (DCR)	Off-season
<b>Malibu (DCR)</b>	<b>Off-season</b>
Pleasure Bay (DCR) @Broadway	Off-season
Pleasure Bay (DCR) @South flagpole	Off-season
Savin Hill (DCR)	Off-season
Spectacle Island (DCR)	Off-season
Tenean (DCR)	Off-season

**2023 Single-Sample Bacterial Results (CFU/100 ml Enterococci)**

**2023 Geomean (CFU/100 ml Enterococci)**

# Structure: Portal and Dashboard

## Portal

**BOHs, Labs, DCR, DPH**

- “Internal,” behind-the-scene
- Labs enter data (or towns)
- Towns report postings and re-openings



## Dashboard

**Public website**

- Public site, updated 2/day with latest test results and closure information

# The Portal - Basics

- **Different user types, different views**
  - BOHs & Labs, DCR, and DPH
- **Reporting data to DPH:**
  - Sample results
  - Beach postings & re-openings
- **Home page = beach overview:**
  - Latest sampling results
  - What's open and what's closed
  - What needs to be closed
  - What can be re-opened
  - General Beach info (waterbody, lat/long...)

The screenshot shows the MDPH Beaches Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'MDPH Beaches Portal', a search bar, 'Useful Links', and 'Account'. Below the navigation bar, a welcome message reads 'Welcome Back, BOH.user!' and 'Dashboard: BOH'. The dashboard is divided into several sections:

- Posting Required:** A section with a 'Request failed' message and a 'Retry?' link.
- Sampling Overdue:** A table listing beaches with their locations, frequencies, and last sample dates. All entries have a red arrow icon indicating they are overdue.
- Currently Posted:** A table listing currently posted beaches with columns for Jurisdiction, Beach, Reason, Other Reason (if any), and Date Posted. One entry is shown: Westford, Forge Village Beach, Bacterial Exceedance, 03/20.
- Latest Sampling Data:** A table listing the latest sampling data for beaches, including Location, Latest Sample Date/Time, Latest Sample Result, Indicator, and Test Frequency. One entry is shown: Edwards Town Beach, 2024-03-18 01:04:00PM, 1000, E. Coli, Weekly.
- DCR-Managed Beaches in Town:** A section with 'No data available'.
- Beaches that Can Reopen:** A section with a 'Request failed' message and a 'Retry?' link.



# The Portal: Elements

Widgets

Buttons

Search For...

(Pages)

Home MDPH Beaches Portal Search For ... Useful Links Account

Welcome Back, BOH.user!  
Dashboard: BOH

Create Beach Posting > Remove Beach Posting >

Posting Required

No data available

Sampling Overdue

Beach	Location	Freq	Last Sample	
East Boston Camps - Day Care		W	08/28	➔
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		W	08/28	➔
Edwards Town Beach		W	08/14	➔
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		W	08/28	➔
Summer Village Main Beach		W	08/28	➔
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		W	08/28	➔
Lakeside Meadows		W	08/28	➔
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		W	08/28	➔

Latest Sampling Data

Beach	Location	Latest Sample Date/Time	Latest Sample Result	Indicator	Test Frequency	
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		2023-08-28 10:22:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly	➔
Edwards Town Beach		2023-08-14 10:03:00AM	10	E. Coli	Weekly	➔
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		2023-08-28 08:36:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly	➔
Summer Village Main Beach		2023-08-28 09:08:00AM	12	E. Coli	Weekly	➔
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		2023-08-28 10:48:00AM	2	E. Coli	Weekly	➔
Lakeside Meadows		2023-08-28 09:32:00AM	25	E. Coli	Weekly	➔
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		2023-08-28 09:50:00AM	16	E. Coli	Weekly	➔

DCR-Managed Beaches in Town

No data available

# The Portal: Elements

Widgets

Buttons

Search For...

