

# SCGOVHEALTH

Sarasota County Health Department | Florida Department of Health  
scgov.net | 941-861-5000 | Comcast 19/Verizon 32

**Feb. 24, 2011**

**Media contacts:** Dianne Shipley, 941-861-2852, cell 941-302-1058;  
Dianne\_Shipley@doh.state.fl.us  
Liz Bumpus, 941-861-2964, cell 941-526-8464;  
Liz\_Bumpus@doh.state.fl.us

**Program contact:** Jennifer Clemente, 941-861-3310, cell 941-315-0694;  
Jennifer\_Clemente@doh.state.fl.us

## **Beach water advisories in effect for Venice, Turtle beaches**

Water quality at Venice Public Beach and Turtle Beach does not meet current health standards for recreational waters, according to the Sarasota County Health Department, which monitors water quality weekly at 16 sites along Sarasota County's 34 miles of beaches.

These advisories are due to an elevated level of bacteria, not the Gulf oil spill.

Bacteria found at elevated levels are fecal coliform and enterococci, which are enteric bacteria that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife and human sewage. If they are present in high concentrations in recreational waters and are ingested while swimming or enter the skin through a cut or sore, they may cause human disease, infections or rashes.

Precautionary signs have been posted, advising people not to swim or engage in water sports. The Health Department will conduct follow-up water sampling. Test results will be available early next week.

No other beach areas in Sarasota County are affected by this advisory.

The intent of the beach water monitoring is to provide residents and visitors with accurate, up-to-date information on the water quality at local beaches. [Click here](#) for beach water testing results.

Residents and visitors can visit [www.OurGulfEnvironment.net](http://www.OurGulfEnvironment.net) and click on water monitoring and then bacterial testing to check beach water testing results of area gulf beaches, or call the Sarasota County Health Department's Environmental Health office at 941-861-6133.

-end-