March 30, 2021

Bay County Health Department Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program Results
Advisories have been issued for two Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling locations.

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Panama City, Fla. – Advisories have been issued for the Spyglass Drive (SP 7) location, 4723 Spyglass Drive, Panama City Beach and the Carl Gray Park (SP 9) location on Collegiate Drive in Panama City.

The Bay County Health Department, Bay CHD, conducts saltwater beach water quality monitoring in accordance with the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Water samples are collected **twice a month between March and October**. The samples are checked for **enteric bacteria** that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria **can be an indication of fecal pollution**, which may come from storm water runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. **Poor** results are posted as an "**Advisory**" at the affected beaches.

Healthy Beaches advisories are issued **to protect swimmers from increased risk of gastrointestinal illnesses**. At a **lower occurring level**, there may also be increased risks of **upper respiratory infections**, **skin rashes**, and **ear infections**. Healthy Beach advisories are **not related to Necrotizing fasciitis**, a rare complication.

Sampling is done on **Mondays** with **results** on **Tuesday**, with exception of holidays. Results are shared at Bay.FloridaHealth.gov, through media releases, and **real-time** on the Florida Healthy Beaches page at **FloridaHealth.gov** and **search for "Healthy Beaches**".

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories are; Good = 0-35 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, Moderate = 36-70 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, and **Poor** = **71** or greater Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water. If **levels** are **above 70**, **Bay CHD notifies** the local **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** for further investigation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bay County Health Department at 850-481-4806 or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website at http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/beach-water-quality/index.html.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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