

Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative

FY27 Q1 Impact Report

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Background: The Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant Program

In 2021, the New Bedford Health Department applied and was awarded Public Health Excellence (PHE) 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](#) which named cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health services as an evidence-based strategy to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of local public health in Massachusetts. An intermunicipal agreement was eventually established to legally share public health services across the communities in 2023, and the partnership became known as the Southeastern Massachusetts Public Health Collaborative, or SEMA Public Health.

SEMA Public Health is now in its fourth operational year and is fully staffed with 4.25 FTE grant-funded public health personnel who facilitate and provide public health services in Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford. The goals of the shared services 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 quarter of 2027 fiscal year.

With the SEMA Public Health collaborative, two full-time public health nurses and one full-time community health worker conduct regional infectious disease control activities and provide a myriad of public health nursing services. A full-time inspector conducts environmental health inspections, provides administrative assistance and expert-level training to municipal inspectors. The coordinator and data analyst identifies data-driven priority areas for local public health service provision and facilitates the execution of the shared services program, liaising with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, municipal leadership, and community partners.

Together, this group strengthens the quality and breadth of local public health services in Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford without levying municipal budgets. 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 a certified community health worker. Services include clinics (community wellness, vaccine, and tuberculosis skin testing), lifesaving skills trainings, car seat safety checks and car seat distribution, in-home vaccinations, infectious disease case investigation, tuberculosis case management, and community outreach. Materials promoting these services are advertised in each municipality, and when a service is offered in another language, translated.

Public Health Nursing Clinics

- Community Wellness Clinics offer blood pressure screening, health education, naloxone (Narcan) training and distribution, car seat safety checks, and health promotion resources. For the full list of resources available for distribution, see page 8.
- Flu Vaccine Clinics offer standard- and high-dose influenza vaccinations for insured and uninsured persons age 18 and over, as well as tetanus vaccines for uninsured adults. In-home vaccination is also available and is covered in the next section.
- Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Test Clinics are offered every first and third Monday of the month at New Bedford Health Department. When a TB skin test is positive, the nursing team processes the necessary reporting and referral for case confirmation and treatment.

Nursing Clinic Totals

Type	Number of Clinics	Individuals Served
Community Wellness	4	19
Flu Vaccine	4	79
Tuberculosis Skin Test	6	14



In-Home Vaccination Program

Every year, SEMA Public Health advertises and offers no-cost, in-home flu vaccinations for homebound adults in New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Acushnet.

Flu Vaccination Totals

Vaccinated at Flu Clinic	In-Home Vaccinations	Vaccinated In Office	Grand Total
70	4	6	80

Lifesaving Skills Trainings

- Heartsaver CPR & AED with Narcan: Hands-on, in-person training with certification provided through the American Heart Association. Narcan training to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses is included with all Heartsaver courses taught by SEMA Public Health.
- Safe Start Baby Safety Classes: Educates caregivers about safe sleep, car seat safety, and provides hands-on training for infant CPR and choking response.
- 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.
- Stop the Bleed – Prepares anyone with little or no medical training to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding before professional help arrives.
- Safe@Home by SafeSitter® – Prepares youth age 9-12 to care for themselves when parents are away for a short period of time.
- SafeSitter® Essentials with CPR – Trains students age 13-15 to look after younger children when adults are not home.

Lifesaving Skills Training Totals

Type	Number of Trainings	Individuals Trained
Heartsaver CPR & AED with Narcan	4	24
Safe Start Baby Safety	2	5
Youth Mental Health First Aid	1	28
Stop the Bleed	0	0
Safe@Home by SafeSitter®	1	11
SafeSitter® Essentials with CPR	2	11

Health Education

During community wellness clinics, the nursing team provides health education on a variety of topics. Examples include sun safety, tick and mosquito prevention, the importance of health screenings, vaccination, sleep, and physical activity.

Car Seat Safety Checks & Distribution Program

All three members of the nursing team are all certified Child Passenger Safety technicians with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and provide hands-on, educational car seat safety checks to encourage proper use and adherence to state and national safety standards.

Through other grant funding, the New Bedford Health Department provides car seats for local families in need, which are distributed via the SEMA Public Health nursing team. When a car seat is provided, the nursing team installs the car seat and provides 1:1 education on proper usage.

