



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



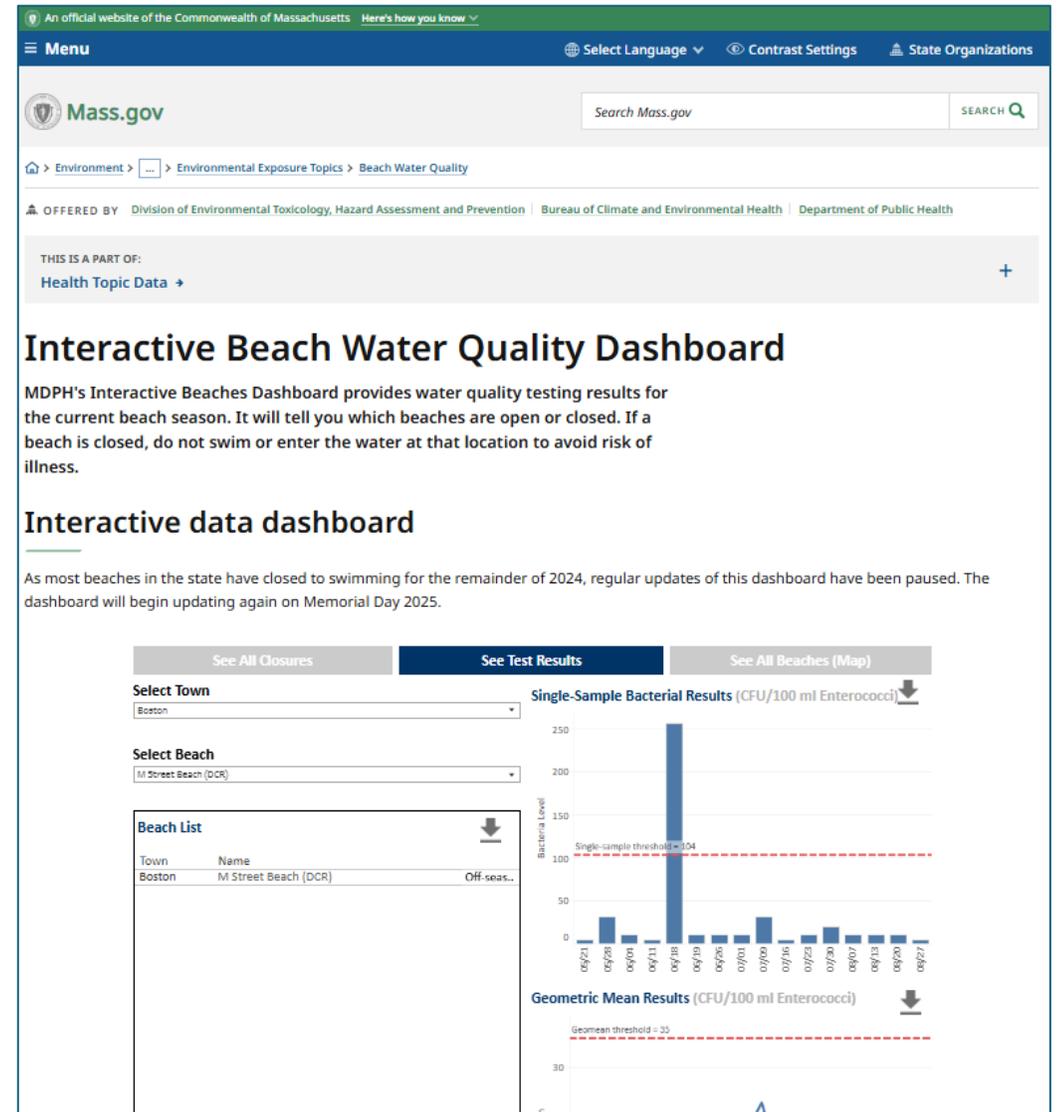
Wellfleet Beach,
Wellfleet

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

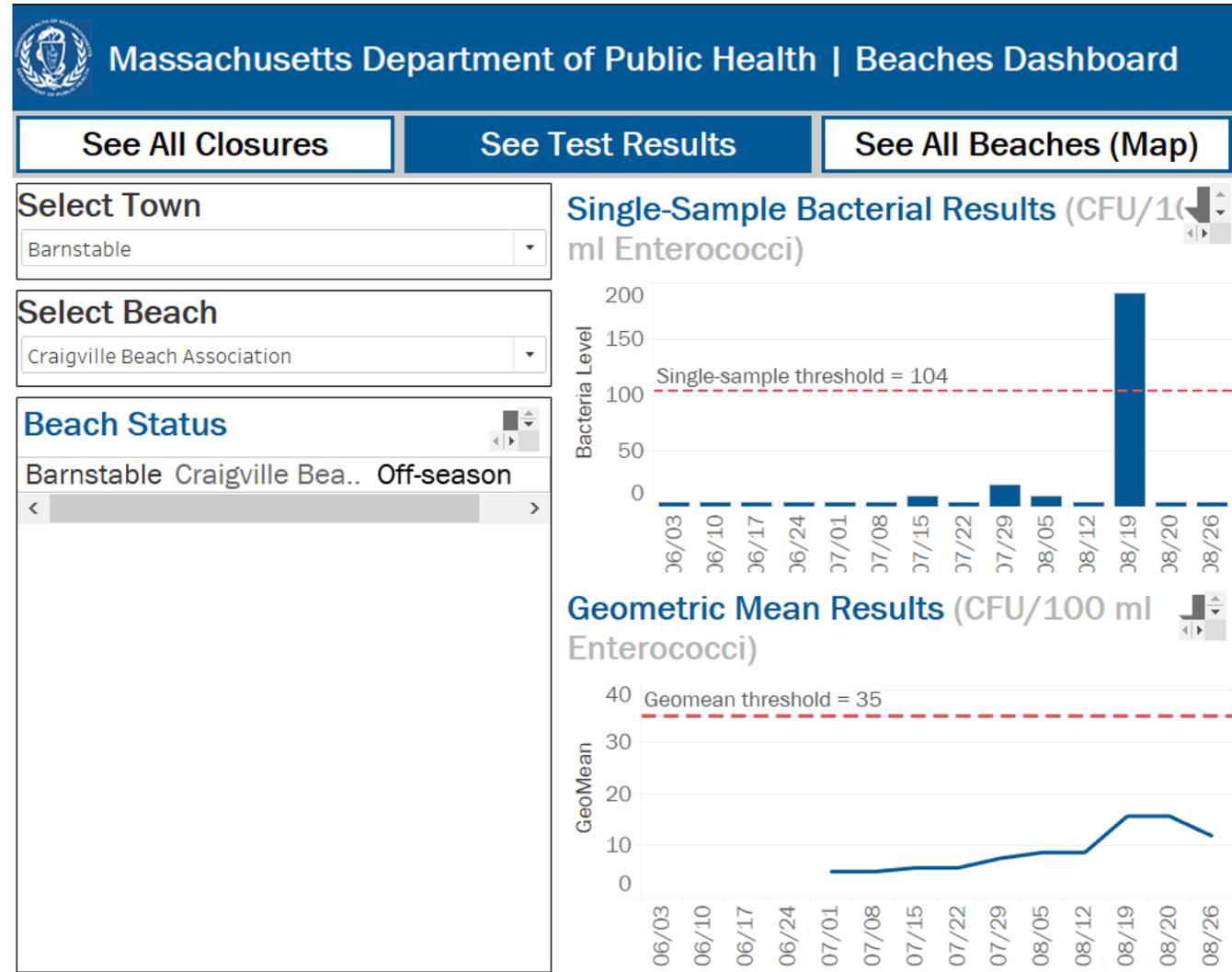
- Thank you to our partners for an incredibly successful first year with our new Data Dashboard!
 - **500,000+** views to our public Beaches Dashboard on *mass.gov*
 - 80% of all data uploaded to the Data Portal **in real time** by Contract Labs, BOH, and DCR



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

 notifications@dev.mdpd-envdata.casetivity.com
To  Strobeck, Kerri (DPH)

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!*

Home MDPH Beaches Portal Processes Search For ... Extracts Administrative Useful Links Account

Welcome Back, Terri!
Dashboard: DPH

Report Posting > Report Reopening > Edit Beach Posting > Enter Sample > Upload Sample File >

Action Required (Please report posting where applicable using button "Report Posting" above)

Jurisdiction	Beach	Location	Exceedance Type	Action Required
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Currently Posted
No results found

<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 interface for a project titled "BEH TOX Cyanobacteria Reporting" (PID 87). The left sidebar shows the user is logged in as "rgladstone" and provides navigation options like "My Projects", "REDCap Messenger", and "Contact REDCap administrator". The main content area features a top navigation bar with "Actions" for downloading PDFs and sharing instruments, and a link to a video on basic data entry. Below this is the "Online HAB Reporting Form" section, which includes a green notification box stating that the survey response is editable and was completed on 07-03-2024 at 10:10. The form itself is for "Record ID 101" and contains several fields: "Is this a new report, or a follow-up of a previous report?" (with radio buttons for "New report" and "Follow-up"), "Contact Information" (with fields for "Name" and "Affiliation"), "Name of your Local Health or other Municipal Department", and "Email". The "Name" field is filled with "Michael Avila", "Affiliation" with "Local Health or other Municipal Department", "Name of your Local Health or other Municipal Department" with "Sandwich Health Department", and "Email" with "health@sandwichmass.org".

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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