(Pages)

The screenshot displays the MDPH Beaches Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a red navigation bar with 'Home' and 'MDPH Beaches Portal' on the left, and a search bar, 'Useful Links', and 'Account' on the right. Below the navigation bar, a white banner says 'Welcome Back, BOH.user!' with a dropdown menu for 'Dashboard: BOH'. Two red buttons, 'Create Beach Posting' and 'Remove Beach Posting', are positioned below the banner. The main content area is divided into four yellow widgets. The 'Posting Required' widget shows 'No data available'. The 'Sampling Overdue' widget contains a table with columns for Beach, Location, Freq, and Last Sample. The 'Latest Sampling Data' widget contains a table with columns for Beach, Location, Latest Sample Date/Time, Latest Sample Result, Indicator, and Test Frequency. The 'DCR-Managed Beaches in Town' widget shows 'No data available'.

Beach	Location	Freq	Last Sample
East Boston Camps - Day Care		W	08/28
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		W	08/28
Edwards Town Beach		W	08/14
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		W	08/28
Summer Village Main Beach		W	08/28
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		W	08/28
Lakeside Meadows		W	08/28
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		W	08/28

Beach	Location	Latest Sample Date/Time	Latest Sample Result	Indicator	Test Frequency
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		2023-08-28 10:22:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly
Edwards Town Beach		2023-08-14 10:03:00AM	10	E. Coli	Weekly
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		2023-08-28 08:36:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly
Summer Village Main Beach		2023-08-28 09:08:00AM	12	E. Coli	Weekly
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		2023-08-28 10:48:00AM	2	E. Coli	Weekly
Lakeside Meadows		2023-08-28 09:32:00AM	25	E. Coli	Weekly
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		2023-08-28 09:50:00AM	16	E. Coli	Weekly

# The Portal: Elements

Widgets

Buttons

Search For...

(Pages)

The screenshot displays the MDPH Beaches Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a red navigation bar with 'Home' and 'MDPH Beaches Portal' on the left, and a search bar, 'Useful Links', and 'Account' on the right. Below the navigation bar, a white header area says 'Welcome Back, BOH.user!' and 'Dashboard: BOH'. Two orange buttons, 'Create Beach Posting >' and 'Remove Beach Posting >', are highlighted with a dashed blue border. The main content area is divided into four widgets: 1. 'Posting Required' (empty, 'No data available'). 2. 'Sampling Overdue' (table with 8 rows of beach data and overdue status). 3. 'Latest Sampling Data' (table with 8 rows of sampling results). 4. 'DCR-Managed Beaches in Town' (empty, 'No data available').

Home MDPH Beaches Portal Search For ... Useful Links Account

Welcome Back, BOH.user!  
Dashboard: BOH

Create Beach Posting > Remove Beach Posting >

Posting Required

No data available

Sampling Overdue

Beach	Location	Freq	Last Sample	
East Boston Camps - Day Care		W	08/28	→
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		W	08/28	→
Edwards Town Beach		W	08/14	→
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		W	08/28	→
Summer Village Main Beach		W	08/28	→
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		W	08/28	→
Lakeside Meadows		W	08/28	→
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		W	08/28	→

Latest Sampling Data

Beach	Location	Latest Sample Date/Time	Latest Sample Result	Indicator	Test Frequency	
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		2023-08-28 10:22:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Edwards Town Beach		2023-08-14 10:03:00AM	10	E. Coli	Weekly	→
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		2023-08-28 08:36:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Summer Village Main Beach		2023-08-28 09:08:00AM	12	E. Coli	Weekly	→
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		2023-08-28 10:48:00AM	2	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Lakeside Meadows		2023-08-28 09:32:00AM	25	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		2023-08-28 09:50:00AM	16	E. Coli	Weekly	→

DCR-Managed Beaches in Town

No data available

# The Portal: Elements

Widgets

Buttons

Search For...

(Pages)

The screenshot displays the MDPH Beaches Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a red navigation bar with 'Home' and 'MDPH Beaches Portal' on the left, and a search bar, 'Useful Links', and 'Account' on the right. Below the navigation bar, a welcome message reads 'Welcome Back, BOH.user!' with a dropdown menu for 'Dashboard: BOH'. Two prominent red buttons are visible: 'Create Beach Posting' and 'Remove Beach Posting'. The dashboard is divided into four main sections:

- Posting Required:** A large empty box with the text 'No data available'.
- Sampling Overdue:** A table listing beaches with their last sample dates and overdue status.
- Latest Sampling Data:** A table showing the most recent sampling results for various beaches.
- DCR-Managed Beaches in Town:** A large empty box with the text 'No data available'.

