

Southeastern MA (SEMA) Public Health Collaborative

FY26 Year-End Impact Report

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

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Background: The Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant Program

In 2021, the New Bedford Health Department applied and was awarded grant funding by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to lead a shared services arrangement of the Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford Health Departments following the recommendations of the [Blueprint for Public Health Excellence](#). In the 2019 Blueprint report, cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health services was named as an evidence-based strategy to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of local public health in Massachusetts. An intermunicipal agreement was established to share health services among the communities, and the partnership became known as the Southeastern Massachusetts Public Health Collaborative, or SEMA Public Health.

SEMA Public Health is now in its fourth year and is fully staffed with 4.25 FTE grant-funded public health professionals who facilitate and provide services in Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford. The goals of the PHE shared services grant program have been codified into Massachusetts state law via the [SAPHE Act](#) of 2020, and further in the [SAPHE 2.0 Act](#) of 2024. The following report summarizes the activities conducted during the first three quarters of FY26 to demonstrate the value and shared benefits of the SEMA Public Health collaborative to the communities of Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford.

With the SEMA Public Health partnership, nursing services have been established where none previously existed; Two full-time public health nurses and one part-time community health worker conduct infectious disease control activities and a myriad of public health nursing services. Shared staff provide language capacity in Portuguese and Cape Verdean Creole; Support and backup for environmental health inspections that was once severely needed now exists with a regional shared inspector. The collaborative's coordinator/data analyst facilitates the execution of the shared services program, liaising with municipal health leadership, DPH, and an ever-increasing number of community partners.

Thanks to the PHE grant program, this group effectively strengthens the capacity and quality of public health protections in Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford without utilizing municipal budgets and local taxpayer dollars. The work of SEMA Public Health falls into three major categories that inform the organization of this report: Public Health Nursing, Environmental Health, and Health Communications.



Public Health Nursing

The public health nursing team includes two registered nurses and one community health worker. Together, their services include clinics (community wellness, vaccine, and tuberculosis skin testing), lifesaving skills trainings, car seat safety checks and distribution, in-home vaccinations, infectious disease case investigation, tuberculosis case management, and community outreach. All materials promoting these services are advertised in each municipality and when a service is offered in another language, translated.

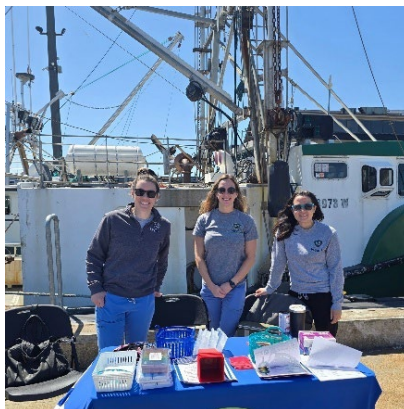
Public Health Nursing Clinics

Three types of clinics are offered by the public health nursing division:

- **Community Wellness Clinics** – Conducted on-site in community spaces, these clinics offer blood pressure screening, health education, naloxone training and distribution, car seat safety checks, and community resource distribution. For the full list of resources available for distribution, see page 7.
- **Vaccine Clinics** – Public health nurses administer seasonal influenza vaccines, both standard and high-dose, for insured and uninsured individuals age 18 and over, as well as tetanus vaccines for uninsured individuals via community clinics and in-home for homebound individuals.
- **Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Test Clinics**- Individuals may need a TB skin test for screening purposes, such as for work, school enrollment, or immigration requirements. Weekly TB clinics are offered at the New Bedford Health Department with subsequent reporting/referral taking place for any individual with a positive skin test result.

