

October 15, 2019

## NEW HEALTHY BEACHES ADVISORIES, PREVIOUS ADVISORY LIFTED

*Advisories for Bid-A-Wee (SP 4), Beach Access 41 (SP 5), Delwood Beach (SP 8), and Carl Grey Park (SP 9). Beach Drive (SP 10) rescinded.*



### Contact:

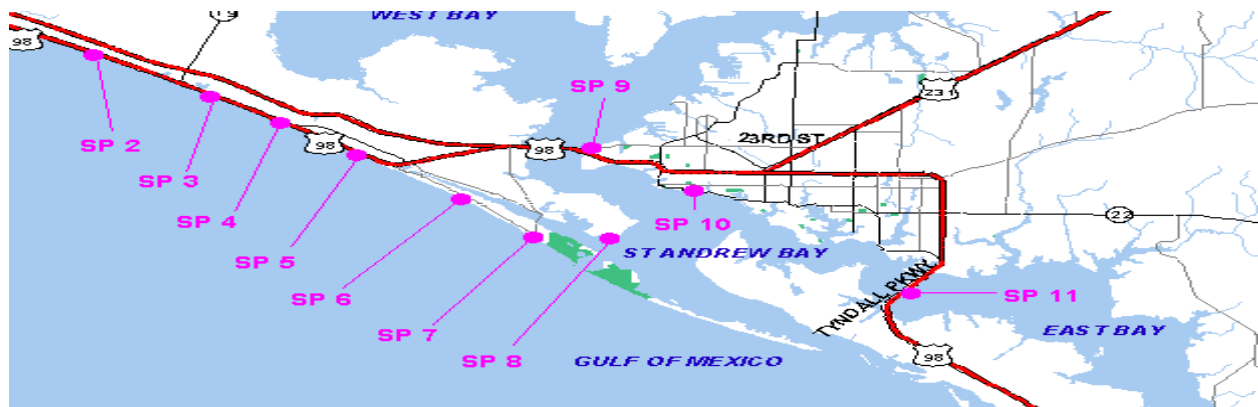
Heather Kretzer  
850-252-9670

[heather.kretzer@flhealth.gov](mailto:heather.kretzer@flhealth.gov)

**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.

**Advisories are issued for Bid-A-Wee (SP 4) located at 13601 Front Beach Road, Beach Access 41 (SP 5) located at 11211 Front Beach Road, Delwood Beach (SP 8) at the end of Jan Cooley Drive in Upper Grand Lagoon, and Carl Grey Park (SP 9) located at Collegiate Drive in Panama City. The advisory for Beach Drive (SP 10) located at US-98 Business (West Beach Drive) is rescinded.** There are **no additional advisories** for any of the Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling sites.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](http://Bay.FloridaHealth.gov), through media releases, and **real-time** on the Florida Healthy Beaches page at [FloridaHealth.gov](http://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.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).