Beach	Location	Freq	Last Sample	Status
East Boston Camps - Day Care		W	08/28	→
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		W	08/28	→
Edwards Town Beach		W	08/14	→
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		W	08/28	→
Summer Village Main Beach		W	08/28	→
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		W	08/28	→
Lakeside Meadows		W	08/28	→
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		W	08/28	→

Beach	Location	Latest Sample Date/Time	Latest Sample Result	Indicator	Test Frequency	Status
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		2023-08-28 10:22:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Edwards Town Beach		2023-08-14 10:03:00AM	10	E. Coli	Weekly	→
NVSR: Tiki Pond 1		2023-08-28 08:36:00AM	1	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Summer Village Main Beach		2023-08-28 09:08:00AM	12	E. Coli	Weekly	→
East Boston Camps - Boys Beach		2023-08-28 10:48:00AM	2	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Lakeside Meadows		2023-08-28 09:32:00AM	25	E. Coli	Weekly	→
Marylou's Beach (NIA)		2023-08-28 09:50:00AM	16	E. Coli	Weekly	→

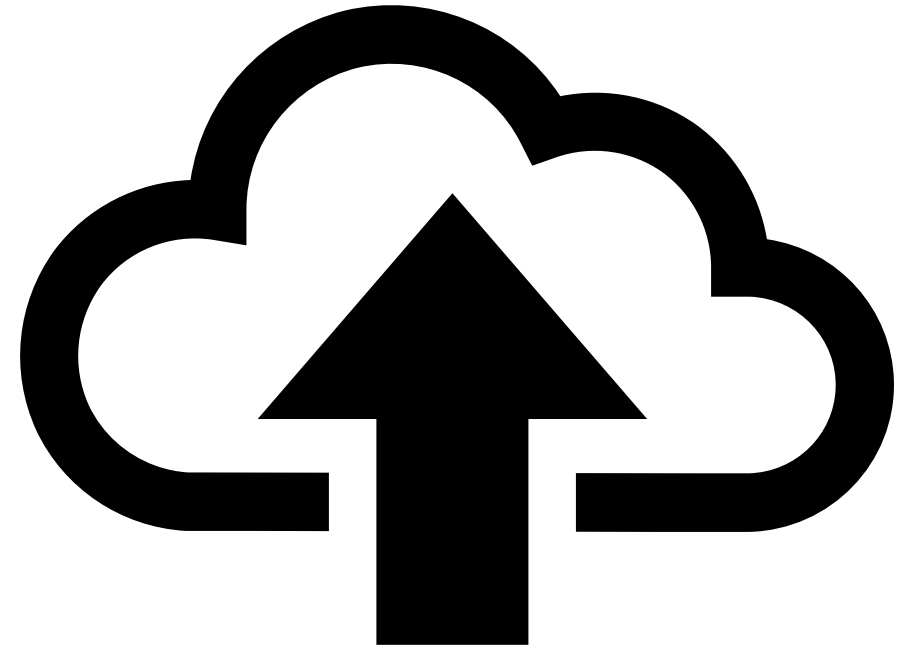
# 2024 Season Goals

## POSTINGS

- Use Portal to report postings and re-openings (Publics will appear on the Dashboard)

## DATA ENTRY

- Labs can do it
- BOHs can do it
- Semi-publics
- Think about when it's feasible to start...





# Next Steps

## 1. Receive data portal account

- Our vendor, SSG, will be sending account links
- If you don't see it, check your spam folder
- Use link to set up password
- Contact us to create accounts for additional users

## 2. Explore data portal, get familiar

## 3. Reach out to your testing lab(s)

- Let us know when we should contact labs.

