September 29, 2020

Bay County Health Department Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program Results
Advisories issued for five Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling locations and one advisory rescinded.

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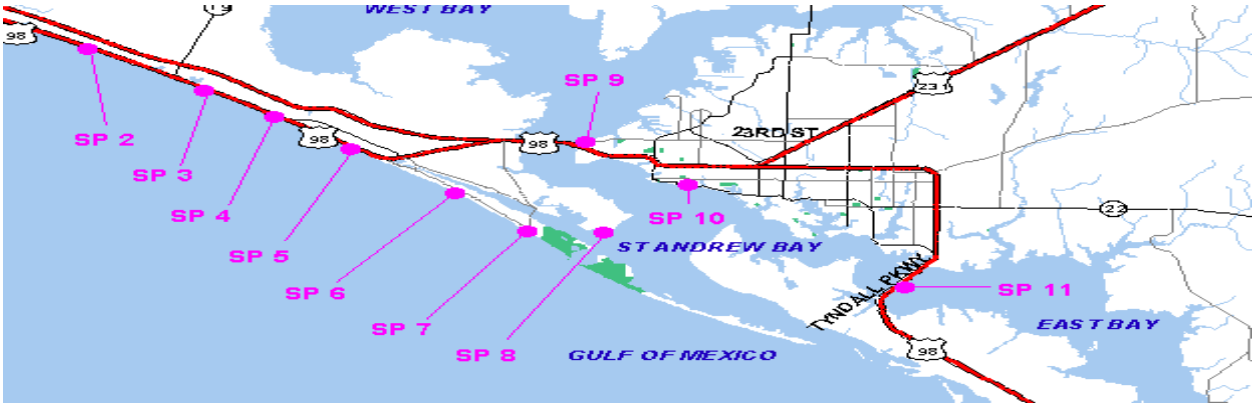
Panama City, Fla. – Advisories have been issued for the Laguna Beach (SP 2) location at 19440 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, the Bid A Wee Beach (SP 4) location at 13601 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, the Carl Gray Park (SP 9) location on Collegiate Drive in Panama City, the Beach Drive (SP 10) location on US-98 West Beach Drive in Panama City, and the Dupont Bridge (SP 11) location at the end of Oakshore Drive, Panama City.

The advisory for the Panama City Beach Access #41 (SP 5) location at 11211 Front Beach Road has been rescinded.

The Bay County Health Department, Bay CHD, conducts saltwater beach water quality monitoring in accordance with the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. New funding now allows **weekly water sampling 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

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