

August 13, 2019

**BAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HEALTHY BEACHES
MONITORING PROGRAM RESULTS**

**Advisories lifted for Panama City Beach Access #41, Delwood Beach,
and Beach Drive.**



Contact:

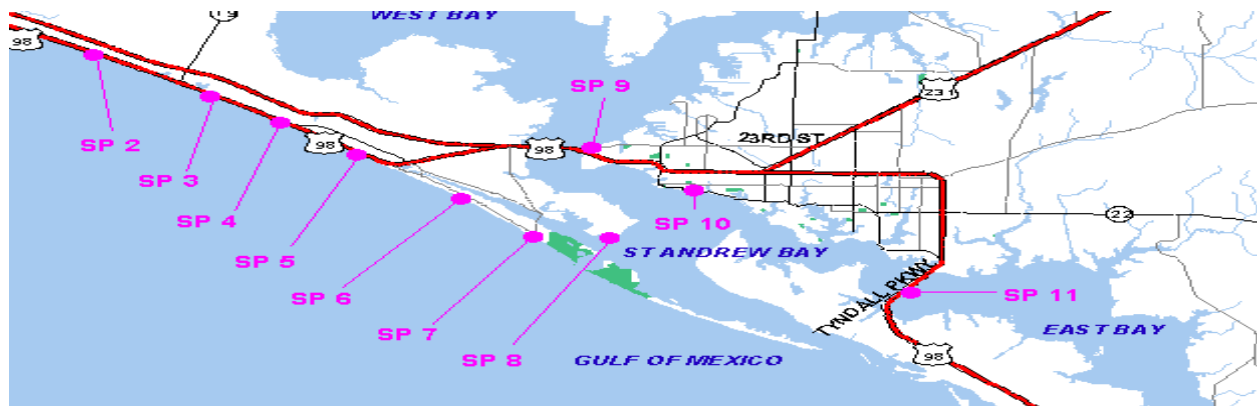
Heather Kretzer
850-252-9670

heather.kretzer@flhealth.gov

Panama City, Fla. – 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.

The previous advisory for Panama City Beach Access #41 (SP 5), 11211 Front Beach Road, Delwood Beach (SP 8), and the Beach Drive (SP 10) locations are lifted. There are no advisories for any of the Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling locations.

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.



Bay CHD **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>.



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.