## 4. Attend portal Office Hours (dates TBD)



# The Portal – Improvements since Last Year

- Lists currently posted beaches
- Calculates geomeans
- Gives reason posting is required (Single vs geomean)
- Tells you when you can reopen
- Town can enter results (not just lab)
- Edit postings
- Search beaches by waterbody
- Improved sorting for widgets


The screenshot displays the MDPH Beaches Portal dashboard for user BOH.user. The dashboard includes several key features:

- Navigation:** Home, MDPH Beaches Portal, Search For..., Useful Links, Account.
- Welcome Message:** Welcome Back, BOH.user! Dashboard: BOH
- Action Buttons:** Create Beach Posting, Remove Beach Posting, Edit Beach Posting, Enter Sample, Upload Sample File.
- Posting Required:** A message indicating a request failed with a "Retry?" button.
- Sampling Overdue:** A table listing beaches with overdue sampling dates.
- Currently Posted:** A table showing the status of currently posted beaches.
- Latest Sampling Data:** A table showing the most recent sampling results for various beaches.
- DCR-Managed Beaches in Town:** A section currently showing "No data available".
- Beaches that Can Reopen:** A message indicating a request failed with a "Retry?" button.

Beach	Location	Freq	Last Sample
Forge Village Beach		W	08/14
Edwards Town Beach		W	03/18
Nabnassett American Legion		W	08/28
North Beach (NIA)		W	08/28
Sandy Beach (NIA)		W	08/28
Noble's Cove Beach		W	08/28
East Boston Camps - Day Care		W	08/28
East Boston Camps - Girls Beach		W	08/28

Jurisdiction	Beach	Reason	Other Reason (if any)	Date Posted
Westford	Forge Village Beach	Bacterial Exceedance		03/20

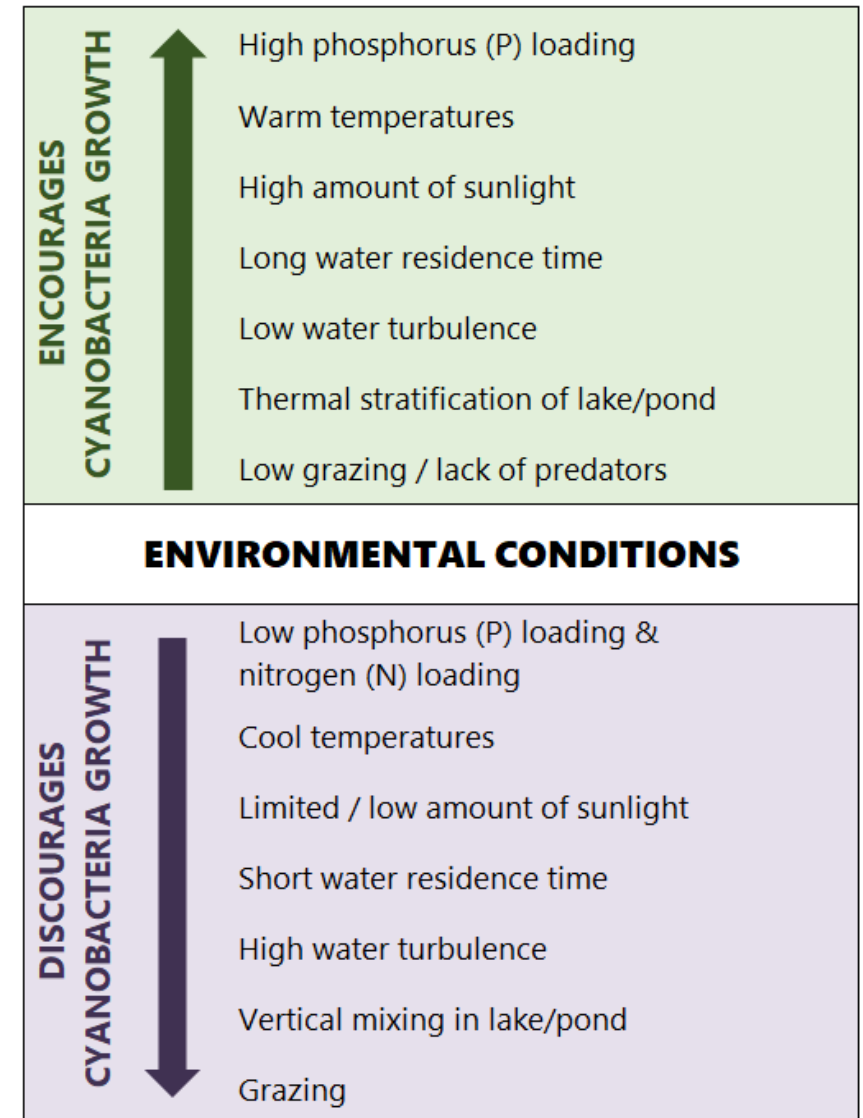
Beach	Location	Latest Sample Date/Time	Latest Sample Result	Indicator	Test Frequency
Edwards Town Beach		2024-03-18 01:04:00PM	1000	E. Coli	Weekly