Car Seat Safety Program Summary

Service	Total
Car Seats Distributed	30
Safety Checks with Caregiver Education	30



Infectious Disease Case Investigation

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

Tuberculosis Case Management

SEMA Public Health nurses provide case management for individuals with active tuberculosis in New Bedford and provide case management upon request in Acushnet and Fairhaven by the town nurse. Tuberculosis case management is mandated by state law in the Massachusetts Code of Regulations 105 CMR 365.

Community Outreach

Community outreach involves bringing education and resources directly to communities and is often done in partnership with other organizations. During community outreach events, SEMA Public Health team members share information about SEMA services and health promotion education and resources.

In the summary below, individual touchpoints refer to the number of individual engagements made at community outreach events between July 1 and September 30, 2026.

Community Outreach Totals

Number of Events Attended	Number of Touchpoints
19	2,354



Community Resources Available for Distribution

The following health promotion resources are available to community members in Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford via the SEMA Public Health partnership. The following items 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
- UV 400 sunglasses
- Hand sanitizer
- CPR face shields



Additionally, Narcan kits are distributed with opioid overdose response education. The SEMA Public Health collaborative has increased community access to Narcan by expanding the reach of the New Bedford Health Department's existing Narcan 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 several locations across the participating municipalities with free SPF 30, reef-safe, sport sunscreen. An additional mobile sunscreen dispenser unit is brought to 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



Acushnet Sawmill



Mobile Sunscreen Dispenser

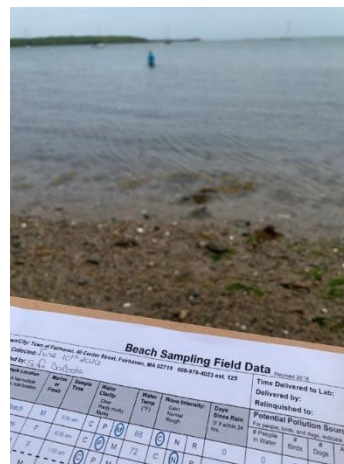
Environmental Health

The PHE inspector conducts the following activities in each SEMA Public Health municipality:

- **Acushnet & Fairhaven:** Conducts environmental health inspections; Assists in the standardization forms and processes; Prepares regulations for presentation to respective boards of health; Conducts risk-mitigation education outreach.
- **New Bedford:** Assists with internal operations, including permit processing, process improvements, and the standardization of forms and procedures; Provides technology support for OpenGov; Trains new municipal staff.

Environmental Health Inspections

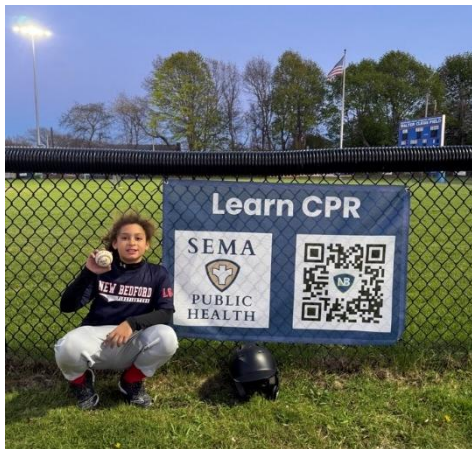
Inspection Type	Acushnet	Fairhaven	Grand Total
Bathing Beaches	0	56	56
Camp	1	0	1
Food	17	12	29
Housing	2	0	2
Nuisance	1	0	1
Title V	10	0	10
Grand Total	31	68	99



Health Communications

Baseball Field Sign Advertising

During Spring and Summer 2026, SEMA Public Health launched a campaign at area youth ballparks to promote its public health services, including CPR training, car seat safety checks, babysitting and infant safety classes. The signs were hung at Clegg Field, Brooklawn Park, and Pope Park



