



September 26, 2018

WALTON COUNTY WEEKLY BEACH SAMPLING RESULTS ~One Advisory Issued for This Sampling Period~

Contact: Crystal Steele [Crystal.Steele@flhealth.gov](mailto:Crystal.Steele@flhealth.gov) 850-892-8021

Walton County – The Florida Department of Health in Walton County (DOH-Walton) conducts regularly scheduled saltwater beach water quality monitoring at seven sites through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Samples are collected from March through the end of October. The water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (enterococci) that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals, which may cause human disease, infections, or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from storm water runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant coastal beach water quality problems and whether future beach monitoring efforts are necessary.

Site Name Enterococci Water Quality

SP-1 Miramar Beach 52 Moderate

SP-3 Dune Allen Beach 40 Moderate

SP-4 Blue Mountain Beach 4 Good

SP-5 Grayton Beach 8 Good

SP-7 Holly Street Beach 12 Good

SP-8 Eastern Lake Beach 64 Moderate

SP-9 Inlet Beach Access 220 Poor

Water quality classifications are based upon United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended criteria and Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories:

Good = 0 - 35 Enterococci CFU per 100 ml of marine

Moderate = 36 - 70 Enterococci CFU per 100 ml of marine water

Poor = 71 or greater Enterococci CFU per 100 ml of marine water

A Health Advisory has been issued for the Inlet Beach access based on the enterococci standard recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public. If you should have any questions, please contact DOH-Walton at (850) 892-8021 or visit the Florida Department of Health's Beach Water Quality website

[www.floridahealth.gov/healthyenvironments/beach-water-quality/index.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthyenvironments/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 Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).