Nursing Clinic Totals

Clinic Type	Q4 Attendance	Q4 Clinic Count	FY26 Total Attendance	FY26 Total Clinic Count
Flu Vaccine	2	1	236	21
Community Wellness	120	12	313	38
Tuberculosis Skin Test	23	6	148	36



In-Home Vaccination Program

SEMA Public Health advertises and offers no-cost, in-home flu vaccinations for adults in New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Acushnet who may otherwise have difficulty getting to a community vaccination location. During FY

Total In-Home Vaccines Administered

48

Lifesaving Skills Trainings

Lifesaving skills training courses offered by SEMA Public Health include:

- Heartsaver CPR, AED, & First Aid with Narcan: Hands-on, in-person training with certification provided through the American Heart Association. Narcan training is included with all Heartsaver courses taught by SEMA.
 - Narcan (naloxone): Equips individuals to recognize the signs of an overdose and to administer Narcan (naloxone) effectively during emergencies.
- Stop the Bleed – Prepares anyone with little or no medical training to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding before professional help arrives.
- Safe Start Baby Safety Classes – Prepares caregivers with education about safe sleep and hands-on training for infant CPR, choking, and car seat safety.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid – Empowers adults with skills to recognize, understand, and confidently respond to mental health and substance use challenges in youth age 12-18.
- Safe@Home by SafeSitter® – Prepares youth age 9-12 to care for themselves when parents are away for a short period of time.
- **New!** SafeSitter® Essentials with CPR – Trains students age 13-15 to look after younger children when adults are not home.

Lifesaving Skills Training Totals

Training	Individuals Trained in Q4	Total Trained FY2026
Heartsaver CPR, AED, First Aid & Narcan	56	133
Stop the Bleed	0	51
Safe Start (Baby Safety)	0	25
Youth Mental Health First Aid	54	100
Safe@Home by SafeSitter®	0	6
SafeSitter® Essentials with CPR	14	14

Health Education

This spring, SEMA Public Health nurses provided health education to teen parents enrolled in the New Bedford Public Schools Parenting Teens Program, where they taught adult, child, and infant CPR and choking response, as well as car seat safety.

Car Seat Safety Checks & Distribution Program

The SEMA Public Health nursing team (nurses and community health worker) are all certified Child Passenger Safety technicians with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to provide hands-on, educational car seat safety checks to encourage proper use and adherence to state and national safety standards.

The New Bedford Health Department has a grant that provides car seats for local families in need. SEMA Public Health nursing team thus provides caregivers with car seats as well as education on proper installation and usage.

Car Seat Safety Program Summary

Service	Q4	FY26 Total
Car Seat Safety Checks	27	129
Car Seats Distributed	26	114



Community Outreach

Community outreach involves bringing education and resources directly to communities to improve overall population health and is often done in partnership with other community-serving organizations. In the summary below, individual touchpoints refer to the approximate number of individual engagements made by the SEMA Public Health team at community outreach events.

Community Outreach Totals

Q4 Touchpoints	Q4 Events	FY26 Total Touchpoints	FY26 Total Events
1,955	15	4,268	46

Infectious Disease Case Investigation

The SEMA Public Health nursing team provides daily monitoring of the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) in New Bedford and provides backup coverage in Acushnet and Fairhaven. Infectious disease case investigation is mandated by state law in the Massachusetts Code of Regulations 105 CMR 300.

Tuberculosis Case Management

SEMA Public Health's registered nurses provide tuberculosis case management for individuals with active cases of the disease in New Bedford and backup case management in Acushnet and Fairhaven. Tuberculosis case management is mandated by state law in the Massachusetts Code of Regulations 105 CMR 365.

Community Resources Available for Distribution

The following health promotion resources have been made available to community members in New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Acushnet by the SEMA Public Health partnership. The following items were either donated or purchased with grant funds and are distributed to community members with information about SEMA Public Health and its services:

- Tick removal kits
- Bleeding emergency kits
- Drug deactivation and disposal pouches
- Medication organizers (in English & Spanish)
- Sharps containers



- SPF 30 individual sunscreen
- SPF 30 lip balm
- UV400 sunglasses
- Hand sanitizer
- CPR face shields

Additionally, Narcan (naloxone) kits are distributed to every individual who completes Narcan training. SEMA Public Health has increased community access to Narcan by expanding the reach of the New Bedford Health Department's existing Narcan distribution program into the towns of Acushnet and Fairhaven.