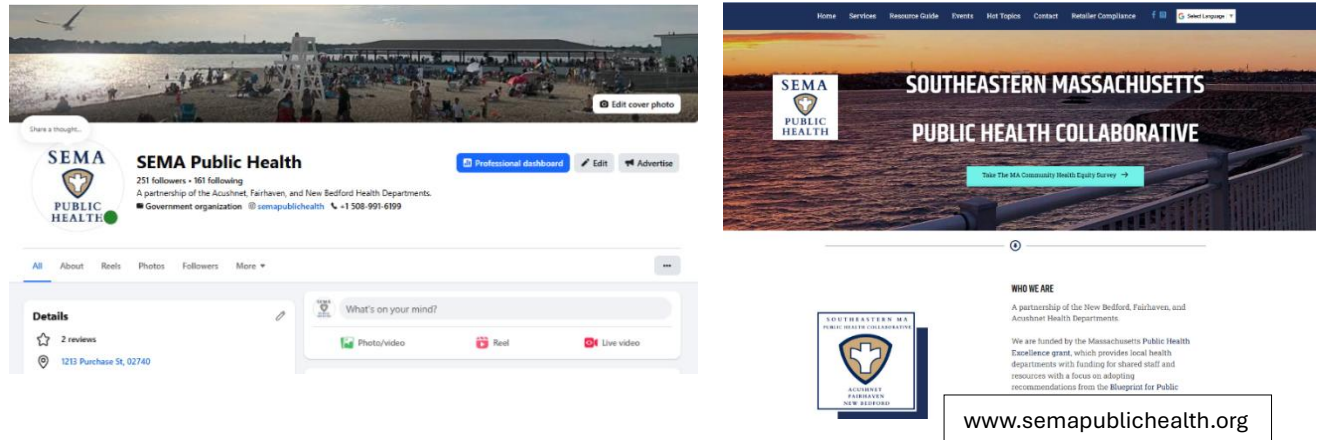
Breastfeeding Tent

The SEMA Public Health nursing team launched their breastfeeding tent this summer, which was brought to 4 large community events. The tent provides a comfortable and welcoming space for breastfeeding with lactation support offered by our trained nursing staff.



Website and Social Media

The SEMA Public Health website, Facebook page, and Instagram account are regularly updated by the shared services coordinator. These outlets disseminate public health messaging and promote public health services and events by the collaborative and its partners. Occasionally, grant funds are used for advertising to reach additional people in the region.



Conclusion

The SEMA Public Health collaborative continues to provide high-quality public health services to Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford in the form of infectious disease surveillance, vaccinations, lifesaving skills trainings, injury and harm reduction initiatives, environmental health protections, and health communication, online and in-person.

Between July 1 and September 30, 2026, SEMA Public Health:

- Brought resources & health information to 2,354 people at 19 community events
- Vaccinated 80 adults for influenza, including 4 vaccines administered in-home
- Hosted 19 clinics, serving a total of 112 people
- Trained 79 community members with lifesaving skills
- Distributed & professionally installed 30 car seats for caregivers in need
- Provided direct access to SPF 30 sunscreen at recreational sites during the summer months
- Collaborated with 34 community partner organizations to provide services and resources
- Launched a multilingual campaign at area parks to promote SEMA Public Health services
- Conducted 99 environmental health inspections

SEMA Public Health works in tandem with municipal health leadership and community partners to strengthen local public health service delivery in Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford thanks to Public Health Excellence 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, PMH-C 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 the first quarter of FY 27, SEMA Public Health collaborated with 31 community partners to provide public health services and resources. Partners include:

Acushnet Board of Health	New Bedford Housing Authority
Acushnet Council on Aging	New Bedford Lead Outreach
Acushnet Fire Department	New Bedford Parks, Recreation, & Beaches
Acushnet Housing Authority	New Bedford Police Department
All Scholastic Athletic Program (ASAP)	New Bedford Public Schools
American Red Cross	Project Independence
Buttonwood Park Zoo	Reggae on West Beach
Cape Verdean Recognition Committee, Inc.	South End Youth Athletic Organization (SEYAA)
Casa de Dios Oasis de Bendición, Inc.	United Way Family Resource Center
Child & Family Services	United Way of Greater New Bedford
Coastal Foodshed	Whaling City Youth Baseball League
Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball League (FAYB)	Whaling City Festival
Fairhaven Health Department	
Fairhaven Recreation Center	
Global Learning Charter Public School	
Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force	
Little People's College	
Martha Food Pantry	
Massachusetts Youth Soccer	
New Bedford Community Health	
New Bedford Free Public Library	
New Bedford Health Department	