**Cyanobacteria  
Harmful Algal Blooms  
(CyanoHABs)**

# Cyanobacteria Background

- Occur naturally in freshwater
- Certain environmental conditions can cause excessive growth – “**CyanoHAB**”
- Some species produce toxins called **cyanotoxins**
- Human & animal health impacts



# Risk Management Approach

DPH recommends a public health advisory when **at least one** of the following criteria is met:

1. A visible cyanobacteria scum or mat is evident
2. Total cell count of cyanobacteria exceeds 70,000 cells/mL
3. Concentration of the toxin microcystins exceeds 8 µg/L
4. Concentration of the toxin cylindrospermopsin exceeds 15 µg/L

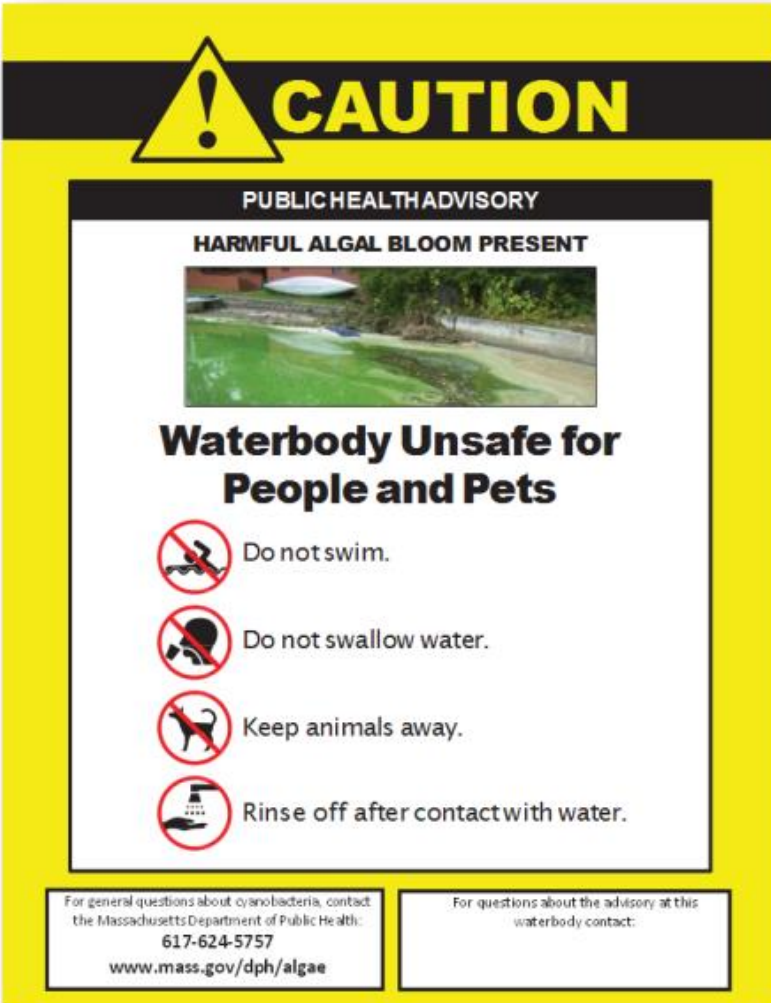
In 2020, HABs were reported to have caused:

- 95 cases of human illness
- 1,170 cases of animal illness

Source: CDC

Toxins were detected in 51% of HAB events reported to CDC in 2020.