Community Sunscreen Dispensers

SEMA Public Health's community sunscreen dispensers are accessible during the summer months in key locations across participating municipalities with free SPF 30, reef-safe, sport sunscreen. An additional mobile sunscreen dispenser unit is brought to SEMA outreach events during the spring and summer months.



West Beach, New Bedford



West Island, Fairhaven



Noah's Place Playground, Pope's Island



Fort Taber, New Bedford



Monte Park, New Bedford



Acushnet Sawmill

Environmental Health

The PHE Inspector is responsible for the following in each municipality:

- **Acushnet:** Conduct food inspections on a risk-based inspection schedule; conduct other environmental inspections as needed.
- **Fairhaven:** Conduct food inspections on risk-based inspection schedule; assist Health Department staff with transition to OpenGov; conduct beach water testing and other environmental inspections as needed.
- **New Bedford:** Train new employees; assist with internal operations including SOP creation, permitting, and process improvements; provide OpenGov technical support.

Environmental Health Inspections: FY26 Totals

	Number of Inspections
Acushnet	89
Fairhaven	49

If a food establishment is facing possible shutdown due to repeated violations, the PHE Inspector conducts on-site restaurant employee training for risk mitigation.



Health Communications

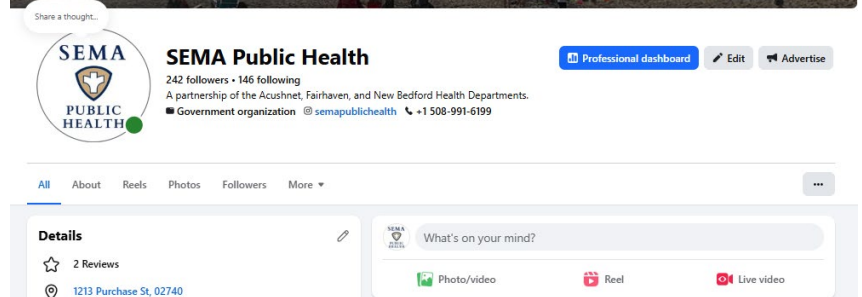
Car Seat Safety Campaign

During Summer 2025, SEMA Public Health launched a mass media campaign to promote car seat safety and advertise its car seat safety check service. The campaign included a billboard on Route 195 W in New Bedford and advertisements on 13 SRTA buses in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Website and Social Media

SEMA Public Health has a website, Facebook, and Instagram account that are regularly updated by the shared services coordinator. These outlets promote services and events put on by the collaborative and its partners and shares health messaging. Occasionally, SEMA Public Health will pay to advertise content to reach additional people in the region.



Conclusion

The SEMA Public Health partnership has established nursing services where none previously existed and offers a myriad of services that promote health and prevent harm. A shared environmental health inspector provides needed support, backup, and language capacity for environmental health inspections, and the shared services coordinator/data analyst keeps the work driving forward by identifying gaps and coordinating needed services.

Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, SEMA Public Health:

- Brought resources & health information to 4,269 people at 46 community events
- Hosted 95 clinics that reached 697 individuals
- Provided lifesaving skills training to 329 community members
- Distributed & installed 114 car seats to families in need & performed 129 total car seat safety checks
- Vaccinated 284 adults for influenza, including 48 vaccines administered in-home
- Provided direct community access to SPF 30 sunscreen at 17 recreational sites during the summer months
- Collaborated with 58 community partner organizations to provide services and resources
- Launched a multilingual mass media campaign to promote car seat safety
- Conducted 138 environmental health inspections across Acushnet & Fairhaven
- Provided expert-level training & mentorship to three new municipal health inspectors
- Provided food safety education for restaurant staff facing repeated violations

SEMA Public Health works with municipal health leadership and community partners to strengthen local public health service delivery in Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford efficiently and effectively thanks to grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



