



Sarasota County Health Department | Florida Department of Health
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Sarasota beach water advisory resumes at Venice Public Beach at west end of Venice Ave.

A beach water advisory has been re-issued for Venice Public Beach. Sarasota County Health Department officials received testing results from water samples taken yesterday, Thursday, March 31 that still again show an elevated level of enterococcus bacteria. This follows recent rainy conditions which are known to contribute to stormwater runoff thereby impacting water quality.

Health officials say that **this advisory is confined to the beach water at the west end of Venice Ave.** People can still use the beach; however, the red flag at the lifeguard station is in place along with other signage warning people not to go in the water. Signage will remain in place until follow-up testing results meet the Environmental Protection Agency recreational water safety standards. The Health Department plans to conduct follow-up water sampling on Monday, April 4, with results available on Tuesday afternoon.

“We monitor 16 beach sites along Sarasota’s 34 miles of beaches all the time to ensure the water quality is safe for recreational use. Venice Public Beach has had a stellar record in its beach water quality over the past 11 years. We have taken unprecedented steps to identify and address the recent elevation of enterococcus bacteria at this beach,” says Sarasota County Health Department environmental administrator Chuck Henry. A number of theories including evaluating stormwater outflows in the area are being explored by officials from the Health Department, City of Venice, Sarasota County and the Department of Environmental Protection. “We are all working diligently to get this resolved,” says Len Bramble, utilities director for the City of Venice.

Officials note there are more than two miles of beaches in Venice that are not under an advisory so people can still enjoy a day at the beach. Venice area beaches currently open for enjoyment include: Nokomis Beach, North Jetty Beach, Brohard Paw Park, Caspersen Beach, Service Club Park, Blind Pass Beach and Manasota Key.

Residents and visitors can visit 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.

MEDIA NOTE: There will not be any additional news releases issued until the advisory is lifted.

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