

Southeastern Massachusetts Public Health Collaborative



Acushnet, Fairhaven, New Bedford

Expanded Services for Every Stage of Life

Public Health Excellence (PHE) funds have helped Southeastern Massachusetts Public Health expand its capacity to support families and communities across the region, adding infant safety classes, babysitting courses, and postpartum home visits to its existing offerings of car seat safety checks, CPR, first aid, and naloxone training. A new regional environmental health inspector is strengthening food safety inspections across all three communities, while multilingual tobacco retailer compliance videos in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Bengali, and Gujarati are helping local businesses understand their responsibilities under state and local law.

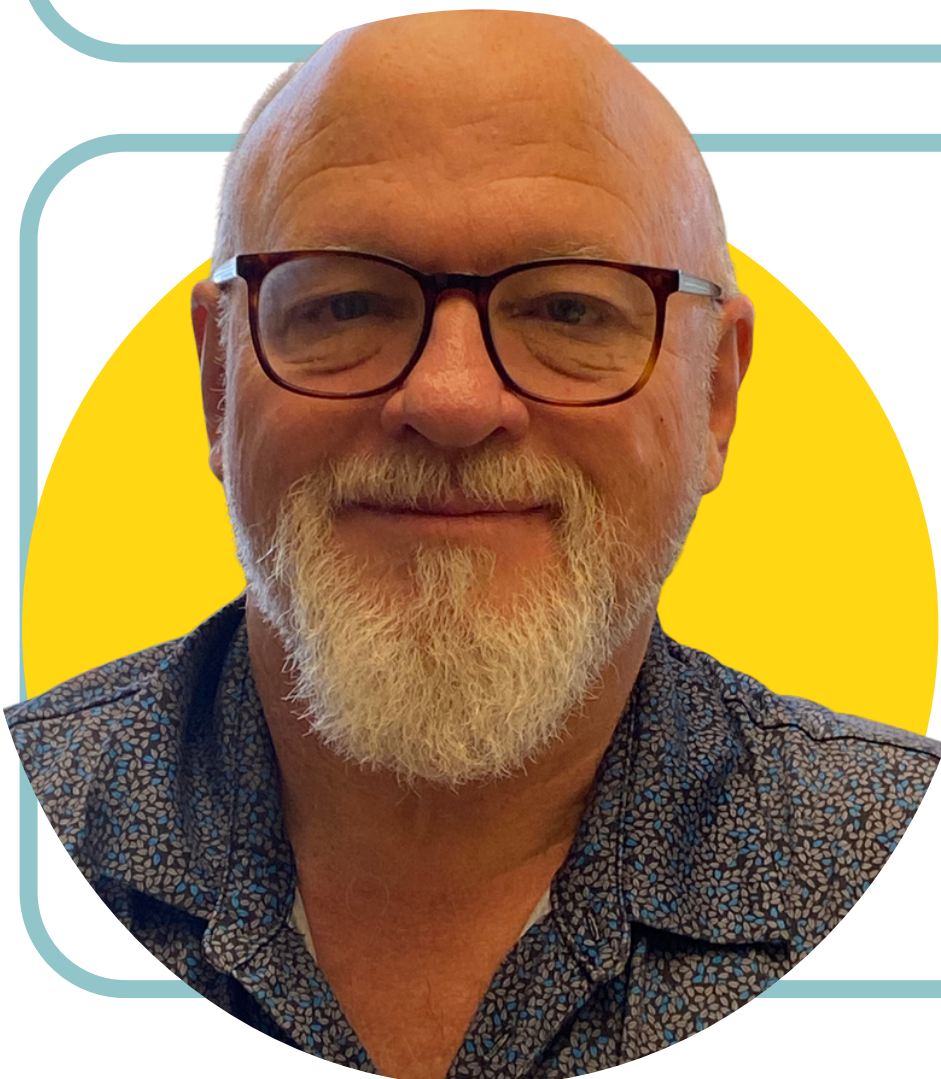


Car Seats, Safety, and Support

A properly installed car seat can mean the difference between life and death, and not every family has access to one. The Public Health Nursing Team, who are certified Child Passenger Safety technicians through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, **provide hands-on car seat safety checks to help caregivers ensure proper installation and use.** The team also distributes car seats directly to families in need, pairing every seat with education on how to install and use it correctly. **In FY26 alone, they conducted 102 car seat safety checks and distributed 88 car seats.**

Taking Car Seat Safety to the Streets

Knowing a resource exists is the first step to using it. During summer 2025, Southeastern Massachusetts Public Health **launched a mass media campaign to promote car seat safety and make sure families across the region knew where to get help,** reaching commuters and drivers through a billboard on Route 195 W in New Bedford and advertisements on 13 SRTA buses – all in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



"The shared services arrangement has been an invaluable resource for the Fairhaven Health Department. Their training resources and Public Health Nursing assistance have helped myself and the residents here immensely. I highly recommend all residents take advantage of this unique service."

Dave Flaherty, Fairhaven Health Agent