Source: CDC



# Agency Roles in Responding to Blooms

- **Local BOHs** – responsible for responding to reports of cyanoHABs and issuing public health advisories
- **DPH/BEH** – provide technical assistance to BOHs dealing with cyanoHABs at recreational waterbodies
- **MassDEP** – responsible for cyanoHABs at drinking water sources

MDPH Online HAB Reporting Form (right):

<https://redcap.link/HAB-Report-Form>

The screenshot shows the 'Massachusetts DPH Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Reporting Form'. It includes a title bar with 'AAA' and a refresh icon. Below the title is a instruction: 'Please complete the form below to report a potential harmful algal bloom to the Department of Public Health.' The form contains several sections: 1. A question 'Is this a new report, or a follow-up of a previous report?' with radio buttons for 'New report' and 'Follow-up', and a 'reset' link. 2. A 'Contact Information' section with fields for 'Name', 'Affiliation' (radio buttons for 'Local Health or other Municipal Department', 'Community Group/Organization', and 'Other'), 'Email', 'Phone Number', and 'Preferred method of contact' (radio buttons for 'Email' and 'Phone'). 3. A question 'Have you reported the bloom to any other state agencies or municipal departments?' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'. 4. An 'Observations' section with fields for 'Waterbody Name', 'City/town', and 'Date bloom observed' (with a calendar icon). Red asterisks indicate required fields.

# IDENTIFYING CYANOBACTERIA HABs



Scum layers that form on the surface or bottom of a waterbody, commonly along shorelines or in protected coves



Murky, soup-like water consistency



Specks and dots in the water column



Paint like streak on the water surface



Bright green, blue-green, or reddish brown hued water

# DPH Resources

## DPH cyanoHAB resources:

- **May 14<sup>th</sup>** – DPH virtual statewide cyanoHAB workshop
  - Contact [Rachel.Gladstone@mass.gov](mailto:Rachel.Gladstone@mass.gov)
- COMING SOON: Protocol for Sampling Freshwater Bodies to test for Cyanobacteria & Cyanotoxins
- Cyanobacteria in Recreational Waters - Guidance document for BOHs (online)
- Fact Sheet: Harmful Algae Blooms in Freshwater Bodies (online)

<https://www.mass.gov/algae-blooms>





# NOT CYANOBACTERIA



**Duckweed – tiny aquatic plant**



**Pollen – yellow/green particles with a “dusty” texture**



**Filamentous green algae –  
Stringy, silky, able to be draped on stick**

# Contact Information

Environmental Toxicology Program  
Bureau of Climate and Environmental  
Health  
Department of Public Health

## Email

[dph-beach@mass.gov](mailto:dph-beach@mass.gov)

## Cyanobacteria website

[www.mass.gov/dph/algae](http://www.mass.gov/dph/algae)

## Beach website

[www.mass.gov/dph/beaches](http://www.mass.gov/dph/beaches)

### Logan Bailey

Lead Scientist

Phone – 857.319.1104

Email – [logan.bailey@mass.gov](mailto:logan.bailey@mass.gov)

### Kerri Strobeck

Beaches Project Coordinator

Phone – 617.624.5757

Email – [kerri.strobeck@mass.gov](mailto:kerri.strobeck@mass.gov)

### Michael Beattie

Beach Inspector – Metro Boston, North & South Shores, Central MA

Phone – 781.445.3439

Email – [mike.beattie@mass.gov](mailto:mike.beattie@mass.gov)

### Bridget Ducey

Beach Inspector – Cape & Islands/Buzzards Bay, Western MA

Phone – TBD

Email – [bridget.ducey@mass.gov](mailto:bridget.ducey@mass.gov)

### Rachel Gladstone

Cyanobacteria / Harmful Algae Bloom Coordinator

Phone – 781.540.6422

Email – [rachel.gladstone@mass.gov](mailto:rachel.gladstone@mass.gov)