

September 15, 2020

WALTON COUNTY WEEKLY BEACH SAMPLING RESULTS

~ Seven Advisories Issued for This Sampling Period ~

Contact:

Crystal Steele

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-0	Grady Brown Park	41	Moderate
SP-1	Miramar Beach	161	Poor
SP-3	Dune Allen Beach	285	Poor
SP-4	Blue Mountain Beach	500	Poor
SP-5	Grayton Beach	256	Poor
SP-7	Holly Street Beach	209	Poor
SP-8	Eastern Lake Beach	211	Poor
SP-9	Inlet Beach Access	272	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

Health Advisories have been issued for the Miramar Beach, Dune Allen Beach, Blue Mountain Beach, Grayton Beach, Holly Street Beach, Eastern Lake Beach, and Inlet Beach Accesses based on the enterococci standard recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a

potential health risk to the bathing public. Due to Hurricane Sally we will not be able to resample or switch out the signs until the weather permits.

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 <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/index.html>

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