

October 8, 2019

NEW HEALTHY BEACHES ADVISORY, TWO PREVIOUS ADVISORIES LIFTED

Beach Drive (SP 10) under advisory, advisories for PCB City Pier (SP 3) and Delwood Beach (SP 8) rescinded.



Contact:

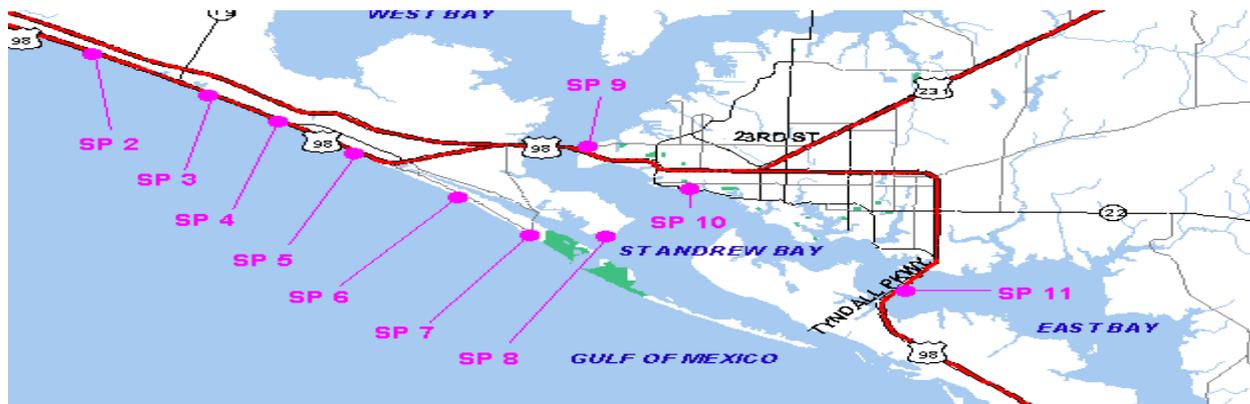
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Panama City, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) conducts saltwater beach water quality monitoring in accordance with the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. New funding now allows **weekly water sampling between March and 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.

An advisory is issued for Beach Drive (SP 10) located at US-98 Business (West Beach Drive). Previous advisories for PCB City Pier (SP 3) located at 16201 Front Beach Road #D, Panama City Beach and Delwood Beach (SP 8) at the end of Jan Cooley Drive in Upper Grand Lagoon are rescinded. There are **no additional advisories** for any of the Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling sites.

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.



DOH-Bay **tests six sites** along the Gulf of Mexico from Laguna Beach to Panama City Beach access #1. There are **four locations along St. Andrews Bay** including; Delwood Beach, Carl Grey Park, Beach Drive, and Dupont Bridge. **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>.

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