Appendix A: Staffing Chart

Staff Name & Title	FTE	Responsibilities
Gina Mucciardi, MPH Shared Services Coordinator & Data Analyst	1.0	Provides data-driven recommendations to support the design and implementation of program initiatives to improve local health outcomes; Coordinates, promotes, tracks, and reports on SEMA Public Health services and staff time; Convenes regular meetings with participating municipal health department heads and staff to advance the goals of the PHE grant program; Supports management of the grant budget; Conducts community outreach; Disseminates health communication messaging and manages the SEMA Public Health website and social media.
Kristy MacMillen, BSN, RN, CLC PHE Nurse	1.0	Supports the design and implementation of program initiatives to improve local health outcomes; Conducts trainings including Heartsaver CPR & AED, naloxone, Stop the Bleed, baby safety classes, SafeSitter® and Safe at Home®; Conducts blood pressure screenings, tuberculosis skin tests, and car seat safety checks; Administers vaccines at community clinics and for homebound individuals; Conducts community outreach; Creates messaging to be used in health communication initiatives; Provides case management for individuals with active tuberculosis (TB) and conducts backup infectious disease case investigation in MAVEN as necessary.
Ashley Correia, BSN, RN PHE Nurse	1.0	Supports the design and implementation of program initiatives to improve local health outcomes; Conducts trainings including Heartsaver CPR & AED, naloxone, Stop the Bleed, Youth Mental Health First Aid, baby safety classes, SafeSitter® and Safe at Home®; Conducts blood pressure screenings, tuberculosis skin tests, and car seat safety checks; Administers vaccines at community clinics and for homebound individuals; Conducts community outreach; Creates messaging to be used in health communication initiatives; Provides case management for individuals with active tuberculosis (TB) and conducts backup infectious disease case investigation in MAVEN as necessary.
Sofia DaCosta, RS PHE Inspector	1.0	Acushnet & Fairhaven: Conducts environmental health inspections; Assists in the standardization forms and processes; Trains new municipal staff; Prepares regulations for presentation to respective boards of health; Conducts risk-mitigation education outreach. New Bedford: Trains new municipal staff; Assists with internal operations, including permit processing, process improvements, and the standardization of forms and procedures; Provides technology support for OpenGov.
Rosa Matos, CCHW Community Health Worker	0.25	Acushnet & Fairhaven: Conducts community outreach, car seat safety checks, and blood pressure screenings at clinics and community events. New Bedford: Monitors MAVEN and conducts infectious disease case investigations as necessary; Provides Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for patients with active tuberculosis; Conducts community outreach; Provides car seat safety checks and blood pressure screenings.

Appendix B: Community Partners

During FY26, SEMA Public Health collaborated with 58 community partners to provide public health services and resources. Partner organizations include:

Acushnet Board of Health	Hand-Up Mattress Company
Acushnet Council on Aging	Kennedy Donovan Center
Acushnet Housing Authority	Little Explorers Day Care
AHA! New Bedford	Massachusetts Department of Children & Families
Apple-Peach Festival	MassHire of Greater New Bedford
ASPIRE Program	Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Buttonwood Park Zoo	Millicent Library
Buttonwood Senior Center	New Bedford Community Health
Cape Verdean Recognition Committee of New Bedford	New Bedford Farmer's Market
Casey Miller Apartments	New Bedford Free Public Library
Discover Fairhaven	New Bedford Health Department
Fairhaven Belonging Committee	New Bedford Housing Authority
Fairhaven Council on Aging	New Bedford Parks, Recreation, & Beaches Department
Fairhaven Fire Department	New Bedford Public Schools
Fairhaven Health Department	New Beginnings Moms Do Care Program
Fairhaven High School	Normandin Middle School
Fairhaven Housing Authority	Northstar Learning Centers
Fairhaven Police Department	Olympia Towers
Fairhaven Recreation Center	Our Sister's School
Fairhaven Village Apartments	Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA)
Fishing Partnership Support Services	People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE)
The Gallery Bar	Pinnacle Auto Sales
Greater New Bedford Allies for Health and Wellness	
Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force	

Project Independence

Rise up for Homes

Safe & Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI)

The Shannon Program

Southcoast Health (including St. Luke's
Hospital and Southcoast Obstetrics &
Gynecology)

Southcoast LGBTQ+ Network

Southeast Network of Community Health
Workers

St. Anthony of Padua Church

United Way Family Resource Center

United Way of Greater New Bedford

Whaling City Festival

YMCA Southcoast