

March 3, 2020

**BAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES ADVISORIES FOR THREE HEALTHY BEACHES PROGRAM SAMPLING LOCATIONS**  
*Enterococci bacteria levels high at Delwood Beach, Beach Drive, and Dupont Bridge*



**Contact:**

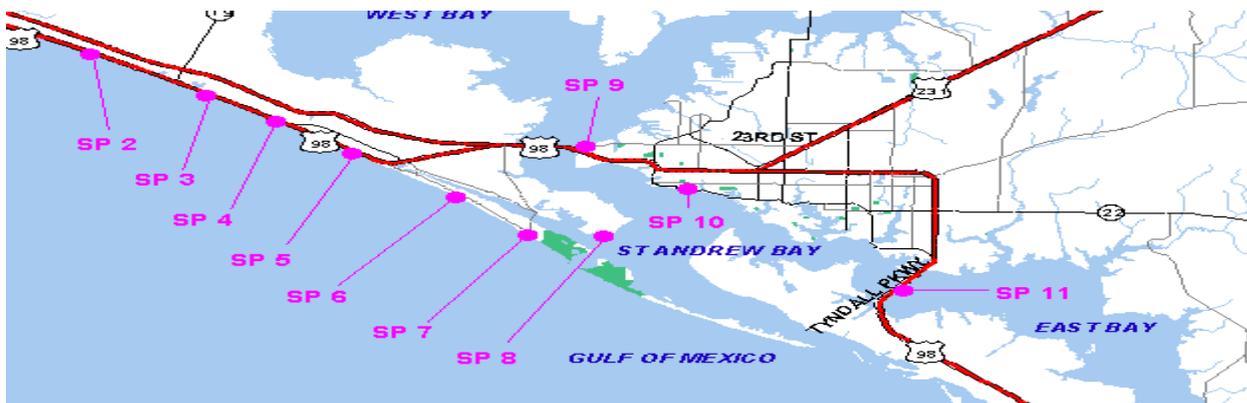
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**Panama City, Fla.** – The Bay County Health Department, Bay CHD, conducts saltwater beach water quality monitoring in accordance with the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. New funding now allows **weekly water sampling between March and October**.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

Advisories have been issued for the Delwood Beach (SP 8) located at end of Jan Cooley Drive, Upper Grand Lagoon, Beach Drive (SP 10) located at US-98 West Beach Drive, and Dupont Bridge (SP 11) located at the end of Oakshore Drive, Panama City.

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>.



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